



## A Citizen's Guide to Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan



*Nearly all of Maryland is located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.*

### Restoring the Chesapeake Bay is Within Our Reach

Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan provides a comprehensive road map to restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its local rivers and streams.

Maryland submitted its Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December 2010. The Plan was developed by the Maryland Departments of the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning, with input from more than 1,000 Marylanders who attended public meetings and provided comments.

The Plan was created to comply with the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL), sometimes called a "pollution diet." This "diet" sets a limit on the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution that will legally be allowed in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. Maryland's accelerated goal is to comply with these limits and the Bay TMDL by 2020.

Not only will sticking to this "pollution diet" return the Bay to good health, it will restore water quality in Maryland streams, rivers, and reservoirs; protect drinking water and public health; reduce flooding; and create jobs.

### Local Plans = Local Control and Local Benefits

State officials are now working with local, county-based teams to develop Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), which must include specific, locally based strategies to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution through 2017 and 2020. The Phase II WIP also requires two-year milestones to allow the State to measure results and hold ourselves accountable for meeting our restoration goals.

The State has asked the local teams to draft their own detailed plan to meet required pollution reductions. Local teams working on these plans include representatives from county and municipal governments, soil conservation districts, watershed groups, federal and State agencies, and interested citizens.

Each county-scale plan will likely be as unique as the county itself. For example, a more rural county may focus on agricultural and septic system reductions, while a more suburban/urban county may focus on stormwater runoff controls and wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

Local governments are strongly encouraged to take control of their Phase II WIPs so they can make individual choices and tailor their plans to best suit a region's unique challenges and opportunities, as well as to reflect their residents' needs. The State will be required to develop the Phase II WIP for any county or municipality that does not participate in the planning process.

### Options to Reduce Pollution from All Sources

Phase II WIPs are focused on finding the best combination of measures to reduce pollution. They will target major sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution and include a range of more than 70 possible strategies, including:

- **Urban Stormwater:** retrofit developments built before modern stormwater controls; use green roofs and rain barrels; expand urban tree canopies; reduce lawn fertilizer; restore wetlands and plant streamside buffers. Stormwater controls also help reduce flooding and erosion and replenish groundwater supplies.
- **Wastewater:** upgrade wastewater treatment plants; upgrade septic systems or connect them to wastewater treatment plants; eliminate sewer overflows. These actions also protect public health and contribute to the enjoyment of our waterways.
- **Agriculture:** plant cover crops; improve manure management; fence farm animals out of streams. These best management practices also help farmers protect natural resources for future generations.
- **Air Emissions:** reduce pollution from power plants and vehicles; retrofit diesel trucks. Cleaner air has many public health benefits.
- **Future Growth:** create a system for offsetting additional pollution from new development; encourage nutrient trading programs to prevent backsliding; promote incentives for "smart growth."

## The Economics of Clean Water

A healthy Bay will benefit Maryland's tourism, recreation, agriculture, and fishery industries; it will improve the value of our homes, farms, and businesses; and it will create green jobs — all while protecting drinking water and improving waterways across the State.

Upgrading wastewater treatment plants, retrofitting septic systems and stormwater management systems, and installing "living" shorelines and on-farm best management practices are just a few examples of projects that maintain or create jobs that cannot be outsourced and that will benefit Maryland families for years to come.

No single study has quantified the true costs of a polluted Chesapeake Bay and its waterways. However, in 2004, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel observed that the economic value of the Bay may be over \$1 trillion annually, noting that the experiential and deep historical and cultural values of the Bay are beyond calculation. The total impact on the Maryland economy from recreational boating alone is estimated to be more than \$2 billion annually and sustains 35,025 jobs. Maryland waterfront property continues to be highly valuable.

Even with these benefits, local governments and other partners are understandably concerned about the costs of reducing pollution during difficult economic times. It is estimated that funding is already in place for many of the actions required under Maryland's WIP through dedicated State or federal funding sources; however, enhanced local strategies to reduce pollution will require additional local funding.

The Phase II WIP planning process will evaluate the best programs and strategies that are targeted to areas where science tells us pollution reductions will be the most effective. The actions will be required over a ten-year time period, so the funding, too, may be spread out over time. But it is cheaper to reduce pollution now — and even less costly to prevent it in the first place — than it will be in ten or twenty years.

## The Cost of Doing Nothing

EPA has identified possible consequences for States who do not meet their pollution reduction requirements. These include requiring permits for currently unregulated sources, denying new permits, requiring additional reductions from point sources, and reducing or imposing conditions on federal grants, among other options. If the EPA takes any of these actions, the impacts will be felt at the local and at the State levels.

## How You Can Help

Learn more about the development of your county's plan at [www.mde.state.md.us/TMDL/Pages/PhaseIIWIPDev.aspx](http://www.mde.state.md.us/TMDL/Pages/PhaseIIWIPDev.aspx) where you can click on your county's link. If you have ideas for specific actions, communicate them to your county team. Contact your local elected officials to let them know you support efforts to clean up local waters and the Bay that will also protect public health and create jobs.

Reduce your own pollution by limiting fertilizer use, planting rain gardens, using rain barrels, supporting local farms, planting trees, driving less and combining trips, and making your home more energy efficient — all things that are likely to save you money as well.

### Phase II WIP Timeline

- 11/1/2011 Maryland submits preliminary two-year milestones to EPA
- 12/15/2011 Maryland submits draft State-wide Phase II WIP to EPA
- 2/15/2012 EPA provides the States with comments on their draft Phase II WIPs
- 3/30/2012 Maryland submits final State-wide Phase II WIP to EPA

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For more information on Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan, visit: [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us)

