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EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative's mission is to provide resources for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities to adapt to climate change by promoting a clear understanding of climate science and adaptation options.

To meet this mission EPA has the following activities underway:

1. The Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) assists users in conducting climate change risk assessments and promotes a general understanding of climate change impacts for utility owners and operators.  We are working on version 2.0 of CREAT, which will feature more robust scenario-based planning, extreme events data, and energy management capabilities. The new version will also include embedded basic and advanced video training modules and allows utilities to conduct analysis comparison scenarios for multiple time periods. Pilots were conducted in Oakland, California and Wilmington, Delaware for the updated software. Currently, version 1.0 of the tool is available on EPA's website and we expect to release version 2.0 in the fall 2012.
2. The Adaptation Strategies Guide is now available on the EPA's website. The Guide serves as an introduction to climate change adaptation planning for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities. Users can navigate this interactive PDF document similar to clicking through pages of a website. A series of briefs organized by region and climate-related impacts provide a better understanding of what challenges utilities can expect to face along with adaptation strategies that can be used to prepare their systems for those impacts. EPA is currently updating the Guide to include two new sections on Green Infrastructure and Energy Management, which contribute to a more comprehensive adaptation planning process. We expect to release the updated Guide in the spring 2013.
3. The CRWU Toolbox is a searchable web-based toolkit that contains approximately 600 climate-related resources for water utilities. The Toolbox was updated in February of 2012 enabling faster and easier access to the newest and most relevant climate information. The resources available include reports and publications, funding resources, activities, upcoming events, and models and tools for technical information. EPA is considering options for the future of the Toolbox, which would include providing the toolbox to one of our partners to host and maintain. **Any interested partners should contact CRWU at CRWUhelp@epa.gov to discuss hosting options in further detail.**
4. EPA is developing the Extreme Events Workshop Planner to assist users in preparing, as well as customizing and conducting, water sector- specific workshops related to five different extreme event scenarios (Flooding, Drought, Sea Level Rise, Wildfire, and Reduced

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Snowpack). Each scenario walks users through a long-term planning exercise in which they gain a better understanding of how projected changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme events can impact their utility, and how they can begin to develop adaptation plans to prepare for these changes. The Workshop Planner includes everything a utility needs to plan and hold a workshop, including a participant list, a facilitator's guide, a climate science basics presentation, group discussion topics, and a report template to document the process and help organize actionable next steps. Two communities have piloted the Workshop Planner, one in Erie, Pennsylvania and the second in Bisbee, Arizona. The expected release date is fall 2012.

- To increase the coordination between CRWU and the Climate Ready Estuaries initiatives, three pilots were conducted with utilities and National Estuary Programs. The North Hudson Sewerage Authority and the New York/New Jersey Harbor National Estuary Program project was completed in 2011 and the report is now available on EPA's website. The most recent pilots were conducted over the summer in the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program in North Carolina and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program in California. For all three pilot projects, CREAT was used to conduct a joint risk assessment with watershed partners to identify current and future climate threats and adaptation options. Reports documenting the methodology and outcomes for the two most recent projects will be available online in early 2013.
- Outreach efforts to our stakeholders and partners continue. EPA is developing a series of webinars on its CRWU initiative; we plan on initiating these webinars in December and providing them through July 2013. The topics will include an overview of the CRWU initiative, an introduction to climate science, CREAT training, and sessions on the Adaptation Strategies Guide and the Workshop Planner.
- EPA and its partners are completing a web-based Adaptive Response Framework (ARF) reference document built on the 2011 National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Climate Ready Water Utilities report. The ARF explains that using an adaptive management approach is important when planning for climate change and highlights elements to consider throughout the process of becoming "climate ready" including awareness, adaptation, mitigation, policies, community, and partnerships. The Adaptive Response Framework will be accessible on EPA's website in the fall 2012.



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