

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3531

To require the Federal Government to produce a national climate adaptation and resilience strategy, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 20, 2022

Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Federal Government to produce a national climate adaptation and resilience strategy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Climate Ad-  
5 aptation and Resilience Strategy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ADAPTATION.—The term “adaptation”  
9 means an adjustment in a natural or human system

1 in response to a new or changing environmental con-  
2 dition, including such an adjustment associated with  
3 climate change, that exploits beneficial opportunities  
4 or moderates negative effects.

5 (2) ADAPTIVE CAPACITY.—The term “adaptive  
6 capacity” means the ability of a system—

7 (A) to adjust to climate vulnerabilities to  
8 moderate potential damage or harm;

9 (B) to take advantage of new, and poten-  
10 tially beneficial, opportunities; or

11 (C) to cope with change.

12 (3) CASCADING CLIMATE HAZARDS.—The term  
13 “cascading climate hazards” means a series of suc-  
14 cessive environmental hazards triggered by an initial  
15 hazard that is driven or exacerbated by climate  
16 change, such that the impacts to vulnerable systems  
17 are amplified.

18 (4) CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER.—The term  
19 “Chief Resilience Officer” means the Chief Resil-  
20 ience Officer of the United States appointed by the  
21 President under section 3(a)(1).

22 (5) CLIMATE CHANGE.—The term “climate  
23 change” means changes in average atmospheric and  
24 oceanic conditions that persist over multiple decades

1 or longer and are natural or anthropogenic in origin,  
2 including—

3 (A) both increases and decreases in tem-  
4 perature;

5 (B) shifts in precipitation;

6 (C) shifts in ecoregion or biome geography  
7 and phenology, as applicable;

8 (D) changing risk from certain types of  
9 rapid-onset climate hazards and slow-onset cli-  
10 mate hazards; and

11 (E) changes to other features of the cli-  
12 mate system.

13 (6) CLIMATE INFORMATION.—The term “cli-  
14 mate information” means information, data, or  
15 products that enhance knowledge and understanding  
16 of climate science, risk, conditions, vulnerability, or  
17 impact, including—

18 (A) climate data products;

19 (B) historic or future climate projections  
20 or scenarios;

21 (C) climate risk or vulnerability informa-  
22 tion;

23 (D) data or information related to climate  
24 adaptation and mitigation; and

25 (E) other best available climate science.

1           (7) COMPOUND CLIMATE HAZARDS.—The term  
2           “compound climate hazards” means 2 or more envi-  
3           ronmental hazards driven or exacerbated by climate  
4           change that occur simultaneously or successively,  
5           such that the impacts to vulnerable systems are am-  
6           plified.

7           (8) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the  
8           Partners Council on Climate Adaptation and Resil-  
9           ience established by section 4(a).

10          (9) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATE.—The term  
11          “Freely Associated State” means—

12                 (A) the Commonwealth of the Northern  
13                 Mariana Islands;

14                 (B) the Federated States of Micronesia;

15                 (C) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

16                 (D) the Republic of Palau; and

17                 (E) the United States Virgin Islands.

18          (10) FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES.—The term  
19          “frontline communities” means human communities  
20          that—

21                 (A) are highly vulnerable to climate change  
22                 or exposed to climate risk;

23                 (B) experience the earliest, most adverse  
24                 impacts of climate change; and

1 (C) may have a reduced ability to adapt to  
2 climate change due to a lack of resources, polit-  
3 ical power, or adaptive capacity.

4 (11) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—The term “Im-  
5 plementation Plan” means the Implementation Plan  
6 jointly developed by the Chief Resilience Officer and  
7 the Working Groups under section 6(b).

8 (12) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
9 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
10 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
11 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

12 (13) NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT.—The  
13 term “National Climate Assessment” means the as-  
14 sessment delivered to Congress and the President  
15 pursuant to section 106 of the Global Change Re-  
16 search Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2936).

17 (14) NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term  
18 “natural infrastructure” means infrastructure  
19 that—

20 (A) uses, restores, or emulates natural eco-  
21 logical, geological, or physical processes; and

22 (B)(i) is created through the action of nat-  
23 ural physical, geological, biological, and chem-  
24 ical processes over time;

1 (ii) is created by human design, engineer-  
2 ing, and construction to emulate or act in con-  
3 cert with natural processes; or

4 (iii) involves the use of plants, soils, and  
5 other natural features, including through the  
6 creation, restoration, or preservation of natural  
7 areas using materials appropriate to the region  
8 to manage stormwater and runoff, to attenuate  
9 flooding and storm surges, to manage erosion  
10 and saltwater intrusion, and for other related  
11 purposes.

12 (15) NON-FEDERAL PARTNER.—The term  
13 “non-Federal partner” means a member of a unit of  
14 State, local, or territorial government, the govern-  
15 ment of an Indian Tribe, the government of a Freely  
16 Associated State, a private sector entity, or another  
17 individual or organization not affiliated with the  
18 Federal Government.

19 (16) OPERATIONS REPORT.—The term “Oper-  
20 ations Report” means the National Climate Adapta-  
21 tion and Resilience Operations Report jointly devel-  
22 oped by the Chief Resilience Officer and the Work-  
23 ing Groups under section 5.

24 (17) RAPID-ONSET CLIMATE HAZARD.—The  
25 term “rapid-onset climate hazard” means an abrupt

1 environmental hazard driven or exacerbated by cli-  
2 mate change that occurs quickly or unexpectedly and  
3 triggers impacts that materialize rapidly and inter-  
4 act with conditions of exposure and vulnerability to  
5 result in a disaster.

6 (18) REPRESENTED AGENCY.—The term “rep-  
7 resented agency” means each Federal agency from  
8 which the Chief Resilience Officer appoints a mem-  
9 ber to a Working Group under section  
10 3(b)(4)(B)(ii).

11 (19) RESILIENCE.—The term “resilience”  
12 means the capacity of a social, physical, economic, or  
13 environmental system to cope with an environmental  
14 hazard event, trend, or disturbance that is driven or  
15 exacerbated by climate change by responding or re-  
16 organizing in ways that maintain, to the greatest ex-  
17 tent practicable, the essential function, identity, and  
18 structure of the system and ensure that, in the event  
19 of a rapid-onset climate hazard or a slow-onset cli-  
20 mate hazard, basic human needs are met, while also  
21 maintaining the capacity for adaptation and trans-  
22 formation.

23 (20) RISK.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “risk” means  
2 the potential for consequences in a situation in  
3 which—

- 4 (i) something of value is at stake; and  
5 (ii) the outcome is uncertain.

6 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “risk” includes  
7 the potential for consequences described in sub-  
8 paragraph (A) that is evaluated as the product  
9 obtained by multiplying—

- 10 (i) the probability of a hazard occur-  
11 ring; by  
12 (ii) the consequence that would result  
13 if the hazard occurred.

14 (21) SLOW-ONSET CLIMATE HAZARD.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “slow-onset  
16 climate hazard” means an environmental haz-  
17 ard driven or exacerbated by climate change  
18 that evolves gradually through time due to in-  
19 cremental change or because of an increasing  
20 frequency or intensity of recurring climate im-  
21 pacts.

22 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “slow-onset  
23 climate hazard” includes hazards such as—

- 24 (i) sea level rise;  
25 (ii) desertification;



- 1 (iii) biodiversity loss or the alteration  
2 of or shift in habitat range of individual  
3 species or entire biomes;
- 4 (iv) increasing temperatures;
- 5 (v) ocean acidification;
- 6 (vi) saltwater intrusion;
- 7 (vii) soil salinization;
- 8 (viii) drought and water scarcity;
- 9 (ix) reduced snow pack;
- 10 (x) sea ice retreat;
- 11 (xi) glacial ice treat;
- 12 (xii) permafrost thaw; and
- 13 (xiii) coastal and river bank erosion.

14 (22) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means  
15 the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience  
16 Strategy required to be developed jointly by the  
17 Chief Resilience Officer and the Working Groups  
18 under section 6(a).

19 (23) VULNERABILITY.—The term “vulner-  
20 ability” means the propensity or predisposition of a  
21 human individual or community or physical, biologi-  
22 cal, or socioeconomic system to be susceptible to and  
23 adversely affected by the impacts of climate change.

24 (24) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working  
25 Group” means a National Climate Adaptation and

1 Resilience Working Group established by the Chief  
2 Resilience Officer under section 3(b).

3 **SEC. 3. CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER AND NATIONAL CLI-**  
4 **MATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE WORK-**  
5 **ING GROUPS.**

6 (a) CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days  
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Presi-  
9 dent shall identify or appoint a Chief Resilience Offi-  
10 cer of the United States to serve in the Executive  
11 Office of the President.

12 (2) DUTIES.—The Chief Resilience Officer  
13 shall—

14 (A) serve the President by directing a  
15 whole-of-government effort to build resilience to  
16 climate change vulnerabilities in the United  
17 States (as described in the National Climate  
18 Assessment or other relevant analyses identified  
19 by the Chief Resilience Officer) in collaboration  
20 with existing Federal initiatives and interagency  
21 adaptation efforts; and

22 (B) establish Working Groups in accord-  
23 ance with subsection (b) to facilitate inter-  
24 agency coordination with respect to climate re-  
25 siliance and adaptation.

1 (b) WORKING GROUPS.—

2 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
4 graph (B), the Chief Resilience Officer shall es-  
5 tablish the minimum number of National Cli-  
6 mate Adaptation and Resilience Working  
7 Groups that is necessary to carry out the duties  
8 and purposes described in paragraph (3).

9 (B) LIMITATION.—The Chief Resilience  
10 Officer shall not establish more than 5 Working  
11 Groups.

12 (2) FOCUS.—Each Working Group shall focus  
13 on a topic or series of related topics with respect to  
14 climate adaptation and resilience, as determined by  
15 the Chief Resilience Officer.

16 (3) DUTIES AND PURPOSE.—Each Working  
17 Group shall, under the leadership of the Chief Resil-  
18 ience Officer, with respect to the focus of the Work-  
19 ing Group—

20 (A) coordinate a whole-of-government plan  
21 to build resilience to the applicable climate  
22 change vulnerabilities described in the National  
23 Climate Assessment or other relevant analyses  
24 identified by the Chief Resilience Officer; and

1 (B) assist in the development of the appli-  
2 cable portions of—

3 (i) the Operations Report;

4 (ii) the Strategy; and

5 (iii) the Implementation Plan.

6 (4) STRUCTURE.—

7 (A) CHAIRPERSON.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Resil-  
9 ience Officer shall serve as chairperson of  
10 each Working Group.

11 (ii) TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON.—The  
12 President or the Chief Resilience Officer  
13 may designate another staff member or  
14 member of a Working Group to act tempo-  
15 rarily as the chairperson of that Working  
16 Group in the absence of the Chief Resil-  
17 ience Officer.

18 (B) MEMBERSHIP.—In establishing a  
19 Working Group, the Chief Resilience Officer  
20 shall—

21 (i) identify each Federal agency with  
22 operations or organizational units that are  
23 relevant to the focus of the Working  
24 Group; and

1           (ii) appoint 1 member of each Federal  
2           agency identified under clause (i) to rep-  
3           resent that Federal agency on the Working  
4           Group.

5           (C) REQUIREMENT.—In appointing a  
6           member of a Working Group under subpara-  
7           graph (B)(ii), the Chief Resilience Officer shall,  
8           to the maximum extent practicable, appoint the  
9           head of the portion of the represented agency  
10          that is most relevant to the focus of the Work-  
11          ing Group.

12          (D) DUTIES OF MEMBERS.—Each member  
13          of a Working Group—

14               (i) shall attend meetings of the Work-  
15               ing Group; and

16               (ii) work to support the duties of the  
17               Working Group.

18          (5) MEETINGS.—

19               (A) IN GENERAL.—Each Working Group  
20               shall meet not less frequently than once every  
21               180 days.

22               (B) QUORUM.— $\frac{3}{4}$  of the members of a  
23               Working Group shall constitute a quorum of  
24               the Working Group.

1 (C) REMOTE PARTICIPATION.—A member  
2 of a Working Group may participate in a meet-  
3 ing of that Working Group through teleconfer-  
4 ence or similar means.

5 (6) SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—

6 (A) EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Resil-  
8 ience Officer shall appoint a permanent  
9 employee of a represented agency to serve  
10 as Executive Secretary of the Working  
11 Groups.

12 (ii) EMPLOYMENT.—The employee ap-  
13 pointed as Executive Secretary under  
14 clause (i) shall remain an employee of the  
15 agency, department, or program from  
16 which the employee was appointed.

17 (B) NECESSARY ASSISTANCE.—To carry  
18 out the purposes of each Working Group, as de-  
19 scribed in paragraph (3), each represented  
20 agency with a member on the Working Group  
21 shall furnish necessary assistance to that Work-  
22 ing Group, such as—

23 (i) the detail of employees to the  
24 Working Group to perform such functions,  
25 consistent with the purposes of the Work-

1 ing Group described in paragraph (3), as  
2 the Chief Resilience Officer may assign, in-  
3 cluding support staff for the Executive  
4 Secretary appointed under subparagraph  
5 (A)(i); and

6 (ii) on request of the Chief Resilience  
7 Officer, undertaking special studies for the  
8 Working Group as may be appropriate to  
9 carry out the functions of the Working  
10 Group.

11 **SEC. 4. PARTNERS COUNCIL ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION**  
12 **AND RESILIENCE.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a coun-  
14 cil, to be known as the “Partners Council on Climate Ad-  
15 aptation and Resilience”.

16 (b) MISSION AND FUNCTION.—The Council shall  
17 work to improve the climate adaptation and resilience op-  
18 erations of the Federal Government by providing rec-  
19 ommendations through the Chief Resilience Officer, in-  
20 cluding those recommendations contained in the report re-  
21 quired under subsection (c), that identify how the Federal  
22 Government can better support non-Federal partners with  
23 equitable resources, technical assistance, improved poli-  
24 cies, and other assistance to help frontline communities  
25 build resilience to climate change.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 16 months after the  
2 date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 years there-  
3 after, the Council, acting through the Chief Resilience Of-  
4 ficer, shall submit to the President and the Working  
5 Groups a report that includes—

6 (1) an analysis of the deficiencies or gaps in the  
7 climate resilience operations of the Federal Govern-  
8 ment that reduce or fail to increase the capacity of  
9 non-Federal partners to adapt to climate change;

10 (2) an identification of the resources, including  
11 Federal funding, necessary for non-Federal partners  
12 to adequately adapt to climate change; and

13 (3) recommendations with respect to how the  
14 Federal Government could better support efforts by  
15 non-Federal partners to expeditiously address  
16 vulnerabilities associated with climate change and  
17 build climate resilience.

18 (d) CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.—The Chief Resilience  
19 Officer shall serve as chairperson of the Council and shall  
20 appoint a vice-chairperson from among the members of  
21 the Council appointed pursuant to subsection (e).

22 (e) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Chief Re-  
24 silience Officer, the Council shall consist of 20 non-



1 Federal partner members appointed by the Chief Re-  
2 siliance Officer.

3 (2) APPOINTMENT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Resilience  
5 Officer shall appoint members of the Council  
6 who can support the Working Groups by articu-  
7 lating how the Federal Government can better  
8 support State, local, and territorial govern-  
9 ments, the governments of Indian Tribes, the  
10 governments of Freely Associated States, non-  
11 profit organizations, or private sector entities to  
12 build resilience to climate change.

13 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—In appointing mem-  
14 bers of the Council, the Chief Resilience Officer  
15 shall appoint—

16 (i) 12 members who are employees of  
17 State, local, or territorial governments, the  
18 governments of Indian Tribes, or the gov-  
19 ernments of Freely Associated States, of  
20 which—

21 (I) not fewer than 2 shall be em-  
22 ployees of a State government;

23 (II) not fewer than 2 shall be  
24 employees of a unit of local govern-  
25 ment;

1 (III) not fewer than 2 shall be  
2 employees of the government of an In-  
3 dian Tribe; and

4 (IV) not fewer than 2 shall be  
5 employees of a territorial government  
6 or the government of a Freely Associ-  
7 ated State; and

8 (ii) 8 members who represent non-  
9 governmental organizations and the private  
10 sector, of which—

11 (I) 3 shall represent nongovern-  
12 mental organizations;

13 (II) 3 shall represent the private  
14 sector; and

15 (III) 2 shall represent academic  
16 institutions.

17 (C) SELECTION.—To the maximum extent  
18 practicable, the Chief Resilience Officer shall  
19 seek to select members of the Council who—

20 (i) possess firsthand, lived experience  
21 of climate vulnerability in the United  
22 States, including direct experience working  
23 with, or as members of, frontline commu-  
24 nities; and

25 (ii) represent a diversity of—

- 1 (I) perspectives;
- 2 (II) demographics;
- 3 (III) geographies;
- 4 (IV) political affiliations; and
- 5 (V) institution sizes, including
- 6 representatives of both small and
- 7 large units of government and busi-
- 8 nesses.

9 (D) TERM.—Members appointed to the  
10 Council shall serve a single term of not more  
11 than 3 years, except that—

12 (i) of the initial members appointed to  
13 the Council, the Chief Resilience Officer  
14 shall appoint—

15 (I)  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the members to serve  
16 for a term of 18 months; and

17 (II)  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the members to serve  
18 a term of 3 years; and

19 (ii) the Chief Resilience Officer may  
20 extend the term of any member of the  
21 Council by a period of not more than 1  
22 year on a one-time basis, if the Chief Re-  
23 siliance Officer determines it necessary to  
24 support the work of the Council.

25 (E) VACANCIES.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy in the  
2 Council shall be filled in the same manner  
3 in which the original selection was made.

4 (ii) APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEM-  
5 BERS.—After the expiration of the term  
6 for which a member of the Council is ap-  
7 pointed, the member may continue to serve  
8 until a successor is appointed.

9 (f) MEETINGS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall meet not  
11 less frequently than once every 180 days.

12 (2) QUORUM.— $\frac{3}{4}$  of the members of the Coun-  
13 cil shall constitute a quorum of the Council.

14 (3) REMOTE PARTICIPATION.—A member of the  
15 Council may participate in a meeting of the Council  
16 through teleconference or similar means.

17 (g) APPLICABILITY OF FACCA.—Section 14 of the  
18 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not  
19 apply to the Council.

20 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE**  
21 **OPERATIONS REPORT.**

22 Not later than 16 months after the date of enactment  
23 of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Chief Resil-  
24 ience Officer and the Working Groups shall jointly submit

1 to the President and Congress a National Climate Adapta-  
2 tion and Resilience Operations Report that includes—

3 (1) a summary of the existing climate resilience  
4 operations of each represented agency that in-  
5 cludes—

6 (A) the roles and responsibilities of each  
7 represented agency in building national resil-  
8 ience to the climate vulnerabilities described in  
9 the National Climate Assessment or other anal-  
10 yses relevant to each represented agency;

11 (B) the major findings and conclusions  
12 from climate adaptation plans or risk or vulner-  
13 ability assessments prepared by each rep-  
14 resented agency;

15 (C) the mechanisms by which each rep-  
16 resented agency supports the resilience efforts  
17 of non-Federal partners, such as by providing  
18 funding, resources, and technical assistance;  
19 and

20 (D) an assessment of how each represented  
21 agency is working to ensure equitable adapta-  
22 tion outcomes; and

23 (2) a cross-agency analysis of the resilience op-  
24 erations identified under paragraph (1) that—

25 (A) identifies—

1 (i) the challenges, barriers, or dis-  
2 incentives for the Federal Government to  
3 build resilience to climate change in the  
4 United States;

5 (ii) the inconsistencies in goals, prior-  
6 ities, or strategies underlying climate resil-  
7 ience operations and policy across rep-  
8 resented agencies that may inhibit effective  
9 interagency coordination to support na-  
10 tional climate resilience, including—

11 (I) the areas of necessary dif-  
12 ferences in those goals, priorities, or  
13 strategies; and

14 (II) the justifications for those  
15 inconsistencies;

16 (iii) areas of overlap or redundant use  
17 of resources between or among represented  
18 agencies, including recommendations to  
19 eliminate any unnecessary or unintentional  
20 redundancy;

21 (iv) gaps or deficiencies in resilience  
22 operations and policy that need to be ad-  
23 dressed in the context of the Strategy;

24 (v) opportunities for greater collabora-  
25 tion between or among represented agen-

1           cies to improve Federal Government resil-  
2           ience operations and policy; and

3                   (vi) opportunities for greater collabo-  
4           ration between the Federal Government  
5           and non-Federal partners to build local-  
6           level adaptive capacity and resilience; and

7           (B) includes a review and summary of all  
8           available Federal funding from represented  
9           agencies that is specifically allocated for climate  
10          adaptation activities to be undertaken by non-  
11          Federal partners, including—

12                   (i) a summary of Federal funding  
13           available in appropriations accounts and  
14           subaccounts;

15                   (ii) disparities between the supply and  
16           demand for adaptation funding available to  
17           non-Federal partners; and

18                   (iii) existing mechanisms to ensure  
19           Federal funding allocations are being di-  
20           rected to frontline communities with the  
21           greatest level of vulnerability.

22 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE**  
23 **STRATEGY.**

24           (a) STRATEGY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief Resilience  
3 Officer and the Working Groups shall jointly  
4 submit to the President and Congress a National  
5 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy.

6           (2) UPDATES.—Not later than the date that is  
7 3 years after the date on which the Chief Resilience  
8 Officer and the Working Groups jointly submit the  
9 Strategy to the President and Congress under para-  
10 graph (1), and every 3 years thereafter, the Chief  
11 Resilience Officer and the Working Groups shall  
12 jointly submit an updated version of the Strategy to  
13 the President and Congress to account for—

14                   (A) new science related to climate change,  
15 resilience, and adaptation;

16                   (B) relevant changes in Federal Govern-  
17 ment structure, congressional authorities, or ap-  
18 propriations; and

19                   (C) any other necessary improvements or  
20 changes identified by the Chief Resilience Offi-  
21 cer.

22           (3) PURPOSE AND SCOPE.—The Strategy shall  
23 describe strategies for the Federal Government, in  
24 partnership with non-Federal partners, to address  
25 the vulnerabilities of the United States to climate



1 change described in the National Climate Assess-  
2 ment or other relevant analyses identified by the  
3 Chief Resilience Officer to ensure that—

4 (A) the United States has an overarching  
5 strategic vision to respond to climate change  
6 that—

7 (i) identifies national climate resil-  
8 ience goals and guides national climate ad-  
9 aptation efforts;

10 (ii) facilitates the incorporation of the  
11 climate resilience goals identified under  
12 clause (i) into relevant national programs,  
13 operations, and strategies;

14 (iii) develops proactive, long-term, sce-  
15 nario-based strategies to plan for and re-  
16 spond to current and future climate im-  
17 pacts to human communities, natural re-  
18 sources and public land, and infrastructure  
19 and other physical assets;

20 (iv) emphasizes forward-thinking ad-  
21 aptation strategies that seek to overcome  
22 repeated climate impacts to vulnerable sys-  
23 tems and communities;

24 (v) prioritizes climate resilience efforts  
25 to support the most vulnerable human

1 communities and the most urgent national  
2 resilience challenges, as determined by the  
3 Chief Resilience Officer in consultation  
4 with the Working Groups;

5 (vi) avoids unnecessary redundancies  
6 and inefficiencies in the national planning  
7 for and response to climate change; and

8 (vii) recognizes the vulnerability of  
9 natural systems to climate change and un-  
10 derscores the importance of promoting eco-  
11 system resilience to preserve the intrinsic  
12 value of nature and support ecosystem  
13 services relied on by human beings;

14 (B) Federal investments in Federal and  
15 non-Federal infrastructure and assets promote  
16 climate resilience to the maximum extent prac-  
17 ticable; and

18 (C) the adaptive capacity and resilience of  
19 State, local, and territorial governments, gov-  
20 ernments of Indian Tribes, and governments of  
21 Freely Associated States are maximized to the  
22 maximum extent practicable.

23 (4) COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS.—In devel-  
24 oping the Strategy, the Chief Resilience Officer and

1 Working Groups shall consider the recommendations  
2 of the Council.

3 (5) INCLUSIONS.—In addition to the over-  
4 arching strategies developed in accordance with  
5 paragraph (3), the Strategy shall include the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 (A) DIRECT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RE-  
8 SPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE.—

9 (i) Strategies to address the limita-  
10 tions, redundancies, and opportunities for  
11 improved resilience operations of the Fed-  
12 eral Government that are identified in the  
13 Operations Report.

14 (ii) Strategies to better prepare the  
15 United States for the adverse impacts ex-  
16 perience or anticipated to be experienced  
17 as a result of—

18 (I) rapid-onset climate hazards;

19 (II) slow-onset climate hazards;

20 (III) compound climate hazards;

21 and

22 (IV) cascading climate hazards.

23 (iii) 1 or more strategies to educate,  
24 engage, or develop the skills of the work-  
25 force of the represented agencies with re-

1 spect to topics related to climate change  
2 vulnerability and resilience to promote ef-  
3 fective Federal resilience operations.

4 (iv) An identification of opportunities  
5 and appropriate circumstances for rep-  
6 resented agencies to better utilize natural  
7 infrastructure as an adaptation strategy.

8 (B) SUPPORT OF NON-FEDERAL PART-  
9 NERS' RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE.—

10 (i) 1 or more strategies for rep-  
11 resented agencies to better collaborate and  
12 work directly with non-Federal partners to  
13 increase the resilience and adaptive capac-  
14 ity of State, local, and territorial govern-  
15 ments, the governments of Indian Tribes,  
16 the governments of Freely Associated  
17 States, and other non-Federal partners.

18 (ii) 1 or more strategies to educate  
19 non-Federal partners about the availability  
20 of Federal funding opportunities identified  
21 in the Operations Report under section  
22 5(2)(B), including the development of a  
23 centralized, cross-agency portal that allows  
24 non-Federal partners to easily identify and  
25 apply for appropriate Federal funding op-

1 portunities for the specific resilience needs  
2 of those non-Federal partners.

3 (iii) 1 or more strategies to clarify,  
4 simplify, and harmonize the planning re-  
5 quirements and application processes for  
6 State, local, and territorial governments,  
7 the governments of Indian Tribes, and the  
8 governments of Freely Associated States to  
9 access Federal funds for climate adapta-  
10 tion and resilience efforts across rep-  
11 resented agencies.

12 (iv) 1 or more strategies to identify  
13 under-resourced communities and commu-  
14 nities with low adaptive capacity and resil-  
15 ience and to directly support those commu-  
16 nities in applying for Federal funds for cli-  
17 mate adaptation and resilience efforts.

18 (v) 1 or more strategies to support  
19 the retreat or relocation of human commu-  
20 nities in areas that are at increasing risk  
21 from climate change, in particular from  
22 slow-onset climate hazards, including strat-  
23 egies to better manage equitable property  
24 buyouts, managed retreat, or relocation op-  
25 tions for communities in those areas.

1 (C) CLIMATE INFORMATION.—

2 (i) 1 or more strategies to increase  
3 the accessibility and utility of climate in-  
4 formation that is produced, published, or  
5 hosted by the Federal Government, includ-  
6 ing strategies to better collaborate across  
7 the represented agencies and work with  
8 non-Federal partners—

9 (I) to provide the high-quality, lo-  
10 cally relevant climate information and,  
11 where practicable and useful, trans-  
12 parent and replicable downscaled cli-  
13 mate projections that are necessary to  
14 support local-level adaptation efforts;

15 (II) to establish improved meth-  
16 ods of communicating climate risk  
17 and other relevant climate informa-  
18 tion;

19 (III) to better educate non-Fed-  
20 eral partners about the available re-  
21 sources for climate information; and

22 (IV) to assist non-Federal part-  
23 ners in selecting and using appro-  
24 priate climate information or related  
25 tools.

1 (ii) Standardized procedures to syn-  
2 thesize, align, and update climate informa-  
3 tion produced, published, or hosted by the  
4 Federal Government to create arrays of  
5 standardized national, regional, and, where  
6 applicable, local climate information for  
7 adaptation planning.

8 (iii) An assessment of the necessity  
9 and utility of developing or improving a  
10 centralized clearinghouse and dedicated  
11 Federal program for climate information to  
12 better provide climate information to end  
13 users.

14 (iv) 1 or more strategies to develop  
15 the centralized clearinghouse or dedicated  
16 Federal program described in clause (iii),  
17 if such an effort is determined to be nec-  
18 essary by the Chief Resilience Officer.

19 (D) RESILIENCE METRICS AND INDICA-  
20 TORS.—At the discretion of the Chief Resilience  
21 Officer, 1 or more strategies to develop or im-  
22 prove resilience metrics and indicators to assist  
23 the Federal Government and non-Federal part-  
24 ners—

1 (i) to the maximum extent practicable,  
2 to consistently measure the resilience of  
3 human communities, natural systems, and  
4 physical assets to climate change;

5 (ii) to set baselines and targets to  
6 measurably increase climate resilience over  
7 time; and

8 (iii) to better monitor and assess the  
9 effectiveness of various resilience-building  
10 activities after implementation.

11 (E) FUNDING CLIMATE ADAPTATION.—

12 (i) 1 or more strategies to help  
13 prioritize Federal funding expenditures for  
14 adaptation and resilience in consideration  
15 of the greatest vulnerabilities.

16 (ii) 1 or more strategies to create fi-  
17 nancial incentives for adaptation and resil-  
18 ience efforts.

19 (iii) A review of the cost-benefit anal-  
20 ysis methodologies and discount rates used  
21 by represented agencies for all Federal in-  
22 vestments, including a review of the impli-  
23 cations of those methodologies and dis-  
24 count rates for climate adaptation and re-  
25 siliience.



1 (iv) Recommendations to improve the  
2 methodologies described in clause (iii) to  
3 reflect—

4 (I) the added value of resilience  
5 planning and construction methodolo-  
6 gies over the lifetime of a project or  
7 unit of infrastructure;

8 (II) the benefits of natural infra-  
9 structure investments;

10 (III) the potential value of re-  
11 treat and relocation as adaptation so-  
12 lutions; and

13 (IV) to what extent existing cost-  
14 benefit analysis methodologies lead to  
15 inequitable outcomes or outcomes that  
16 increase climate vulnerability.

17 (F) SOCIAL EQUITY.—

18 (i) Strategies to ensure that the costs,  
19 benefits, and risks resulting from climate  
20 resilience efforts, including funding alloca-  
21 tions, the methodologies for determining  
22 funding allocations, and existing and fu-  
23 ture policies, are equitably distributed  
24 among sectors of society, types of commu-  
25 nities, and geographies.

1 (ii) Strategies to ensure that federally  
2 supported climate resilience efforts are—

3 (I) designed in consultation with  
4 the communities that will be affected  
5 by those efforts; and

6 (II) centered on the needs of  
7 those communities.

8 (iii) To the greatest extent prac-  
9 ticable, 1 or more strategies to integrate  
10 social equity considerations across all as-  
11 pects of the Strategy.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Concurrently with the  
13 Strategy and each update of the Strategy, the Chief Resil-  
14 ience Officer and the Working Groups shall jointly submit  
15 to the President and Congress an Implementation Plan  
16 that describes how represented agencies intend to carry  
17 out the Strategy, which shall include—

18 (1) a description of the roles and responsibil-  
19 ities of each represented agency in carrying out each  
20 element of the Strategy described in subsection (a);

21 (2) a plan to enter into such interagency agree-  
22 ments between and among represented agencies,  
23 partnerships with non-Federal entities, and other  
24 agreements for coordination between and among the  
25 Federal Government and non-Federal partners as

1       may be necessary to facilitate a unified national plan  
2       to build resilience to climate change; and

3               (3) the use of any relevant metrics and indica-  
4       tors described in subsection (a)(5)(D).

5       (c) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years following  
6 the completion of each Strategy under subsection (a)(1)  
7 and each Implementation Plan, the Comptroller General  
8 of the United States shall submit to the President and  
9 Congress a report that assesses—

10              (1) the extent to which the Strategy and Imple-  
11       mentation Plan have been carried out by the Federal  
12       Government, which shall be judged, as appropriate,  
13       based on any metrics and indicators developed to  
14       track progress in increasing resilience under sub-  
15       section (a)(5)(D);

16              (2) the effectiveness of the actions taken under  
17       the Strategy and Implementation Plan and the re-  
18       sulting outcomes of those actions in building na-  
19       tional resilience to climate change; and

20              (3) the progress made towards the development  
21       of an effective whole-of-government effort to build  
22       resilience to the climate vulnerabilities described in  
23       the National Climate Assessment or other relevant  
24       analyses identified by the Chief Resilience Officer,

1 including recommendations for additional steps nec-  
2 essary to reach this goal.

3 (d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Chief Resilience Officer  
4 shall—

5 (1) publish draft and final versions of the  
6 Strategy and Implementation Plan, and each update  
7 to the Strategy and Implementation Plan; and

8 (2) through publication in the Federal Register,  
9 solicit comments from the public on the draft  
10 versions of the documents published under para-  
11 graph (1) for a period of 60 days, which the Chief  
12 Resilience Officer and the Working Groups shall  
13 consider before submitting final versions of the  
14 Strategy and Implementation Plan, and updates to  
15 the Strategy and Implementation Plan, to the Presi-  
16 dent and Congress.

17 **SEC. 7. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

18 (a) SUNSET.—This Act ceases to be effective on the  
19 date that is the earlier of—

20 (1) the date on which the Comptroller General  
21 of the United States submits to the President and  
22 Congress the third assessment report under section  
23 6(c); and

24 (2) the date that is the last day of fiscal year  
25 2032.

1           (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Executive Office of  
3 the President to carry out this Act \$2,000,000 for each  
4 of fiscal years 2022 through the fiscal year in which this  
5 Act ceases to be effective under subsection (a).

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