

## Solving Climate Change Effects in Ohio River Basin

September, 2014

Battelle's leadership in solving environmental issues was evident at last month's United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Climate Change Adaptation Meeting.

Battelle hosted an eight-person panel discussion convened to discuss the findings of a recent climate adaption project. Battelle's role centered on studying how ecosystem services in the Ohio River basin are affected by climate change and also determining how to remedy these issues in the future.

The meeting took place at Battelle's Cincinnati office on June 27. Battelle Senior Research Scientist Harry Stone, who is a member of the Ohio River Basin Alliance's steering committee and the chair of the Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness working group, led the discussion for Battelle.

"We were charged with examining both the ecology and the ecosystem services, comparing sub-watersheds, in different geographic regions," said Harry.

Ecosystem services are the collective benefits humankind receives from ecosystems, such as the provisioning of clean drinking water and the decomposition of wastes.

"For example, in terms of future climate change impacts, we determined what would happen in Northern Pennsylvania and New York would be different than what would happen in the Cumberland River basin in Tennessee," said Harry. "After we assessed current climate change and future potential impacts, this meeting was pulled together for the various groups to talk about potential adaptation strategies."

In addition to USACE, other participants in the discussion included NOAA, The Nature Conservancy, EPA, the U.S. Geological Survey, Marshall University and the University of New Hampshire. Moving forward, Battelle's role in the project involves expanding on earlier findings in order to contribute to a report that will be finalized later this year.