

# Prepare PA

*Partners for a Resilient Pennsylvania*



## Flood Risk in the Mid-Atlantic Goddard Forum

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Associate Professor, Penn State

Associate Head for Research, SEDI

Associate Director Climate Consortium with a  
focus on Prepare PA

**Sept. 9-10, 2026**

My work focuses on understanding how people and organizations make decisions to adapt and build resilience as well as how we connect science to policy.

- Environment
- Society & Critical Infrastructure
- Science Policy Integration & Actional Knowledge

# Prepare PA

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**“To prepare  
Pennsylvania through  
innovation and  
partnership to thrive  
in our climate future”**

# Foundations

- The climate is changing, and climate extremes are already impacting Pennsylvania.
- Mitigation and adaptation are occurring.
- There is an established PA Climate Network (Green Gov., DEP, others) and related efforts aimed at coordination, collaboration and capacity building.
- At Penn State, we have a land-grant mission to serve Pennsylvanians.
- At Prepare PA we are committed to collaboration and partnership.

# Vision

Building on an established network of members, Prepare PA will assess needs, uplift and align existing activities, and connect community partners. Grounded in innovation and partnership, these efforts will equip the Commonwealth with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to thrive under a changing climate.

# Mission

## Mitigation

Reducing harmful emissions while **growing local economies** and supporting **workforce development**



## Adaptation

Building **resilient communities** and **regenerative landscapes**



## Connection and Collaboration

Fostering **collaboration** and **connection** through education, engagement, and implementation



# Prepare PA Primary Activities

## 01 | Outreach and Engagement

Convene key stakeholders to promote the mission, enhance networking, facilitate training and education, and expand research translation.



**Peter Boger**  
Lead for Outreach



**Lara Fowler**  
Special Network Advisor

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**Jacqueline O'Connor**  
Acting Director,  
Climate Consortium

## 02 | Annual Conference

Convenes state, local, government, business, industry, and academic sectors and aspires to be the premier climate conference in PA



**Erica Smithwick**  
Director  
Climate Consortium



**Christine Kirchhoff**  
Associate Director  
Climate Consortium

*Save the Date!*

May 18 – 20, 2026



PennState



# CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SYMPOSIUM

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## 03 | Education

Deliver educational content with partner groups including training, continuing education, and local climate action planning.



**Peter Buck**  
Lead for Education

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## 04 | Data and Information

Develop and maintain a website and clearinghouse of science-based information to inform best practices and decision-making.



**Rob Nicholas**  
Lead for Data Services

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# Please share your thoughts and connect

- Outreach and Engagement
- Annual Conference
- Education
- Data and Information
- Joining the Network
- Other



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