

# CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 2017-2018

# BAY BAROMETER

## HEALTH & RESTORATION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States. Its watershed spans parts of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, and is home to countless plants, animals, people and habitats.

## HOW'S THE BAY DOING?

### THE BAY IS RESILIENT.

# 1,196 ACRES

of oyster reefs have been restored in Maryland and Virginia rivers: an increase of 474 acres since last year.

# 104,843 ACRES

of underwater grasses grew in the Bay in 2017: the highest amount ever recorded and the first time surpassing 100,000 acres.

# 1.3 MILLION ACRES

of land have been permanently protected from development: an increase of 300,000 acres since 2016.

# 153 SITES

opened for the public to access the water: more than halfway to our goal.

## BUT THE BAY STILL FACES CHALLENGES.

# 1.1 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

is the increase in average annual stream temperature between 1960 and 2014.

# 72 PERCENT

of monitored streams experienced an increase in flooding.

# 84 PERCENT

of the Bay is contaminated by toxics: an increase of four percent from 2016.



# YOU CAN HELP THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

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Our everyday actions have a big impact on the environment and climate around us. By making simple changes in your daily life, you can help keep the Chesapeake Bay a resilient ecosystem.

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## GREEN YOUR COMMUTE

Walking, biking or carpooling to school reduces emissions, traffic congestion and the need to burn fossil fuels.

## CONSERVE ENERGY

Turn off lights and unplug appliances when not in use.  
Install energy-efficient light bulbs.

## PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

Help increase wildlife habitat and reduce water usage by planting trees, shrubs and flowers that are native to where you live.

## BUY LOCAL

Grow your own food, shop your local farmers' market and eat less meat.

## REDUCE AND REUSE

Use a lunch box instead of plastic or paper bags, look for items made from recycled materials and reuse your school supplies.

## CONSERVE WATER

Take shorter showers and turn off the water when you brush your teeth.

**LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!**  
**VISIT [WWW.CHESAPEAKEBAY.NET/ACTION](http://WWW.CHESAPEAKEBAY.NET/ACTION)**



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*