

The Allegheny Front

Climate Roundup: White House Issues Report; Regional Conferences - See more at: <http://www.alleghenyfront.org/story/climate-roundup-white-house-issues-report-regional-conferences#sthash.A7yE1qH1.dpuf>

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When the White House put out an 800-page [climate change assessment](#) this week, it pointed out that, yes, it *is* going to get hotter. And that Northeasterners, like others, will need to adapt soon. Conferences in Ohio and West Virginia aim to let citizens know how their world is changing and how to curtail that change.

The White House report garnered a load of attention in the local and national media. Now, the lead author of the assessment's Northeast section of the report did call out our neighbors in West Virginia for having done the least in the Northeast to deal with climate change. But scientists and activists are trying to turn that around. In a few weeks, one of the first [climate change conferences](#) in that state is being held. It will focus on the impacts of climate change on West Virginia's Allegheny Highlands, a region which connects with Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. Tom Rodd is Project Director of Friends of Blackwater's West Virginia Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Impacts Initiative. He says speakers include people who've been studying the Highlands for 40 years *and* new scientists studying forestry, water and endangered species.

"And we're trying to bring them together in one place so people who care about the Highlands can learn about what's at risk and what's at stake," Rodd says.

That's on June 7 in Blackwater Falls State Park. A similar [event in Ohio](#) on Thursday, May 15, will also look at impacts on agriculture, and how hospitals are dealing with climate change.

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