# MANAGEMENT STRATEGY Water Quality

# GOAL: Water Quality

#### OUTCOMES

- By 2017, have practices and controls in place that are expected to achieve 60 percent of the nutrient and sediment pollution load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.
- By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.
- Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

# CURRENT EFFORTS

- Jurisdictions' Phase I and II Watershed Implementation Plans and two-year milestones describe efforts currently underway or planned to improve tracking, reporting, and assessing the effectiveness of implementation actions. Examples include:
  - ⇒ Committing to more stringent nitrogen and phosphorus limits at wastewater treatment plants;
  - ⇒ Pursuing state legislation to fund wastewater treatment plant upgrades, urban stormwater management and agricultural programs;
  - ⇒ Inform farmers of their regulatory requirements and help them identify ways to improve conservation methods on their properties.
- Jurisdictions are also developing new and revising existing BMP tracking, verification, and reporting protocols and programs

# GAPS

The jurisdictions and EPA identified gaps between current capacity and the capacity they estimate is necessary to fully attain the interim and final nutrient and sediment target loads. These include:

- Financial capacity to oversee and implement MS4 and other stormwater programs.
- Financial, technical, and regulatory capacity to deliver priority conservation practices to priority watersheds.
- BMP tracking, verification, and reporting programs.

# MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

#### Implementation of Bay watershed jurisdictions' Phase I and II WIPs and Two-year Milestones

• Identify capacity for additional incentives, new or enhanced state or local regulatory programs; market-based tools; technical or financial assistance; and new legislative authorities.

## Oversight of the Bay TMDL's accountability framework

• Annually improve tracking, reporting, and assessing the effectiveness of implementation actions.

#### **Enhancing Monitoring**

• Measure and explain progress toward water quality improvements and reduce uncertainty in decision support tools.

# Addressing priorities under the Bay TMDL's 2017 midpoint assessment

• Optimize and streamline implementation of management actions.

## Approaches Targeted to Local Participation

- The Partnership is exploring how to express programmatic and implementation goals at the local level in the Phase 6 modeling tools as part of the midpoint assessment.
- The collection of refined land use and land cover data from the local jurisdictions for incorporation into the Phase 6 modeling tools is intended to improve the representation of urban, agricultural, federal and natural lands at the local scale.