



News Release

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\$5.8 Million in Grants for Innovative Projects to Reduce Water Pollution in Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Arlington, Va. – Eleven innovative environmental projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed have received a total of \$5.8 million in grants to reduce pollution to the local streams, creeks, and rivers that flow to the Chesapeake Bay. The grants are funded by the U.S. EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program and administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The funding for these projects was awarded through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund and its Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant Program. This program provides up to \$1 million to innovative and cost-effective projects that dramatically reduce or eliminate the flow of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution into local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. The awarded projects offer innovative solutions to polluted runoff from both urban and suburban stormwater and agriculture lands. As a whole, the projects are expected to result in reductions of over 1.5 million pounds of nitrogen, 51,000 pounds of phosphorus, and 20,000 pounds of sediment entering the Bay. Grant awardees provided an additional \$10 million in matching funds.

"These 11 projects will have direct benefits to streams, creeks, rivers and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay, showing that the key to restoration is on-the-ground, in-the-water action," said EPA mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. "I applaud the project leaders for their commitment to help restore the Bay using innovative approaches that can be modeled throughout the watershed."

Urban and suburban stormwater is a major source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay that is still increasing. As development and population continue to increase in the Chesapeake watershed, more impervious surfaces are created, causing degradation to creeks, streams and rivers that flow to the Chesapeake Bay. Local governments can greatly influence stormwater runoff control issues via zoning and development decisions and by encouraging the use of green infrastructure planning and low-impact development. This in turn means that partnerships between governments, local groups and neighborhoods, such as those being created through many of these grants, are keys to creating change.

The Chesapeake Bay also continues to face issues of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from agricultural lands. The grant funded projects awarded today deal with some of the problems associated with farm runoff by building new partnerships and efforts across agencies and communities, and also utilizing innovative technology to address agricultural pollution across the watershed.

There is a great need for more innovative projects like these that address pollution from agricultural and urban and suburban runoff. Collectively they exemplify creative and effective ways to bridge communities, advance technology, and implement innovative practices such as low-impact development strategies, green infrastructure, and conservation practices—all of which are necessary to restoring local waterways and the Bay.

"These projects demonstrate innovative strategies for how we can continue to live, work and play in one of the most densely populated regions of the country, while at the same time minimizing the impact on our downstream neighbors and the thousands of fish and wildlife species that call the Chesapeake Bay their home," said Tom Kelsch, Director of Conservation Programs of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

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GRANT AWARDEES and PROJECTS

The 11 projects that received grants through the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant Program are as follows. See the Backgrounder document for more in depth project descriptions.

- The *South River Federation* - Treating urban runoff in two mid-bay creeks using Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance (RSC) technology.
- The *Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development* - Facilitating a culture of “conservation from farm to table” and reducing nutrients and sediments in food and fiber production on a regional scale.
- The *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University* – Reducing ammonia emission and runoff from broiler litter on two farms in the Shenandoah Valley and two farms on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.
- The *City of Lancaster, Pa.* – Implementing six highly visible green infrastructure projects.
- The *Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education* – Making subsoiling and pervious paving an integral element of sustainable urban landscaping to reduce nutrient and sediment loads.
- *Prince George’s County, Md.* - Implementing three best management practices to reduce stormwater volumes and nutrient loads from the University of Maryland campus in the Anacostia River watershed.
- The *Chester River Association* - Reducing nutrient and sediment loadings through implementation of agricultural practices like enhanced nutrient management; septic upgrades, rain gardens and expanded urban tree canopy in developed areas; and restoration of natural filters.
- The *Herring Run Watershed Association* - Retrofitting the Butchers Hill neighborhood and alleys in Baltimore City with several green infrastructure projects for the small, dense urban area.
- The *Maryland Department of Agriculture* – Implementing statewide adaptive cover crop management tools to more effectively manage winter cover crop programs for water quality protection.
- The *Potomac Conservancy* - Promoting Low Impact Development (LID) through an assessment of 37 counties and cities in the non-tidal portion of Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- The *Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.* – Creation and implementation of the Onancock Watershed Restoration Project, a “whole-community” approach to watershed restoration through urban and agricultural best management practices.

For more information about the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, visit www.nfwf.org/chesapeake.

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The Chesapeake Bay Program is a regional partnership that has coordinated and conducted the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since 1983. Partners include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, representing the federal government; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the states of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative body; and advisory groups of citizens, scientists and local government officials. For more information, visit www.chesapeakebay.net