

Chesapeake Bay

Accelerating Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans

Lead partner: Maryland Department of Agriculture

To meet a large unmet demand for conservation programs that will contribute to meeting the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, this project will utilize state implementation plans to accelerate targeted, cost-effective conservation in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Implementation will be adapted to each state's high priorities and opportunities for innovation. For example, in Maryland, high-resolution imagery will help prioritize locations for riparian buffers as part of the Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative, while Delaware will offer vouchers to offset the cost of buffers through the Buffer Bonus Program.

Comprehensive Watershed Conservation in Dairy and Livestock Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay

Lead Partner: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

A large, diverse group of partners will use a "raise the bar" approach that rewards agricultural producers in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania for implementing higher impact, priority conservation practices in targeted sub-watersheds and counties of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The approach will address both water quality degradation and inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife in the CBW through a combination of comprehensive conservation planning, conservation practice implementation, and strategic habitat restoration. A new concept of conservation delivery is proposed: the conservation brokerage, where agency-neutral funding is used to best address resource concern. The partners will also use cost-benefit targeting to focus financial assistance dollars.

Delmarva Whole System Conservation Partnership—From Field to Stream

Lead Partners: The Nature Conservancy and the Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association

This public-private partnership in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia will use a science-based approach to achieve significant environmental objectives: 1) improve water quality through the implementation of advanced nutrient management practices on acres and restoring, enhancing, and protecting acres of natural filters (wetlands and buffers); and 2) expand wildlife habitat by enhancing, restoring, and protecting acres of high quality wetlands and buffers. The partners estimate that these conservation systems in priority locations will reduce total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total suspended solids currently delivered to local waterways each year, which will support achieving the goals of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

Mason-Dixon Working Lands Partnership

Lead Partner: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Partners will bring significant financial resources to areas of Pennsylvania and Maryland within the Chesapeake Bay to overcome common barriers to landowner adoption of conservation systems, including limited outreach, lack of technical assistance and funding, and limited coordination among programs and private markets. A focus on soil health and resilience—as well as harnessing natural systems including riparian forest buffers, restored wetlands, and healthy forests—will not only reduce nutrient loading to the Chesapeake Bay but also improve water quality in high-value streams and water bodies in the area for the benefit of fisheries, drinking water supply, and recreation.