Delaware River Basin Commission
Water Resources Resilience Plan



Phase 2 Engagement Session

October 8, 2026

Elizabeth Brown – *Director, External Affairs & Communications*
Avery Lentini – *Community Engagement Specialist*
Zachary Soricelli – *Water Resources Resilience Plan Intern*

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

What is the Delaware River Basin Commission?

Managing, protecting, and improving the Basin's water resources.

From 1961…

… to today

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA





The Delaware River Basin Commission is a federal-interstate government agency



Our Mission

Manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

Our Vision

Provide trusted, effective, and coordinated management of the Basin's shared water resources.

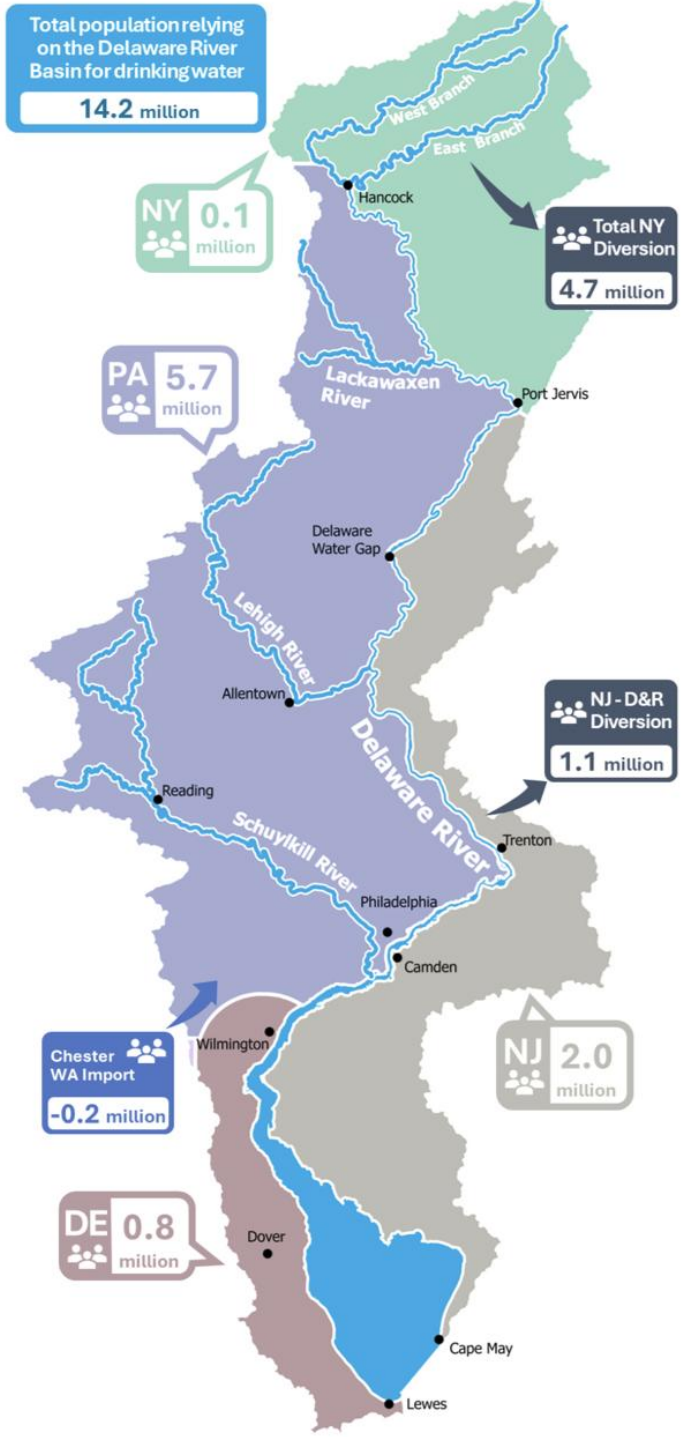
Our Foundation

The Delaware River Basin Compact is both an agreement, federal law and state law.

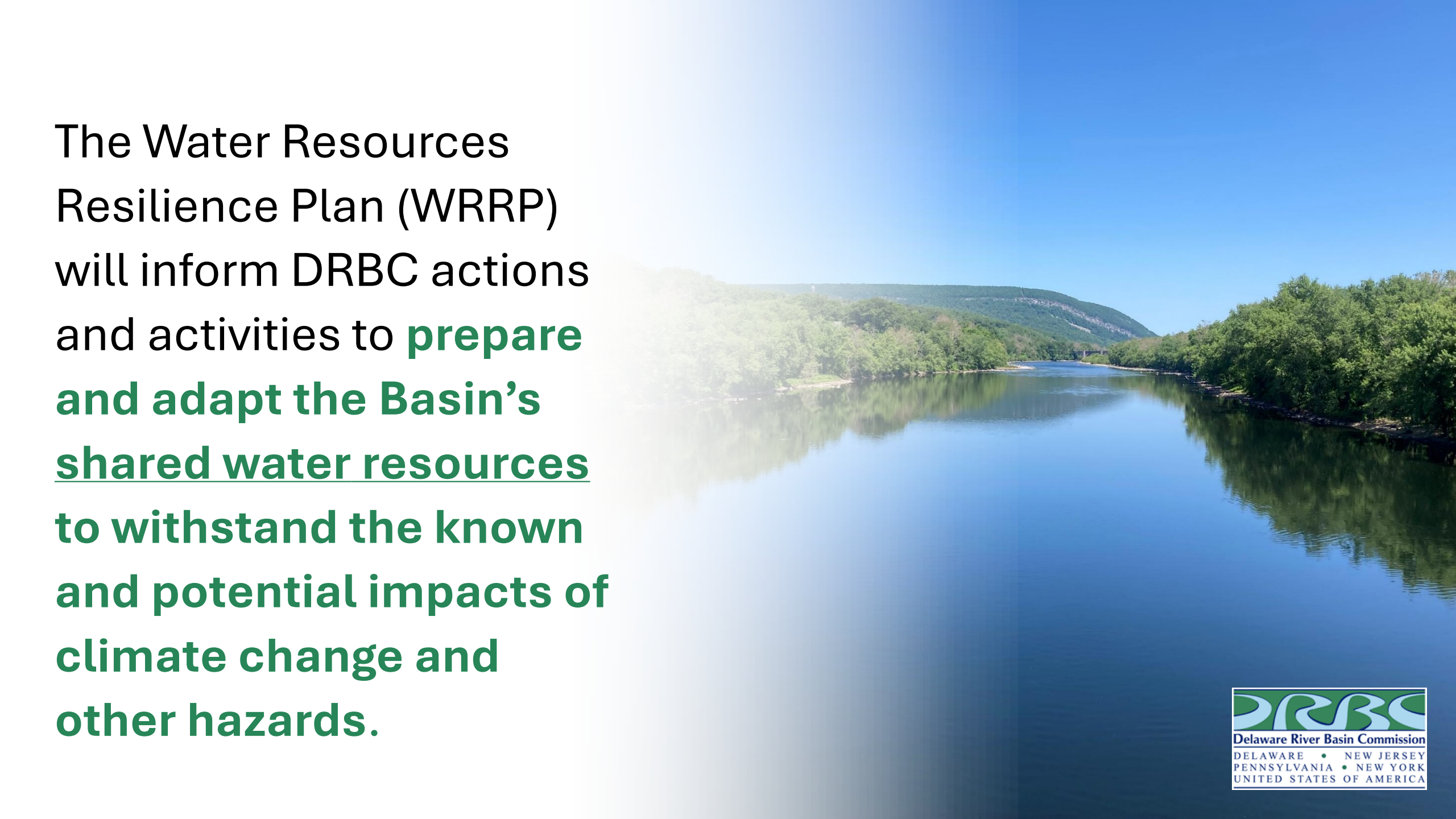
Why is DRBC developing a Water Resources Resilience Plan?

- **14 m+ people** rely on our shared waters
- **13,539** sq. mi. watershed
- **4** states
- **330 river miles**
- **130 miles** tidally influenced

Finding: Climate change is impacting the Basin's water cycle



The Water Resources Resilience Plan (WRRP) 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.**



Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DRBC will **collect stakeholder input** during all 3 Phases of the WRRP

- **P1:** A Framework for DRBC's WRRP
  - Set the stage for work to be done in Phases 2 and 3.
- **P2:** Advancing Resilience of the Delaware River Basin's Water Resources to Climate Change

We are here!

- **P3:** Advancing Resilience of the Delaware River Basin's Water Resources to Additional Challenges

DRBC will **collect stakeholder input** during all 3 Phases of the WRRP

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **P1:** A Framework for DRBC's WRRP
  - Open-ended questions about stakeholders' **values** and **concerns**
  - Ensure the **scope of the WRRP** considers the breadth of public and partner concerns about climate change and water resources
  - We engaged with **150** participants from:

State government, non-profits, youth, Basin residents, public utility, academia, private utility, faith-based groups, federal government, community groups

“I just enjoy [the Delaware River’s] existence and beauty…

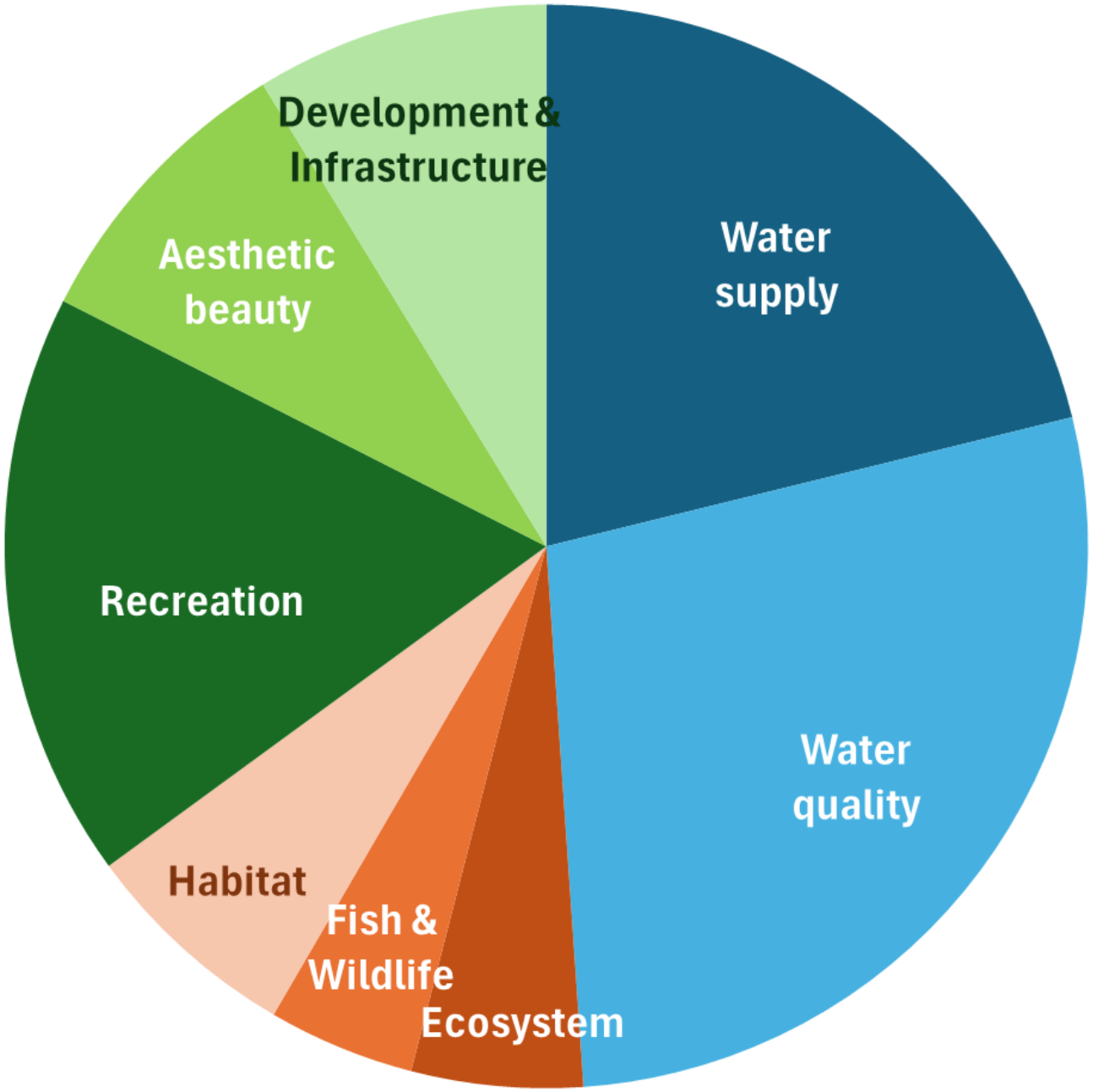


Many stakeholders noted the Basin’s **aesthetic beauty**, partake in a range of **recreational activities**, and acknowledged the River as an important **source of water**.

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

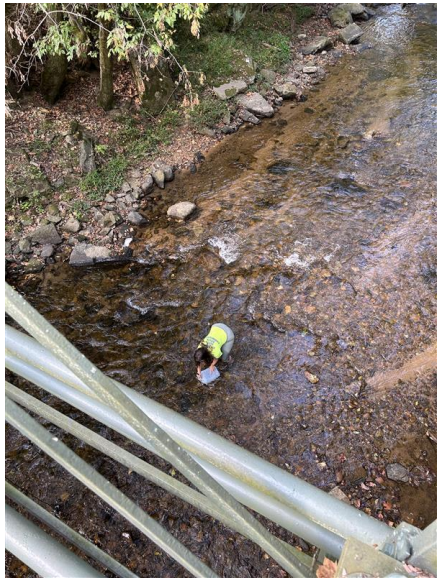
Stakeholders' responses communicated **what they value** about the Basin's water resources

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The WRRP will focus on protecting and managing **three Basin-wide water resource assets**

WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs





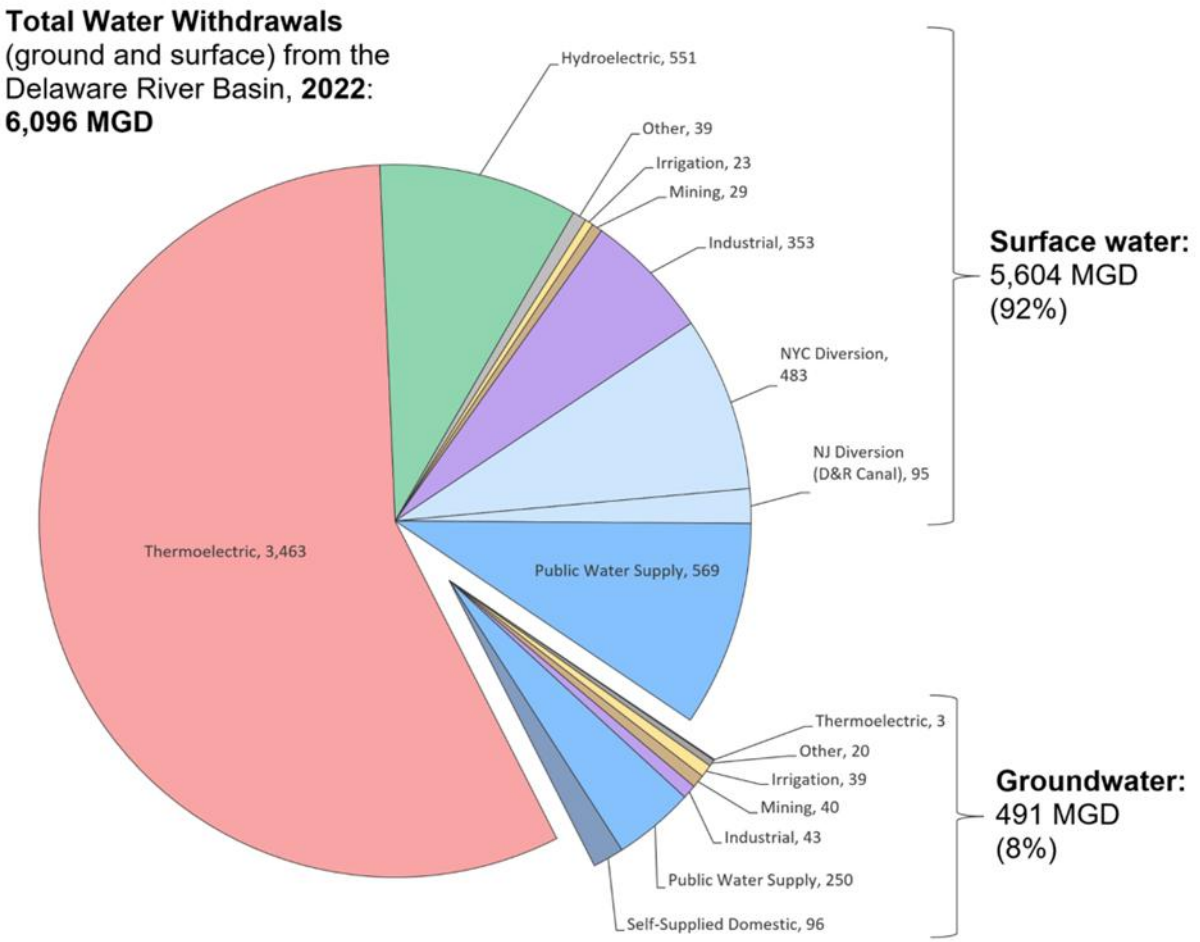


Image credits: DRBC

The WRRP will focus on protecting and managing **three Basin-wide water resource assets**

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM	Habitat that supports species that live in and/or rely on water bodies in the Basin













Image credits: maine.gov, DNREC, Haskins Shellfish Research Laboratory, NPS, John Whyte of the Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation, DNREC, PDE

The WRRP will focus on protecting and managing **three Basin-wide water resource assets**

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM	Habitat that supports species that live in and/or rely on water bodies in the Basin
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Water-adjacent infrastructure that supports quality of life and recreation



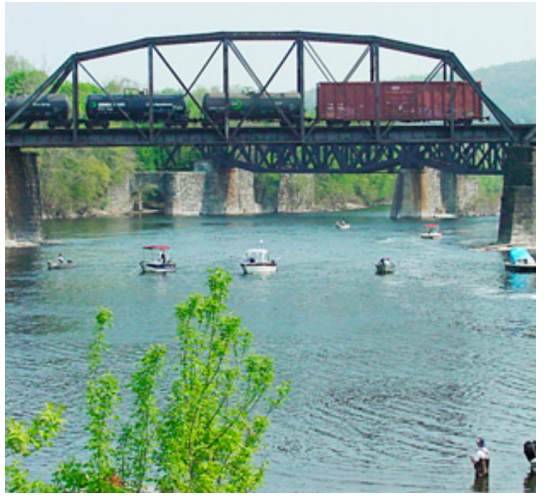




Image credits: NPS, Susan Owens (DRBC), DRBC

The WRRP focuses on 7 **hazards** to water resources.

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HAZARDS

- Increasing water temperature
- Declining snowpack
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Flooding
- Land inundation
- Salinity intrusion

CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVERS

HAZARDS TO WATER RESOURCES

EXAMPLE CONSEQUENCES TO WATER RESOURCE ASSETS

Warming air temperatures

Changing precipitation patterns

Sea-level rise

Drought

Less water in streams and rivers

Water availability



Pepacton Reservoir at 63% capacity, 2024



Low flows can impact fish reliant on shallow riffles

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Image credits: Delaware Currents; Ryan Hagerty, USFWS

CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVERS

HAZARDS TO WATER RESOURCES

EXAMPLE CONSEQUENCES TO WATER RESOURCE ASSETS

Warming air temperatures

Changing precipitation patterns

Sea-level rise

Flooding

Damage to infrastructure

Built Environment



Yardley, Pa., flooding 2006



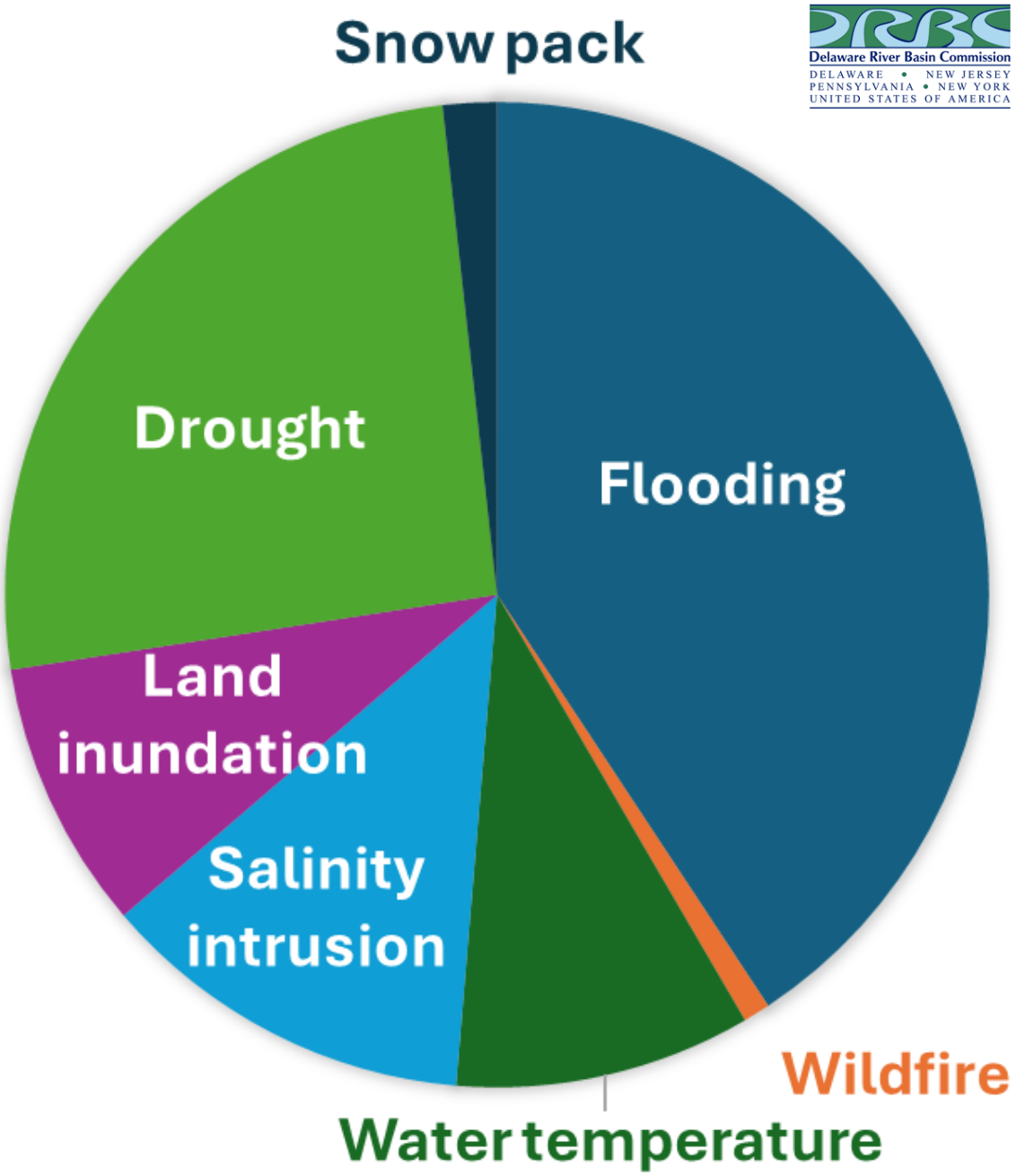
Wastewater treatment plant flooding in Texas

Image credit: Getty Images

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

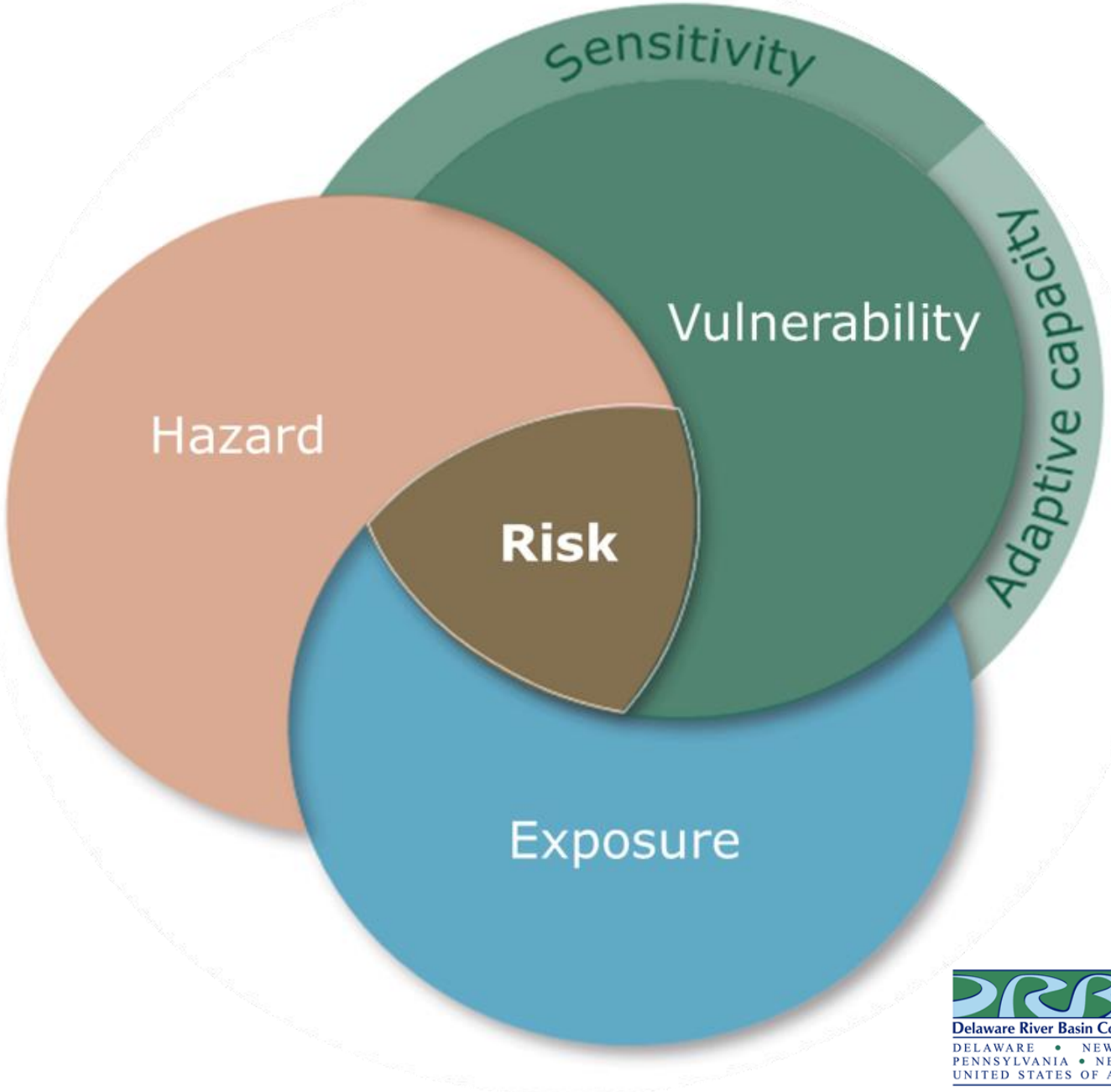
Flooding and **drought** were of greatest concern

- Reflects public knowledge as well as their concerns
- Other challenges mentioned (for consideration in Phase 3):
  - Over development, deforestation
  - PFAS and other contaminants
  - Non-point source pollution
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Freshwater salinization
  - Affordability
  - Public perception
  - Data centers
  - Dredging
  - Hydraulic fracturing



Phase 2 outcomes will include:

- Vulnerability Assessment
- Gap Analysis



Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Today's session is the next step of Phase 2 public input.

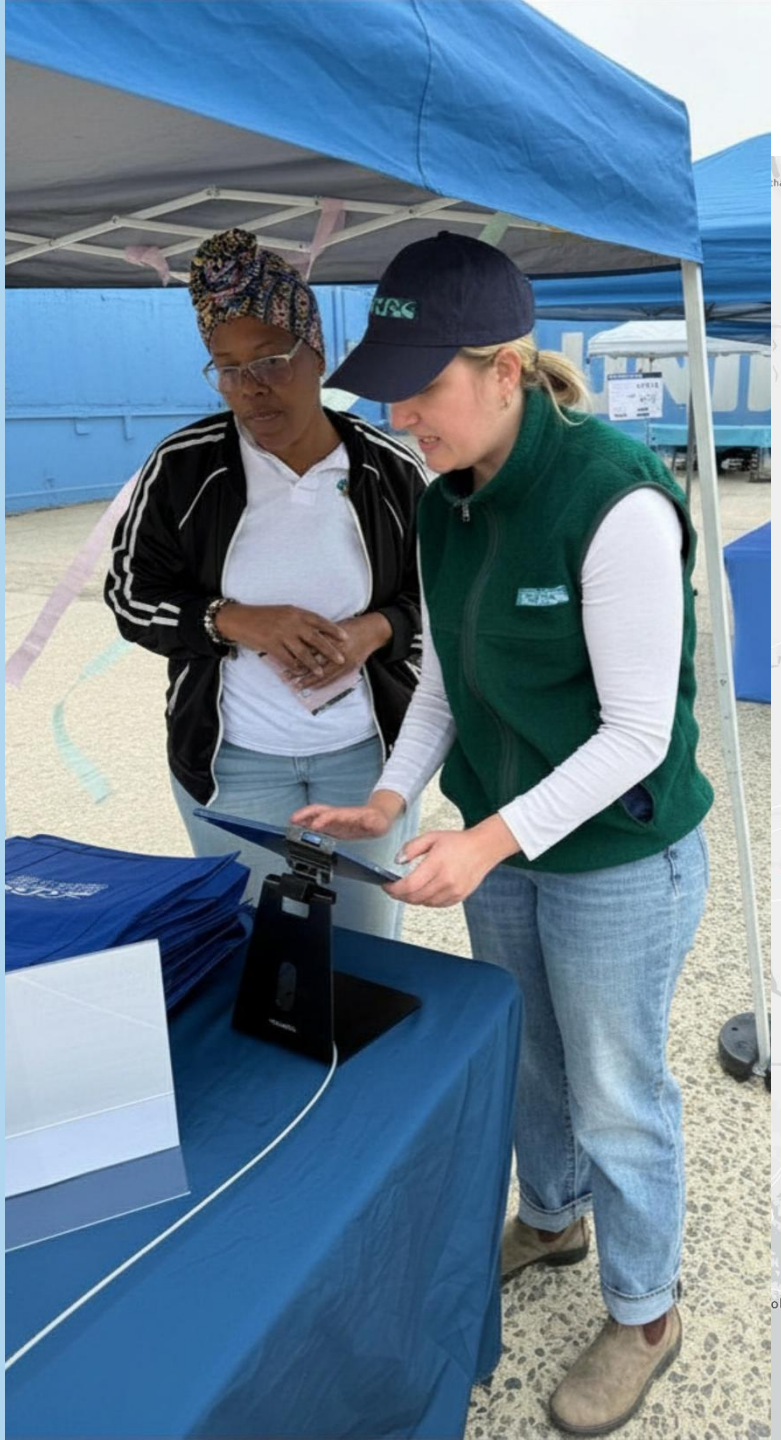
- The WRRP strives to **support, complement, and build on** existing efforts to promote water resources resilience in the Basin.
- Hear from participants about **efforts of which DRBC should be aware** and **perceived gaps in resilience planning efforts**.
- Input will be incorporated into DRBC's Gap Analysis this winter.



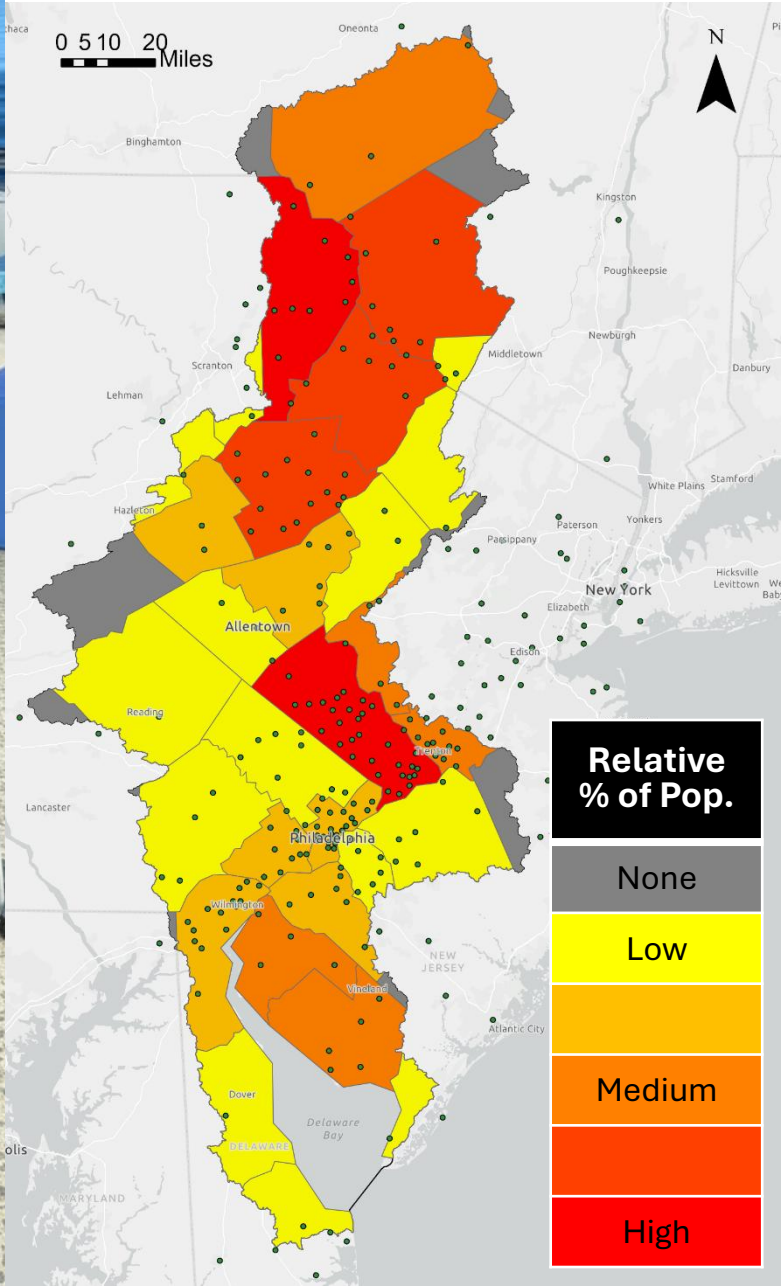
Stakeholder engagement is informing the vulnerability assessment

Short survey:
TinyURL.com/WRRP-Survey

- Awareness and ranking of climate change concerns
- Survey will close **October 19th**



Map of 790 Responses Collected
(09/25/26)



Please fill out a Comment Card!

Considering the following WATER RESOURCE ASSETS:	
WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM	Habitat that supports species that live in and/or rely on water bodies in the Basin
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Water-adjacent infrastructure that supports quality of life and recreation

Provide your FEEDBACK:

1. What is important to you about this topic?
2. What efforts and resources relating to climate hazards for the Basin's water resources should we be aware of?
3. What challenges exist to advancing water resources resilience in the Delaware River Basin? What opportunities do you see to address these challenges?



Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Stay Engaged

- **Check out the WRRP landing page:** TinyURL.com/DRBC-WRRP
- **Sign up for the WRRP updates listserv:** NJ.gov/drbc/contact/interest/
- **Complete the Phase 2 Survey:** TinyURL.com/WRRP-Survey
- Co-host a listening session with us!
- Stay tuned for Phase 3 public participation opportunities…

Thank you for your input!

*We invite you to fill out a comment card and **find us at lunch** for further discussion.*

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA