

OUTCOME: Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The [Local Leadership Outcome](#) is uncertain. Significant progress has been made in the last few years, including an [evaluation of existing educational opportunities](#), [stakeholder interviews and recommendations for engaging with local leaders](#), [creation of the methodology for a baseline survey](#), [development of tailored educational materials](#) and [ongoing engagement with local government trusted sources](#). Over the last two years, efforts have engaged an estimated 1,500 local government elected officials and staff covering all six watershed states and the District of Columbia. However, the development of an indicator, which would depend upon data collected via survey to inform a baseline, is on hold until the Office of Management and Budget approves the content.

BACKGROUND: In 2014, approximately 60 local appointed and elected officials, senior government staff, experts in leadership training and other stakeholders, participated in a workshop to share descriptions of successful watershed protection and restoration efforts, identify gaps in information and resources and recommend actions to increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials to help them manage natural resources more effectively. Recommendations from the workshop informed the development of the outcome.

BASELINE: The success of Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts not only rely on the ability to increase the knowledge and capacity of local leaders, but also on voluntary, informed actions by local officials, watershed associations, nongovernmental organizations, grassroot leaders and individual stewards. To that end, the indicator for this outcome will relate to the building of knowledge and capacity of local officials. A baseline has not yet been established.

DATA SOURCE: When approved, the Local Leadership indicator will contain multiple factors, including assessing the knowledge and capacity among local leaders through a survey instrument conducted every two years. However, developing this type of measurement is problematic due to the high turnover raters in local governments. Other potential data sources may include public opinion polls, the number of municipalities that have built in certifications or training or tracking the number of educational resources available to local officials.