<u>Background and User Guide:</u>

Objectives and Audience:

NEclimateUS.org is a searchable database that targets regional planners and managers within the Eastern region (South Carolina to Maine, including West Virginia and Ohio) by offering information useful to plan and resource climate-related projects and programs. The website catalogues state-level needs for climate information, directs users to useful data, products and services, and maintains an up-to-date record of planned and ongoing projects within the associated states. Our intention is to offer information that assists in the selection of collaborative projects that address regional needs and are not currently being funded.

Content to expect in NEclimateUS.org:

NEclimateUS.org includes important climate documents relevant at regional scales, but this version does not represent a comprehensive climate literature review. Similarly, NEclimateUS.org does not present an inventory of the mission-specific work of any particular state or federal agency. No raw data or regional maps are provided by NEclimateUS.org directly, although online locations for these resources are provided when applicable.

Included in NEClimateUS.org are a catalog of documented regional climate information needs, regionally relevant reports, plans, and studies, locations and descriptions of online resources such as tools and models, and key information about ongoing climate initiatives in the region. Content of NEclimateUS.org will be updated regularly; if you would like to submit content updates, please visit the "contact us" section listed on the homepage.

How information is arranged:

Content is divided primarily by resource type, so that users can locate useful discipline specific tools and reports ([Data, Products and Services](#)), review ongoing projects within their area of interest ([Projects and Activities](#)), identify areas of outstanding need for climate information ([Needs](#)) and find appropriate contacts within the region ([Programs and Partners](#)). NEclimateUS.org is organized this way to assist multiple types of users. For a detailed explanation of how to use the site including an example, please see below.

How to Use NEclimateUS.org:

1. The first step when using NEclimateUS.org is to determine which category of climate information to use for your search.

    a. Are you looking for a decision-maker's need for climate information? Select the "Needs" tab.

    b. Are you a researcher or manager looking for a report or a tool that applies to a particular sub-region? Select the "Data, Products, and Services" tab.

c. Are you a funding agency searching for a funded research project within a particular discipline? Select the "Projects and Activities" tab (etc).

2. Once you've chosen the correct resource heading, you can use one or several of the drop-down menus in that section to narrow the list of entries in the database, thus refining your results.

   Example: A manager looking for projects underway in Mid-Atlantic region might select the "Projects and Activities" tab, and narrow their results by using the drop-down menu, "Area of Applicability" to select the appropriate sub-region (New England, Mid-Atlantic, Central, Great Lakes, Southeast, etc).

3. If at any point, you would like to search using highly specific criteria, any combination of words can be entered into the search box located below the drop-down menus.

   Example: The same manager from the Mid-Atlantic region may decide to search for any vulnerability assessments currently on-going in Maryland; entering the words "Maryland" and "Vulnerability assessment" into the search box will retrieve any entries within the Projects and Activities tab that contain these words. ***For this reason, the search function is most useful for finding very specific resources within the database.***

4. Soon, retrieving information about the priority of climate information within the Needs category will also be possible by using the search function. For instance, entering "New York", and "High priority" in the search box in the "Needs" section will retrieve all entries for New York that are also labeled high priority.

Section Descriptions:

   Needs:

   The Needs section of NEclimateUS.org catalogues and prioritizes climate information requested by managers to address climate change. A NOAA-supported literature review was completed in 2011/12 to populate the website, and content is periodically added to the database as sources are updated. Climate information needs will be prioritized according to results of a cross-sector climate needs survey administered to the Eastern region (South Carolina to Maine, including West Virginia and Ohio) by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) in December 2012.

   The primary literature reviewed for this section consists of existing state climate change adaptation plans for the sixteen states in the Eastern region including: ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, WV, and OH. Where needs were obtained directly from state plans, citations are provided. For some sectors, gaps in state plans were identified, and secondary literature was used to supplement the database. This secondary literature includes a variety of sources such as workshops, sector-specific reports, other agency documents, as well as assessments and reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs); in many of these cases, sources are listed and citations provided in the Bibliography section of NEclimateUS.org. In

instances of personal communication, or where needs have been extrapolated from the text, sources are not listed.

Data, Products and Services:

The Data, Products and Services section of NEclimateUS.org contains a range of information. Much of the information (although not all) contained in this version of the database relates to the coastal environment and the coastal states of the Eastern region (SC, NC, VA, MD, DE, NJ, NY, CT, MA, NH, RI, ME). In future iterations of the database, this section will be expanded to include a more comprehensive collection of climate-related products within the entire region. The same sectors are covered as in the Needs section, again with a coastal emphasis. The Data section contains information on data products and links to various data sources (described in Glossary below). The Products section focuses on information available for planners and managers to help them understand, plan for, and potentially develop projects to address climate variability and change. This section contains reports, completed research studies, vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, sea-level rise plans, relevant journal articles, and other documents. The Services section focuses primarily on specific tools and training materials available to planners and managers to help understand the impacts of climate change on their resources. This section contains web-based tools (e.g., visualization tools), mapping and modeling tools, management and policy guidance, decision-support tools, stakeholder engagement tools, and other useful databases. ***The distinction of this section from the Projects and Activities section is that these resources are finalized Products, Services, and Data (although some may be updated regularly), while the Projects and Activities section includes planned and on-going projects that do not yet have a final product.***

Projects and Activities:

The Projects and Activities section of NEclimateUS.org includes planned and/or ongoing climate-related activities such as adaptation projects/ initiatives, climate and adaptation-related research, climate-related monitoring efforts, and assessments. Information included in this section does not yet have a final completed product. Additionally, as with Data, Products, and Services, many of the entries are related to the coastal environment, but this section will be expanded upon in future improvements to the website.

Programs and Partners:

The Programs and Partners portion of the website identifies and provides contact information for entities working on specific climate issues within the Eastern region. To update your contact information, please visit the "contact us" section listed on the homepage.

Bibliography:

The Bibliography contains the sources for the entries in the Needs section as well as references for the entries in the Data, Products, and Services section.

<u>Glossary:</u>

Needs: Climate information requested by managers, decision-makers, and research scientists.

Data, Products & Services: Existing climate resources including, but not limited to, models, reports, assessments, visualization/web tools, etc.

Projects & Activities: Ongoing efforts such as adaptation initiatives, research projects, assessments, etc.

Partners & Programs: Organizations and individuals actively engaged with climate work in the Northeast region.

Data**:**

1) **In situ observations**: Direct measurements or analyses obtained from a physical location.

2) **Satellite remote observations**: Space based observation, or passive/active remote sensing occurring on aircraft, buoy, or ship, etc.

3) **Observing systems**: Global or regional networks that provide data management and/or tools for decision-makers and researchers.

4) **Preliminary assessments**: Limited-scope investigation designed to distinguish between sites that pose little or no threat to human health and the environment and sites that require further investigation (from epa.gov).

5) **Indicator based research**: Research focused on a specific topic selected for its significance in producing meaningful information about climate trends, and/or impacts to the natural or built environment.

6) **Reanalysis products**: Analytical method that incorporates long-range datasets and simulation to produce a record of how climate and weather have changed over time.

7) **Depth and elevation data**: Bathymetric and topographic measurements.

8) **Data stewardship and provisions:** Means by which data is shared between users, or made freely available.