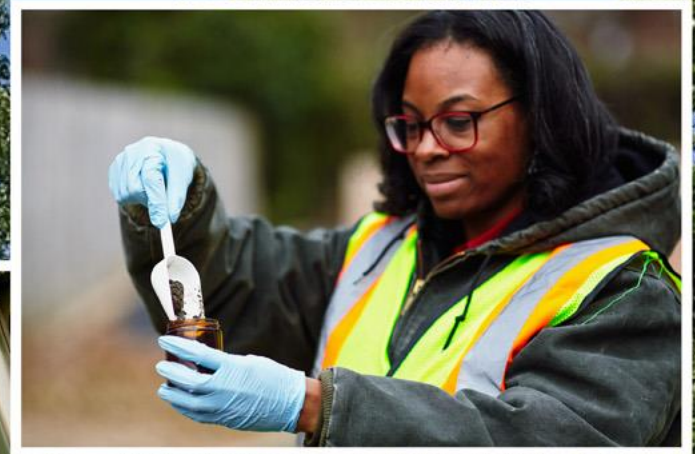




FY 2026

Presentation to the Joint Finance Committee February 18, 2025



Who We Are & What We Do

Office of the Secretary

- Delaware Natural Resources Police
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Finance
- Fiscal Management
- Public Affairs, Marketing Communications
- Legislative Affairs



Fish and Wildlife

- 19 Wildlife Areas
- 60 Boat Ramps
- Boat Registration and Boating Safety
- Delaware Bayshore
- Fisheries and Wildlife Management
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- Mosquito Control



Parks and Recreation

- 17 State Parks
- 20 Vendors and Concessionaires
- Camping, Cottages and Cabins
- 8 Million Annual Visitors Annually
- Outstanding Volunteer Support
- Two-time Gold Medal Winning Park System



Watershed Stewardship

- Beach Preservation
- Dam Safety
- Drainage, Dredging
- Tax Ditches
- Water Quality in 45 Watersheds
- Wetlands
- Waterway Marking



Who We Are & What We Do

Air Quality

- Air Permits
- Air Monitoring
- Vehicle Emissions
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)



Climate, Coastal and Energy

- Climate and Sustainability
- Coastal Zone
- Energy Efficiency and Renewables
- Federal Consistency for Coastal Projects
- Research Reserves: Blackbird Creek and St. Jones
- Weatherization



Water

- Dock and Subaqueous Permits
- Environmental Lab
- Septic Permits
- Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Well Permits



Waste and Hazardous Substances

- Boiler Safety
- Emergency Response
- Recycling
- Site Remediation, including Brownfields
- Solid Waste Permits
- Storage Tanks



Priorities

- Climate Change
- Environmental Justice
- Permitting
- Our Employees

Living Room

Here you can informally connect with the State's climate team and each other. The Climate Library also offers a chance to browse longer documents, like the 2021 Climate Action Plan.

What Is The Climate Change Living Room?

The Climate Change Living Room is a friendly, informal way to connect you with some of the State's climate experts. Share your concerns with the team, ask that question you have been meaning to ask, or tell us about your experiences.

- What impacts have you seen in your neighborhood?
- What's concerning you?
- How do we know the climate is changing?
- What are you excited for?

How Do I Participate?

- 1 Have a seat in the living room.
- 2 Feel free to strike up a conversation, or bring your own questions.



6 Climate Change Living Room

Where conversations lead to action.



FY26 Operating Budget: Funding Sources

24%

Non-Appropriated Special Funds

Primarily federal funds, with other non-recurring revenues, such as penalty funds, wetland mitigation/restoration Settlements and donations.

\$49,027,600

24%

General Funds

State funds allocated by the General Assembly and Governor as part of the state budget.

\$50,350,700

\$106,921,200

52%

Appropriated Special Funds

Collected revenue, fees, and other charges by DNREC for services within spending limits set in the state budget.



FY26 Operating Budget: Annualizations

Natural Resources Police Accreditation and Standards Captain (HB 205 and 206)

\$36,700 GF

Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Captain (HB 271)

\$36,700 GF



FY26 Operating Budget: Addition

Contractual Security for DNREC's
New Environmental Lab

\$10,000 GF



Positions Vacant More Than Three Years



**BP 8338: Laboratory
Manager I**

Reclassified to Laboratory
Manager II and
currently posted



**BP 58824: Environmental
Specialist III**

Filled August 2024



BP 59049: Paralegal III

Currently posted
for a second time

Total FTE vacancies as of Feb. 13, 2025: 91 out of 782 (11.6%)

Highlighted Performance Measures

Section	Performance Measure	Fiscal Year 2024 Actual	Fiscal Year 2025 Budget	Fiscal Year 2026 Governor's Recommend
Parks and Recreation	# of park visitors	NEW but estimated 7,425,014	NEW	7,500,000
Environmental Justice Office	# community-based meetings and presentations	NEW	NEW	40
Environmental Justice Office	# internal capacity building meetings/presentations/trainings	NEW	NEW	12
Water	% septic permits processed within 20 working days*	NEW	75.6 so far in FY25	100
Water	% subaqueous permits processed within 120 working days*	NEW	35 so far in FY25	80
Climate Coastal and Energy	# homes weatherized through Weatherization Assistance Program	270	400	400
Climate Coastal and Energy	# solar capacity added through the Green Energy Fund (MW)	7.1	6	6

Possible DNREC Fee Adjustments

Why fees have not kept pace with personnel and programs costs:

- Legislated salary increases for positions that are not funded by the General Fund.
- Investments in technology and equipment
- New issues to address (climate change, emerging contaminants, support for underserved and overburdened communities)
- Interagency charges for HR and IT services that have been added in recent years and increased

In 2024, DNREC proposed 155 fee changes:

- 101 increases
- 45 new fees
- 9 decreases

Prior fee package proposal is being reviewed by new administration and we will return to GA with recommended/requested path.

FY26 Spending Authority Increases

Division	Program	ASF Spending Authority Increase Amount
Watershed Stewardship	Sediment and Stormwater	\$554.9
Office of Environmental Protection	Non Title V	\$639.4
Water	Surface Water Expenditures	\$1413.1
Water	Groundwater Expenditures	\$2393.5
Water	Wetland Expenditures	\$23.7
Waste and Hazardous Substances	AST Administration	\$447.2
Waste and Hazardous Substances	Extremely Hazardous Substances Program	\$72.2
Waste and Hazardous Substances	Waste End Assessment	\$111.0
Waste and Hazardous Substances	Hazardous Waste Fees	\$34.4
Waste and Hazardous Substances	Solid Waste Fees	\$133.2
	TOTAL	\$5822.6

Meyer Administration Values

Integrity

Actions speak louder than words - actions build trust. We will lead with transparency and accountability to ensure every decision serves the public good.

Efficiency

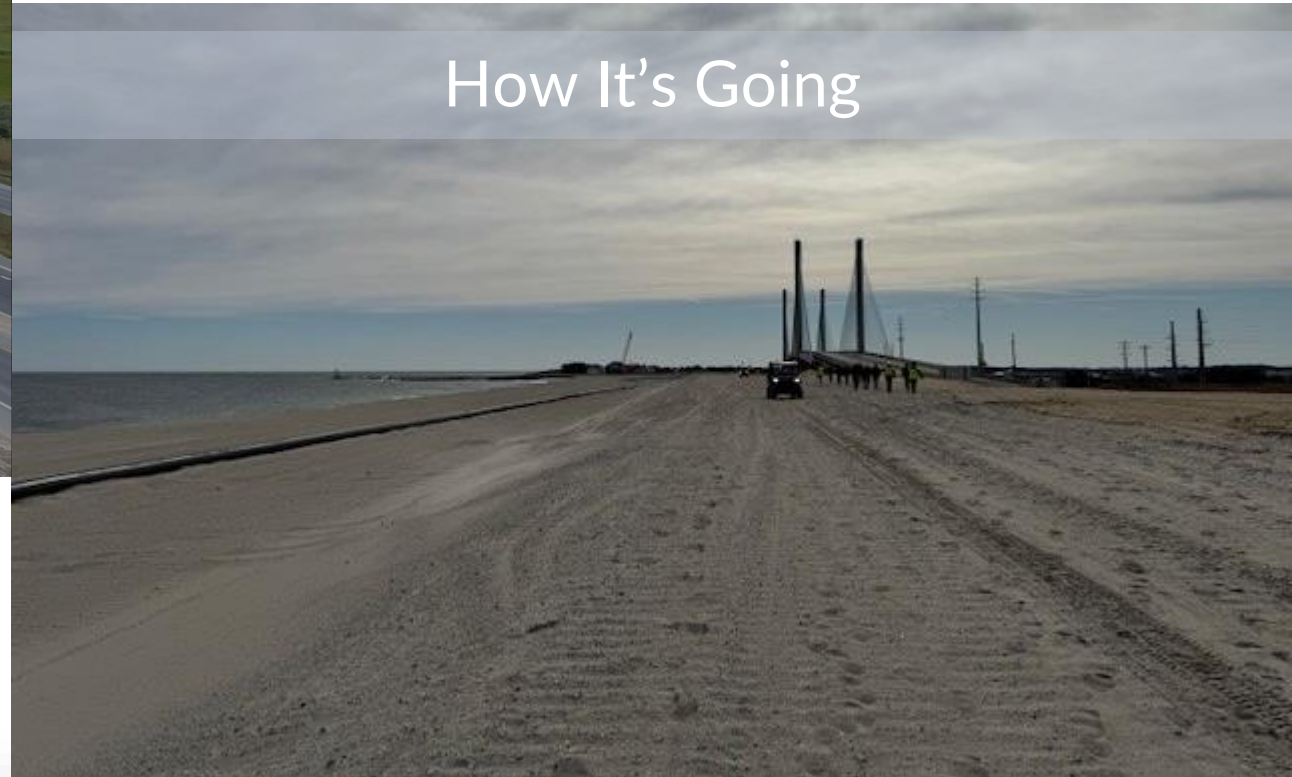
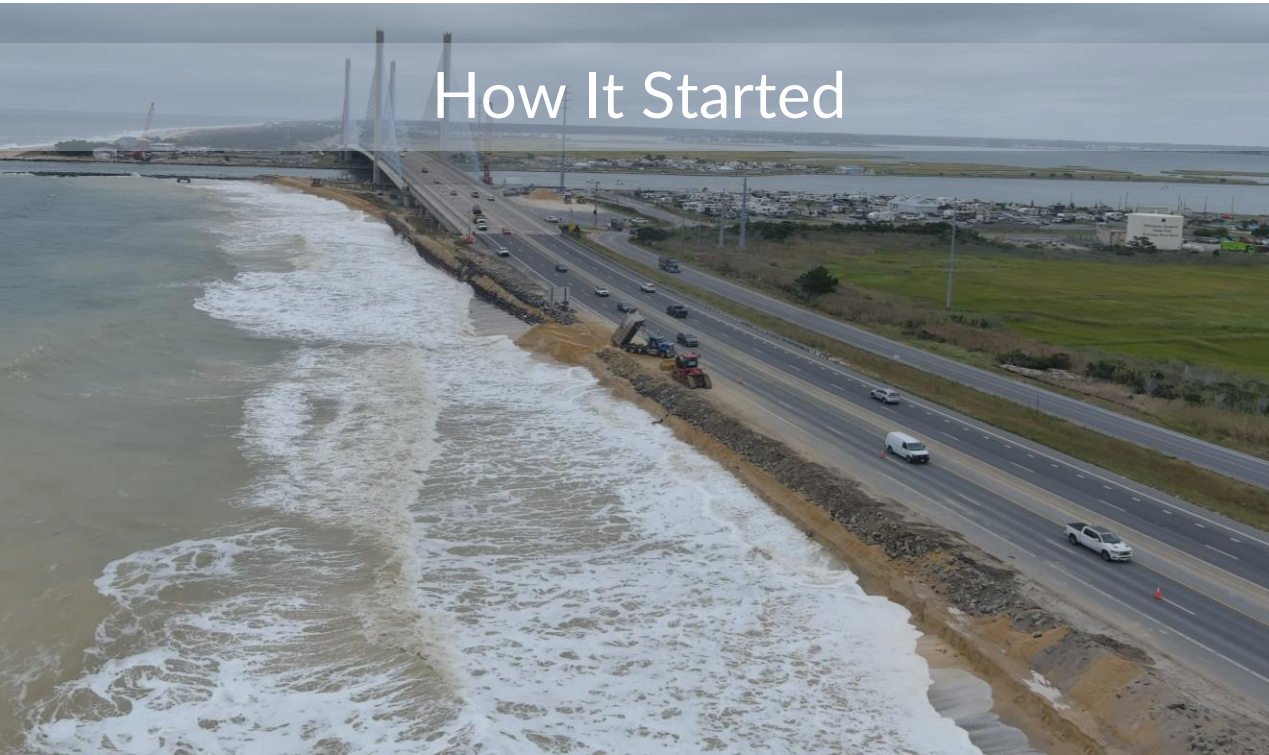
Government should work smarter, not harder. We will eliminate waste, streamline services, and prioritize execution over excuses.

Collaboration

Lasting change requires teamwork. We will break down silos, build strong partnerships, and deliver solutions that work.



Indian River Inlet Replenishment





Thank you

