

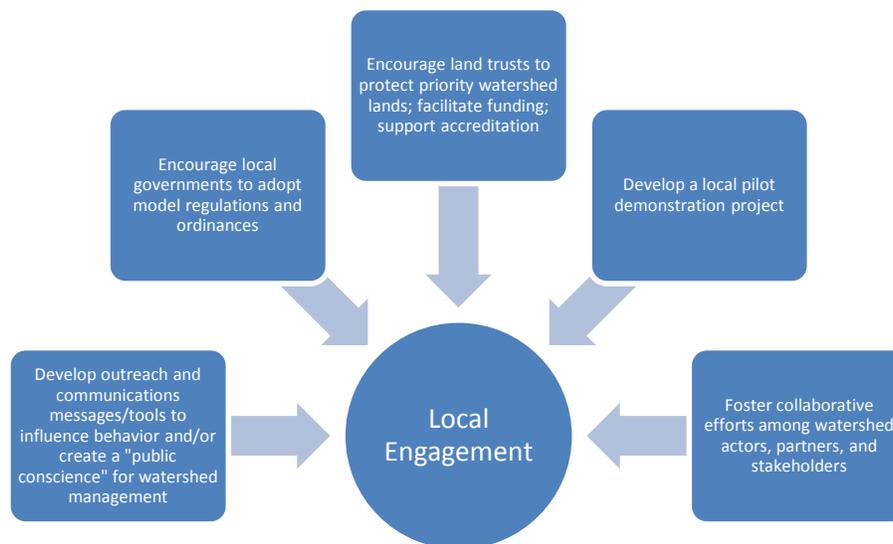


## The Chesapeake Bay Program's Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team – Local Engagement Workgroup

**Background:** At GIT4's face-to-face meeting in December 2013, GIT4 members affirmed that local engagement – engagement from local government, land trusts, other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the citizens that live in the watershed – is of utmost importance for the maintenance of healthy waters and watersheds. Thus, the Goal Team decided to form a Local Engagement Workgroup that will encourage local engagement strategies and use GIT4's roles as aggregators, supporters, and conveners to build capacity for local actors and help further healthy watershed and water protection at the local level.

### Strategic Theme:

The Local Engagement Workgroup will focus efforts on the protection of state-identified healthy watersheds, by supporting communications and convening forums, engaging local governments, providing access to data and analyses, involving land trusts in watershed protection, and encouraging watershed organizations to integrate resource protection in their strategies.



### Relevant Work:

- GIT4's Communications Team helped put together a session related to local engagement at the 2013 Chesapeake Watershed Forum:
  - “Capturing Local Benefits of Healthy Watersheds.” This session included a facilitated discussion on the opportunities for capturing local benefits and incentivizing conservation of healthy watersheds.
- The Local Engagement Workgroup can learn from other organizations' efforts, such as:
  - The Deer Creek Watershed's [Watershed Restoration Action Strategy \(WRAS\)](#), led by Harford County government in conjunction with citizens and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
  - The [Characterization Report](#) of Carr's Creek Watershed in Sidney Center, New York. This report was prepared by KCI Technologies, Inc. for the Sidney Center

Improvement Group, Inc. (SCIG) as part of the grant received by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

- The Conewago Creek Initiative's [Conservation Toolbox for Municipalities](#). The Conewago Creek Initiative is a locally-led partnership in Pennsylvania that seeks to improve water quality in the Conewago Creek by working with local residents and landowners.
- The Colorado Conservation Trust's (CCT) work on [making land conservation real, relevant, and urgent to a broader audience](#).

Under the leadership of Donnelle Keech (TNC) and Wink Hastings (NPS CBPO), the Workgroup would like to convene their first meeting in March or April 2014. This meeting will likely be over the phone with Adobe Connect capabilities and last approximately 2 hours. Interested parties will be sent a doodle poll to determine availability.

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If you are interested in participating in this Workgroup, please contact Tuana Phillips at: [Phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:Phillips.tuana@epa.gov)