

## Governor Phil Murphy




# Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Establish Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy

10/29/2019


*Executive Order Also Establishes Climate and Flood Resilience Program and an Interagency Council on Climate Resilience*

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**HOBOKEN** – Governor Phil Murphy today marked the seventh anniversary of Superstorm Sandy by signing Executive Order No. 89 to establish a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy. The Executive Order also establishes a Climate and Flood Resilience Program within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which will be led by a Chief Resilience Officer. Additionally, the Executive Order creates an Interagency Council on Climate Resilience, comprised of 16 state agencies to develop short- and long-term action plans that will promote the long-term mitigation, adaptation, and resilience of New Jersey's economy, communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

"Since taking office, it has been a top priority of my Administration to reestablish New Jersey's role as a leader in the fight against climate change and resume many of the climate change initiatives that were dismantled by the Christie Administration," **said Governor Murphy**. "New Jersey is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of sea-level rise and global warming, and today's Executive Order outlines a bold and comprehensive set of actions to ensure that our communities and infrastructure are more resilient against future storms."

"Factoring climate change into housing rehabilitation efforts in New Jersey is critical because natural disasters are inevitable and unavoidable," **said Lt. Governor Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs**. "What we can control is how we prepare and plan for the future by rebuilding homes and businesses that are less prone to flood damage and more resilient."

"As a coastal state, New Jersey is on the front lines of climate change. The impacts of climate change are far-ranging and already touch on everyone's life in one way or another," **said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe**. "The DEP is grateful for Governor Murphy's leadership and support as we continue to promote climate resilience throughout the state. In the coming months, DEP will expand this work in collaboration with our sister agencies and, within the next year, deliver the Coastal Resilience Plan as part of Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy."

"We face many challenges from increasing temperature and sea-level rise," **said Chief Resilience Officer and Department of Environmental Protection Assistant Commissioner David Rosenblatt**. "To meet those challenges, we need to fully engage the public and stakeholders and provide a clear picture of what the impacts will be, including physical changes to our coastline, and the steps that have to be taken to adapt and become more resilient."

Among the directives to improve New Jersey's climate resilience efforts, Governor Murphy's Executive Order establishes:

**State of New Jersey Chief Resilience Officer** – The Chief Resilience Officer of the State of New Jersey will lead the Climate and Flood Resilience Program and work with the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience to develop a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy.

**Climate and Flood Resilience Program** – The Climate and Flood Resilience Program will be established within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Climate and Flood Resilience Program, under the direction of the Chief Resilience Officer, will develop a scientific report on climate change regarding the current and anticipated effects of climate change in New Jersey, including but not limited to increased temperatures, sea level rise, increased frequency or severity of rainfall, storms, and flooding, at least through 2050. This report will be delivered to the Governor within 180 days and updated at least every two years.

**Interagency Council on Climate Resilience** – The Interagency Council on Climate Resilience will be established and comprised of representatives of 16 state agencies to develop short- and long-term action plans to develop a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy that will promote the long-term mitigation, adaptation, and resilience of New Jersey's economy, communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

**Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy** – By September 1, 2020, the Chief Resilience Officer, with the support of the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience, will deliver to the Governor a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy to promote the long-term mitigation, adaptation, and resilience of New Jersey's economy, communities, infrastructure, and natural resources throughout the State in a manner consistent with the Scientific Report on Climate Change. The strategy will include recommendations for actions the State should take to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including but not limited to the following measures:

- Identify methods that can be used to strengthen resilience;
- Provide guidance and strategies for State agencies, municipalities, and regional planning agencies to implement resiliency measures;




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