



2021 - 2026 Strategic Direction

Introduction

Since 2012, the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) has brought partners together to advocate for federal funding and comprehensive, watershed-wide planning. The Coalition successfully advocated for the introduction and passage of the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act and secured historic federal funds to restore and conserve the watershed. Federal investments through the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program are producing results in communities across the watershed, but we're not stopping there.

The Delaware River Basin is constantly evolving. Serious threats remain, including polluted runoff, an aging drinking and wastewater infrastructure, and the threats of climate change. The need for protection and restoration of the Basin is urgent and constant for the 13.3 million people and countless wildlife species that depend on clean water. Throughout the course of 2020, we saw just how critically important clean water and equitable access to outdoor recreation truly is. Our five-year strategic direction positions the Coalition to convene stakeholders and provide the tools our network needs to be successful.

Goal 1

To address systemic racism, the Coalition will advance its diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice efforts to serve as a clearinghouse for resources and peer-to-peer learning.

- Build a diverse stakeholder group that is inclusive and equitable in culture and activities
- Foster advocacy capacity in environmental justice communities through a pilot small grants program, in partnership with the Alliance for Watershed Education
- Analyze state and federal bills with an environmental justice focused lens
- Serve as the clearinghouse for DEIJ resources and best practices, in coordination with the DEIJ workgroup and other partners

Goal 2

As a convener of organizations throughout the region, the Coalition will strive to empower and engage a larger, more inclusive constituency to support watershed-wide planning and advocacy initiatives.

- Seek opportunities for collaboration with other watershed-wide partnerships, including the Delaware River Watershed Initiative and the Alliance for Watershed Education
- Build relationships with identified missing audiences
- Elevate member projects, events, and campaigns to amplify the power of the Coalition and the impact of its members
- Strengthen the capacity of member organizations by growing the pool of resources available



Goal 3

The Coalition will advocate for robust federal restoration funding to support the watershed's restoration and protection needs.

- Secure increased and sustainable funding for the watershed, particularly through the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program
- Serve as the nonprofit voice, ensuring successful implementation of priority programs, while engaging a broad constituency

Goal 4

The Coalition will ensure federal and state policies, spending, and implementation support a resilient and healthy Delaware River watershed.

- Employ a collaborative model to convene stakeholders to strategize around relevant issues
- Educate and influence members of Congress on key policy issues through briefings, in-district engagements, and CDRW's Delaware River Watershed Hill Day
- Continue to play a key role through State Leads to advance relevant state policy and facilitate collaboration on cross-state issues.

Goal 5

The Coalition will respond in a swift and unified manner to defend the watershed against emergent and systemic threats on the state and federal level as they relate to our mission of protecting and restoring the land and waters in the Delaware River Basin.

- Educate and influence decision makers by quickly responding to policy threats and/or rollbacks to environmental safeguards.
- Activate membership through strategic and science-based communications