



Legislative Democrats Unveil Climate Resilience Plan And Push for \$5 Billion Water Infrastructure Investment

Democrats in the Michigan House and Senate unveiled the following plan in response to recent climate events that have devastated different areas of the state over the past several years. These bold initiatives will help upgrade our infrastructure to deal with the ongoing effects of climate change while also providing programs to help residents manage and recover from future climate events.

Michigan Climate Resilience Corps

Democrats plan to introduce a Climate Resilience Corps, a job training and apprenticeship program focused on hands-on implementation of sustainability and resilience projects, including hazard mitigation and adaptation plans. The plan would partner with local governments, non-profits, labor unions, universities, and corporations to complete climate resilience projects in our neighborhoods, prioritizing environmental justice communities. The program would help create thousands of jobs with living wages, provide job training and development to residents, while also allowing individuals to take meaningful action to safeguard their communities.

Disaster Relief Navigator

The plan includes a navigator program for disaster and emergency relief. The plan would connect individuals impacted by disasters with trained navigators to help them understand the complicated web of disaster assistance and emergency relief resources. Also, a navigator program for pre-weatherization, weatherization, utility assistance, and clean energy programs would be developed to assist families with identifying the resources available to them will help long-term while also increasing energy efficiency.

Ensure Redundancy Planning

Legislation will be introduced that would require redundancy planning for essential transportation pumps and power sources, so they don't fail when the power goes out and they are needed most. As we have seen in Southeast Michigan, it is essential to plan for flooding emergencies to ensure that our major transportation corridors are able to handle these weather events.

Disaster Alert Systems

We should ensure that there are adequate state and local emergency environmental alert, notification, and evacuation systems for residents in the event of an environmental or weather-related emergency. It is important that we do everything to ensure that our residents have time to prepare for these events.

Planning & Asset Management

- The plan would require that new and reconstructed infrastructure projects be designed to avoid or minimize future flood damage. Standards should be updated to account for the increase volumes of rainfall that we are now receiving. Additionally, the state should conduct performance and efficiency studies of alternative options, including green infrastructure, when designing and funding projects.
- Additionally, legislation would require the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to implement a municipal separate storm water system post-construction requirement. This will would ensure that existing construction is updated to meet performance requirements.
- Local jurisdictions should be encouraged to update their ordinances and land use plans to include climate adaption and resilience strategy, and a template should be developed for a climate resiliency plan for local jurisdictions. Regional coordination will be encouraged.
- The plan would seek to update the Michigan Drain Code and municipal storm sewer program to foster collaboration among jurisdictions on a watershed basis, and increase the authorizations of projects focused on water quality management.
- Currently, the Michigan Drain Code restricts spending for annual maintenance on drains to no more than \$5,000 per mile per year. This cap on annual spending is simply inadequate and must be raised, as well as indexed to inflation.
- Furthermore, EGLE should establish a statewide asset management database system to ensure consistent reporting for condition assessments and asset management plans under the Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater Program.
- The plan would also require an assessment of state-owned properties to identify opportunities to use green infrastructure and manage stormwater.
- The state, in partnership with local governments and the federal government, should conduct risk assessments and incentivize development in low-risk areas.

Michigan Weatherization & Jobs Plan

The plan includes the creation of a state weatherization and energy efficiency jobs program to enhance and expand existing federal programs. This program would expand the types of projects that would be eligible for weatherization upgrades with a focus on energy efficiency as well as climate resiliency to help impacted communities better deal with the future extreme weather events. The plan also will examine increasing the percentage of LiHEAP funds that go towards weatherization. According to the [Department of Energy](#), every \$1 invested in weatherization assistance produces \$2.78 in non-energy benefits, including improved health and safety. Weatherization not only helps households, it also helps revitalize communities by spurring economic growth, supporting good-paying jobs, supporting healthy communities, and reducing environmental impacts. With an investment of \$425 Million, it is expected that the program could create up to 5000 jobs.

A \$5B investment in Michigan's Water and Climate Resilient Infrastructure

Cleaner drinking water and cleaner lakes and rivers means a better Michigan for us today and for generations to come. Not only that, but these investments will provide thousands of good-paying jobs building quality infrastructure and preparing our people to weather future storms.

Additional immediate flood relief: \$25M

- Additional flood relief gap funding for those who need extra assistance: \$25M

Protect rivers and lakes by investing in storm and wastewater infrastructure: \$1.5B

- Municipal grants and loans for asset management, planning and implementation of upgrades, repairs, replacement of wastewater (septic and sewer) and stormwater systems, prioritizing the most vulnerable neighborhoods: \$500M
- Municipal grants for separation and upgrade of sewage and stormwater infrastructure, including green/natural infrastructure: \$500M
- Grant program for cross-jurisdiction integrated drain management programs and projects, especially in communities that share a watershed: \$50M
- Small municipal grants and loans for new sewage treatment plants or connection to existing sewer systems: \$250M
- Homeowner grants or loans for failed septic replacement or connection to existing sewer systems, prioritizing lower income and ALICE households: \$100M
- Stormwater/wastewater flooding disaster fund: \$100M

Municipal grants and revolving loans for planning and implementing repairs, replacements and upgrades to clean drinking water Infrastructure: \$1.2B

- Safe Water in Schools: \$100M
- Clean Water System Lead Pipe Replacement: \$700M
- Municipal grants for programs to replace lead pipes in homes and residential rental properties: \$200M
- Water System grants and revolving loans to upgrade and repair systems to reduce waste and leakage into sewage systems: \$100M
- Water affordability program grants: \$100M

Shoreline protection and restoration: \$450M

- Shoreline restoration, dune protection, and resilience projects: \$150M
- Municipal grants for planning and implementation of shoreline or waterfront protection projects \$250M
- Home/property owner loans for property and shoreline protection projects, prioritizing lower income and ALICE households: \$50M

Improve surface water monitoring and wetland mitigation: \$50M

Dam safety projects: \$500M

- Dam removal planning and implementation grants: \$500M

Jobs for Michiganders to build resilient communities: \$450M

- Weatherization jobs program investment to create up to 5000 jobs and weatherize homes in vulnerable communities: \$425M
- Michigan Climate Resilience Corps: \$25M

Bring critical communications to Michiganders across the state: \$25M

- MI Disaster Alert System

Agricultural pollution prevention grants: \$100M

- Support conservation reserve programs to increase buffers that protect streams and rivers; grants will be tied to water quality improvement outcomes
- Support access to wastewater treatment and drain infrastructure

PFAS remediation grants: \$50M

- Fund MPART to identify, monitor, and eliminate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Clean up contaminated sites: \$700M

- Restore funding to Clean Michigan Initiative to address orphaned sites that threaten water sources and/or public health
- Reclaim and revitalize waterfront property impacted by pollution
- Remove or remediate polluted river and lake sediment