



By the end of 2017, with the direct involvement of local governments or their representatives, evaluate policy options, incentives, and planning tools that could assist them in continually improving their capacity to reduce the rate of conversion of agricultural lands, forests and wetlands as well as the rate of changing landscapes from more natural lands that soak up pollutants to those that are paved over, hardscaped or otherwise impervious. Strategies should be developed for supporting local governments' and others' efforts in reducing these rates by 2025 and beyond.

Why is this outcome important?

Land use change is a local issue with regional consequences. Land use can affect restoration and protection efforts if not understood, mitigated, or otherwise planned for. This outcome was included in the Agreement to provide tools and support to local governments to ensure the capacity to plan for and mitigate land use change impacts.

Current Conditions:

During the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) process, differences have come to light between the land use data set used by that CBP that covers the entire watershed over a multi-decadal period and local-scale information. These differences have created challenges for implementation planning and reporting in support of the WIPs. It is vital that the land use data used in the watershed model is perceived as relevant at the local government scale.

How was the outcome derived? Who came up with it?

This outcome responds to public comments received that an earlier version of the Agreement did not sufficiently address the extent and impacts of land use change in the watershed. The Land Use Workgroup of the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team was instrumental in developing this outcome, along with representatives of the Maryland Department of Planning and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

What was the basis or baseline?

The Land Use Workgroup will directly involve stakeholders in the generation of land use data for modeling. The challenge will be to assemble a more accurate baseline dataset using local information to the extent possible while estimating historic land use acreages in a clear, transparent, and logical fashion.