

Sea Level Rise Poses Many Risks for Delaware



Photo Credit: Delaware Coastal Programs



Photo Credit: DNREC



Photo Credit: Delaware Coastal Programs

Public Safety & Infrastructure

Dams & Dikes, Roads and Bridges, Railroad Lines, Wells, Port of Wilmington, Landfills, Septic Systems, Wastewater Facilities

Society & Economy

Heavy Industrial Areas, Future Development Areas, Tourism & Coastal Recreation, Residences

Natural Resources

Wetlands & Impoundments, Beaches & Dunes, Habitats of Concern, Protected Lands

“Adaptation” is how we choose to respond

These choices will be made by individuals, business-owners and governments and sometimes a combination of all three working together.



Photo Credit: Tony Pratt



Photo Credit: FEMA



Photo Credit: Delaware Coastal Programs



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Avoid

Identifying at-risk areas and directing new development to less vulnerable areas through voluntary measures and improved codes.

Accommodate

Reducing flood damage while living with its effects. This includes raising homes and roads, early evacuations and living by the tides.

Protect

Building structures designed to keep water away. This includes sea walls, bulkheads, dikes, living shorelines and beach replenishment.

Retreat

Removing permanent structures from vulnerable areas in a planned and predictable way.

Options for Preparing Delaware for Sea Level Rise

Sea Level Rise poses new challenges for the state and its residents. We will respond to sea level rise by choosing to “adapt” in a variety of different ways.

In the course of its work, the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee has identified many barriers to adaptation. They also identified 61 options for preparing the state to respond to sea level rise.

These 61 options fall into six general categories:

- Improve communication and coordination
- Provide increased regulatory flexibility
- Provide consistent policies
- Increase public awareness
- Improve sea level rise data
- Provide technical assistance

Today, we are asking for your feedback and ideas on these, and other, ways that the state can prepare to adapt to sea level rise. The 61 Options have been divided into three groups and can be discussed with Committee Members at each display.