

- **February 16, 2026 - Update from DEP on the continued drought in Pennsylvania - Franklin County is under a Drought Warning**

After the February 18, 2026, meeting of the Commonwealth Drought Task Force, several changes were made to the prior drought declaration.

- The following counties have been issued a Drought Watch: Allegheny, Blair, Bucks, Centre, Columbia, Dauphin, Delaware, Montgomery, Montour, Philadelphia, and York.
- The following counties have had their drought status elevated to Drought Warning: Adams, Berks, Carbon, Chester, Cumberland, Franklin, Huntington, Juniata, Lancaster, Lehigh, Mifflin, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Union.

These updates bring the total number of counties under Drought Watch to 34. The counties currently in Drought Watch are Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Dauphin, Delaware, Indiana, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Philadelphia, Pike, Snyder, Somerset, Tioga, Venango, Washington, and York. There are currently 17 counties under Drought Warning. The counties currently in Drought Warning are Adams, Berks, Carbon, Chester, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntington, Juniata, Lancaster, Lehigh, Mifflin, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, and Union.

These changes reflect worsening conditions across Pennsylvania. Several areas of the Commonwealth—particularly in the south-central and eastern parts of the Commonwealth—continue to experience declining groundwater levels and persistent precipitation deficits.

Other areas of the Commonwealth may also be experiencing localized drought issues.

Residents should always pay attention to any information they receive from their local water supplier. Varying localized conditions may lead water suppliers or municipalities to ask residents to continue conservation measures.

The Department always encourages residents to voluntarily conserve nonessential water use.