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# **The Need for Enhanced Governance Infrastructure to Support Coherent Climate Adaptation Action**

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Presentation to the  
National Academies' Board on Environmental Change and Society  
Committee on Public Infrastructure for Effective Climate Mitigation and Adaptation  
Workshop Session on Policy Implications at Regional and Strategic Levels

May 20, 2024

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# Climate Change: A Continuing High-Risk Area

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**LIMITING THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL  
EXPOSURE BY BETTER  
MANAGING CLIMATE  
CHANGE RISKS**



Source: Leonard Zhukovsky/stock.adobe.com. | GAO-23-106203

# Oversight of Federal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Efforts

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U.S. GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE



**Snapshot**

## Climate Change: Oversight of Federal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Efforts

GAO-22-106062 · September 2022

Each year, the federal government reports spending billions of dollars for federal climate change efforts. Many of these activities focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide. The budget reconciliation act, commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, provided additional billions of dollars in funding and tax credits for greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts, among other provisions, but full implementation of these efforts will take time.



# Federal Climate Resilience Efforts

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 **Snapshot**

**Climate Change: Enhancing Federal Resilience**

**GAO-22-106061 - September 2022**

To reduce federal fiscal exposure to climate change, the federal government needs a cohesive, strategic approach, with strong leadership and the authority to manage risks.

# GAO's Disaster Resilience Framework

## Principle:



### Information

Accessing information that is authoritative and understandable can help decision makers to identify current and future risk and the impact of risk-reduction strategies.



### Integration

Integrated analysis and planning can help decision makers take coherent and coordinated resilience actions.

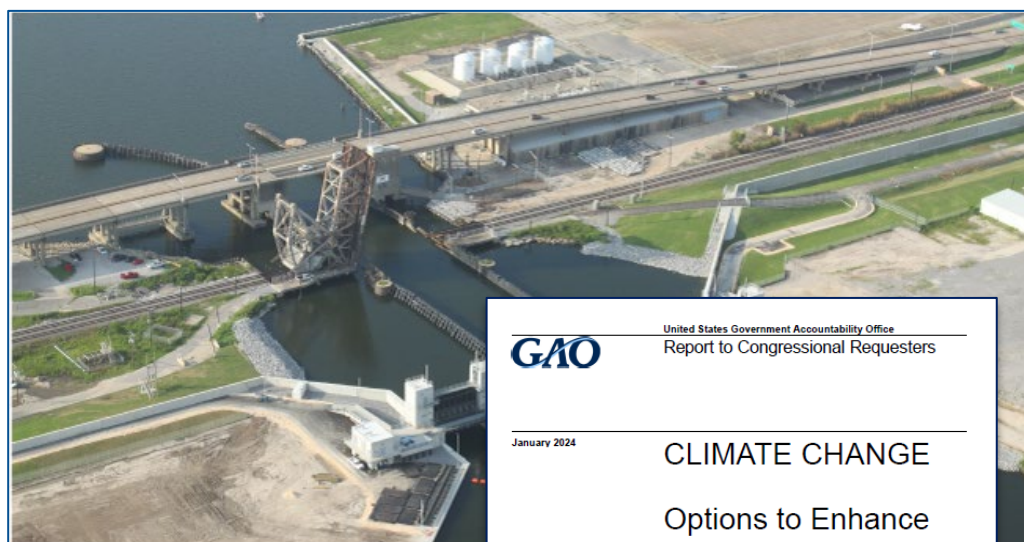


### Incentives


Incentives can help to make long-term, forward-looking risk-reduction investments more viable and attractive among competing priorities.

Source: GAO-21-275SP | GAO-22-105688

# GAO's Work: Specific Examples



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District.



United States Government Accountability Office  
Report to Congressional Requesters

January 2024


## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Options to Enhance the Resilience of Federally Funded Flood Risk Management Infrastructure

GAO-24-105496



Source: Delaware Department of Transportation (2017)



United States Government Accountability Office  
Testimony  
Before the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives

For Release on Delivery  
Expected at 10:00 a.m. ET  
Tuesday, March 6, 2022

## CLIMATE RESILIENCE

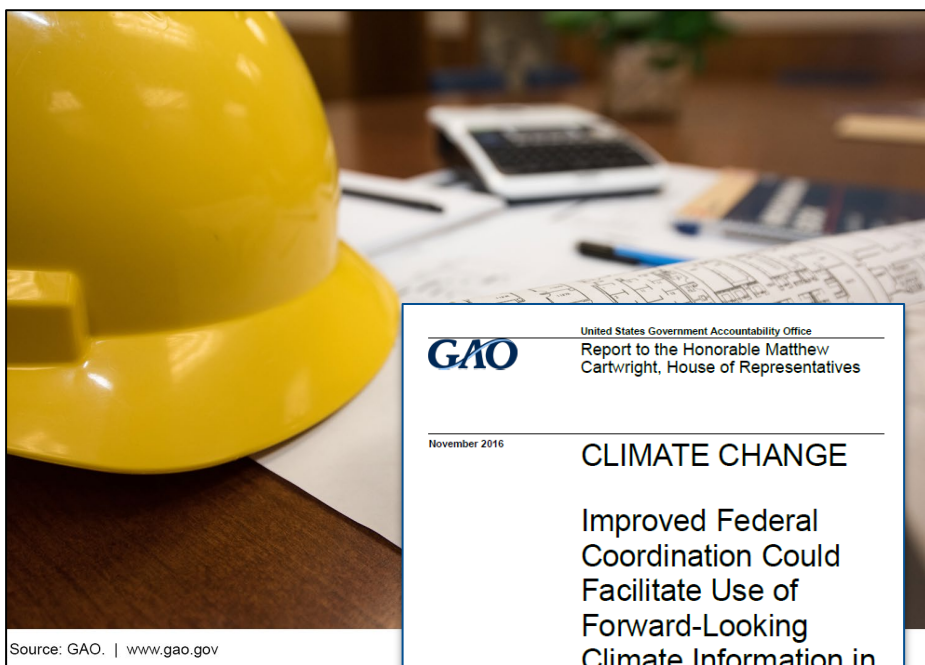
### Opportunities to Improve Federal Planning and Implementation

Statement of J. Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment

GAO-22-105688



# GAO's Work: Specific Examples



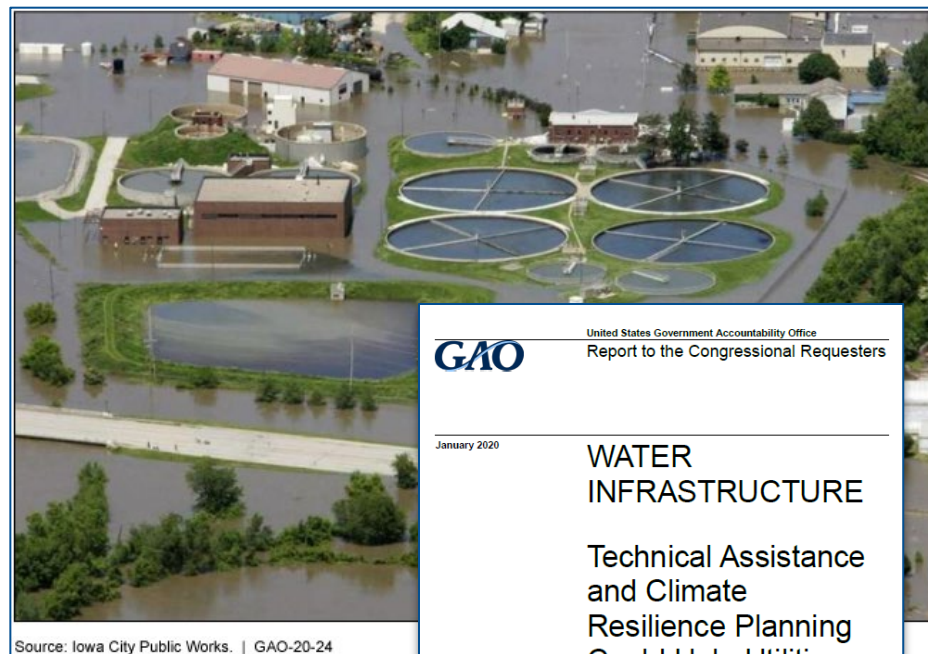
United States Government Accountability Office  
Report to the Honorable Matthew  
Cartwright, House of Representatives

November 2016

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Improved Federal  
Coordination Could  
Facilitate Use of  
Forward-Looking  
Climate Information in  
Design Standards,  
Building Codes, and  
Certifications

GAO-17-3



United States Government Accountability Office  
Report to the Congressional Requesters

January 2020

## WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Technical Assistance  
and Climate  
Resilience Planning  
Could Help Utilities  
Prepare for Potential  
Climate Change  
Impacts

GAO-20-24

# Governance Infrastructure to Support Coherent Adaptation Action



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Enclosure 1

Climate Change: Elements of an Organizational Arrangement  
for Prioritizing Federal Resilience Investments

GAO-23-106362 · June 2023

Changes in the Earth's climate are projected to cause [billions of dollars in economic damages](#) in the U.S., according to the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) and the [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#) (USGCRP). However, the federal government has not developed a national strategic approach to manage climate risks or prioritize resilience investments to reduce future damage.

1. National climate resilience strategic plan
2. National climate information system
3. Expand the availability and use of climate economics information
4. Consistent approach for prioritizing climate resilience investments
5. Community-driven climate migration pilot program



## Questions?

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