

DRBC's Resilience Plan: Phase 1 Progress

August 27, 2025

Advisory Committee on Climate Change

Joseph Fogarty, Ph.D.

Sara Sayed

Sarah Beganskas, Ph.D.



Delaware River Basin Commission

DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

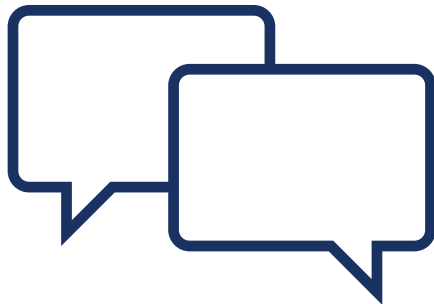
This content was for discussion at the August 27, 2025, ACCC Meeting. Content may not be published or re-posted in whole or in-part without the DRBC's permission.



DRBC's Resilience Plan Overview



Phase 2 Workplan Draft



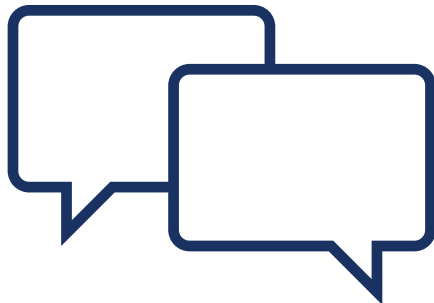
Next Steps & Discussion



DRBC's Resilience Plan Overview



Phase 2 Workplan Draft



Next Steps & Discussion

WATER RESOURCES RESILIENCE PLAN

**New name,
same plan**



- A **response to initial feedback** from partners and stakeholders
- Addresses confusion about the plan's focus:
Climate impacts to water resources of the DRB
 - “Climate Action Plans” primarily tackle emissions, energy, and transportation
- **Broadens its scope:** Phase 3 may now encompass factors affecting water resources that are not related to climate change

VISION STATEMENT

The **Water Resources** Resilience Plan will inform DRBC actions and activities to **prepare and adapt the Basin's shared water resources to withstand the known and potential impacts of climate change and other hazards.**

This vision is in line with the Commission's efforts to ensure an adequate and equitable supply of suitable quality water for Delaware River Basin water users and the environment, in collaboration with Basin states and stakeholders.

WATER RESOURCES RESILIENCE PLAN

**New name,
same plan**



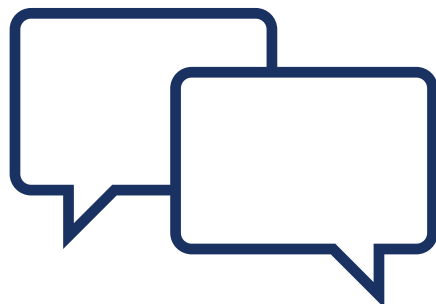
- **P1:** A Framework for DRBC's WRRP
 - Overview and workplan for all 3 phases
 - Start collecting stakeholder input
- **P2:** Advancing Resilience of the Delaware River Basin's Water Resources to Climate Change
- **P3:** Broadening and Revising DRBC's WRRP
 - Expand framework to non-climate related hazards
 - Respond to scientific advances, regional events, and/or changes in the wider context



The WRRP advances **resilience of DRB's water resources to climate change** and other hazards



Phase 2 Workplan Draft



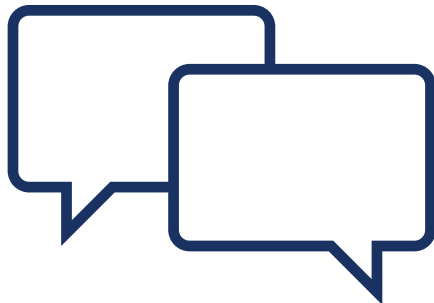
Next Steps & Discussion



The WRRP advances **resilience of DRB's water resources to climate change** and other hazards



Phase 2 Workplan Draft



Next Steps & Discussion

2.1 – Scenario Planning

What climate scenario(s) will the plan consider?



2.2 – Vulnerability Assessment

How exactly will water resources be at risk?



2.3 – DRBC Existing Work

What climate work has DRBC already done?



2.4 – Gap Analysis

What gaps exist in knowledge, action, and equity?



2.5 – Prioritizing Potential Actions and Activities

How will DRBC prioritize potential actions?

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Urgency</i>
<i>Reach</i>	<i>Relevance</i>
<i>Feasibility</i>	<i>Synergy</i>



2.6 – Public and Partner Input

2.1 – Scenario Planning

What climate scenario(s) will the plan consider?



2.2 – Vulnerability Assessment

How exactly will water resources be at risk?



2.3 – DRBC Existing Work

What climate work has DRBC already done?



2.4 – Gap Analysis

What gaps exist in knowledge, action, and equity?



2.5 – Prioritizing Potential Actions and Activities

How will DRBC prioritize potential actions?

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Urgency</i>
<i>Reach</i>	<i>Relevance</i>
<i>Feasibility</i>	<i>Synergy</i>



2.6 – Public and Partner Input

2.1 – Scenario Planning

What climate scenario(s) will the plan consider?



2.2 – Vulnerability Assessment

How exactly will water resources be at risk?



2.3 – DRBC Existing Work

What climate work has DRBC already done?



2.4 – Gap Analysis

What gaps exist in knowledge, action, and equity?



2.5 – Prioritizing Potential Actions and Activities

How will DRBC prioritize potential actions?

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Urgency</i>
<i>Reach</i>	<i>Relevance</i>
<i>Feasibility</i>	<i>Synergy</i>



2.6 – Public and Partner Input

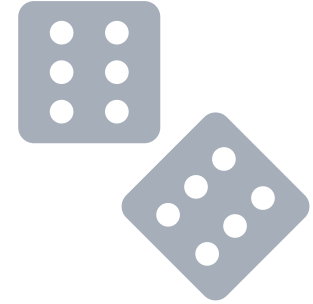
Our Vulnerability Assessment Follows the U.S. Climate Toolkit¹



Step 1:
**Identify Water
Resource Assets
and Hazards**



Step 2:
**Assess
Vulnerability**



Step 3:
**Evaluate
Risk**

¹[U.S. Climate Toolkit: Assess Vulnerability and Risk](#) (Accessed February 2025)

2.1 – Scenario Planning

What climate scenario(s) will the plan consider?



2.2 – Vulnerability Assessment

How exactly will water resources be at risk?



2.3 – DRBC Existing Work

What climate work has DRBC already done?



2.4 – Gap Analysis

What gaps exist in knowledge, action, and equity?



2.5 – Prioritizing Potential Actions and Activities

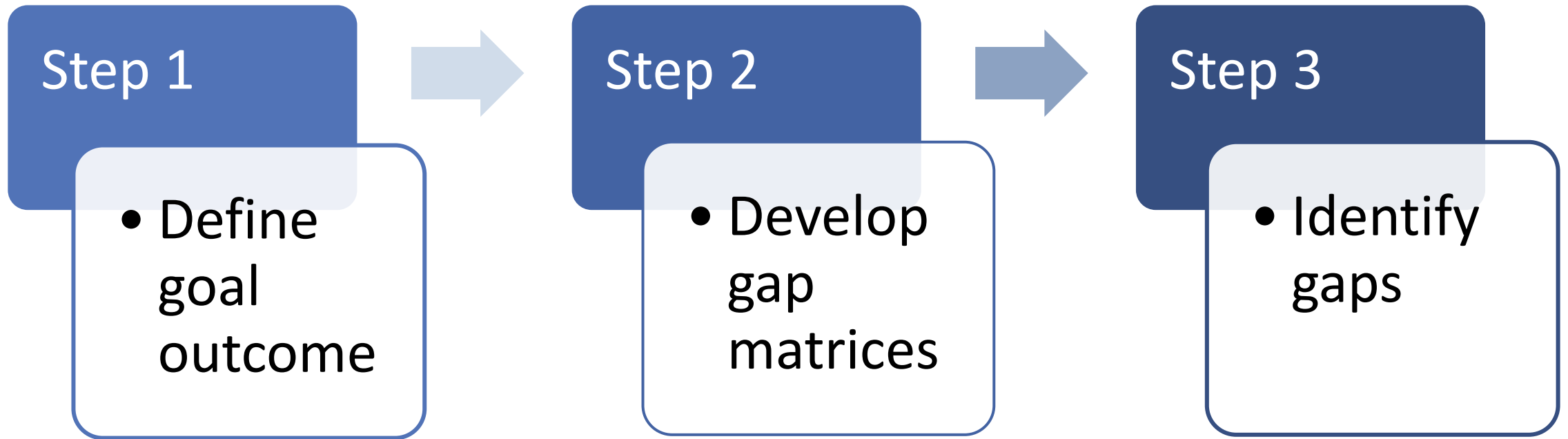
How will DRBC prioritize potential actions?

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Urgency</i>
<i>Reach</i>	<i>Relevance</i>
<i>Feasibility</i>	<i>Synergy</i>



2.6 – Public and Partner Input

Our Gap Analysis Looks for Gaps in Knowledge, Action, and Equity



Look for gaps to help define next steps.

2.1 – Scenario Planning

What climate scenario(s) will the plan consider?



2.2 – Vulnerability Assessment

How exactly will water resources be at risk?



2.3 – DRBC Existing Work

What climate work has DRBC already done?



2.4 – Gap Analysis

What gaps exist in knowledge, action, and equity?



2.5 – Prioritizing Potential Actions and Activities

How will DRBC prioritize potential actions?

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Urgency</i>
<i>Reach</i>	<i>Relevance</i>
<i>Feasibility</i>	<i>Synergy</i>



2.6 – Public and Partner Input

DRBC is seeking **public and partner input**

Goal for P1: Ensure that **the scope of the WRRP considers the breadth of public and partner concerns** about climate change and water resources.

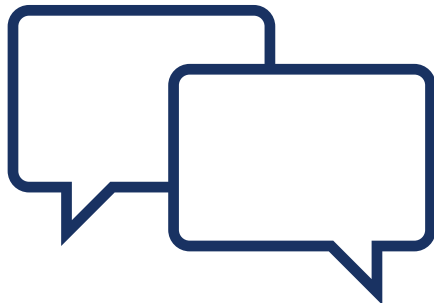
- Multiple ways to engage: Online **comment card** and **listening sessions**
 - Currently re-launching these efforts and reflecting on the feedback received so far.
- Comments will inform the scope of Phase 1
 - Successes and lessons learned will **guide our plan for Phase 2 outreach**.



The WRRP advances **resilience of DRB's water resources to climate change** and other hazards



Phase 2 will include a **vulnerability assessment**, a **gap analysis**, and **outreach**.



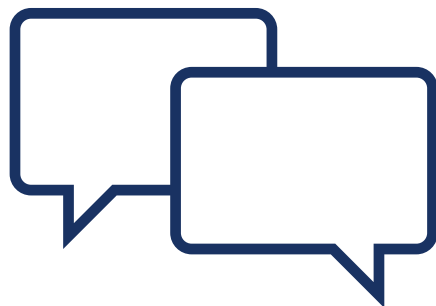
Next Steps & Discussion



The WRRP advances **resilience of DRB's water resources to climate change** and other hazards



Phase 2 will include a **vulnerability assessment**, a **gap analysis**, and **outreach**.



Next Steps & Discussion

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE

Next steps



<u>Activities and Milestones</u>	
Jan–Aug 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosted listening sessions and released comment card to start collecting public and partner input• Phase 1 report draft undergoing internal review• Renamed Water Resources Resilience Plan to better represent its scope and purpose
Fall 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete draft of Phase 1 report• Resume collecting stakeholder input• ACCC Meeting
Winter 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 1: ACCC review• Begin work on Phase 2

Discussion questions

1. *What was your approach to expanding the reach of any public input?*
2. *What do you recommend in terms of selecting future scenario(s) and planning horizon(s)?*
3. *Do you favor a qualitative or quantitative approach to defining vulnerability and/or risk?*



Image Credits

Slides 2, 3, 12, 13, 22, 23: Water Drop by Romaldon from Noun Project
(<https://thenounproject.com/browse/icons/term/water-drop>) CC BY 3.0

Slide 18: flood house by Color Combo from Noun Project
(<https://thenounproject.com/browse/icons/term/flood-house>) CC BY 3.0