



*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.*

### **Why is this outcome important?**

One of the most important lessons learned from the past three decades is that while watershed-wide partnerships help to coordinate and catalyze, implementation happens locally. Local governments are key partners as are individual citizens, businesses, institutions, watershed associations and other non-governmental organizations. By working together to engage, empower and facilitate local government and others, we will leverage resources and ensure better outcomes.

### **Current Conditions:**

The Chesapeake Bay Program’s Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) was established in 1987 and has been advising the Executive Council about how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement. According to LGAC members and signatory representatives, the local officials’ knowledge of watershed issues and capacity to implement watershed restoration and protection initiatives varies quite dramatically throughout the watershed.



### **How was the outcome derived?**

#### **Who came up with it?**

Stakeholder input to the Agreement clearly pointed out the importance of better engaging local leaders. Each of the Management Strategies developed for the outcomes in the Agreement will describe, where applicable, how locals will be engaged, where actions, tools or technical support are needed and what steps should be taken to facilitate greater local participation. This outcome, however, is specifically focused on increasing the knowledge of local officials. The outcome was developed by signatory representatives with input by stakeholders, including members of the Local Government Advisory Committee.

### **What was the basis or baseline?**

The outcome measure has not been developed; therefore currently there is no identified baseline.

### **For More:**

[Local Government Advisory Committee](#)