

## Environmental Stewardship in West Virginia

### What is environmental stewardship?

To be an environmental steward, residents of the Chesapeake Bay watershed can install rain gardens and rain barrels on their properties, avoid using fertilizers and pesticides, and take other actions to protect clean water and environmental health. Residents can also volunteer in their communities and engage in civic activities on behalf of the environment.

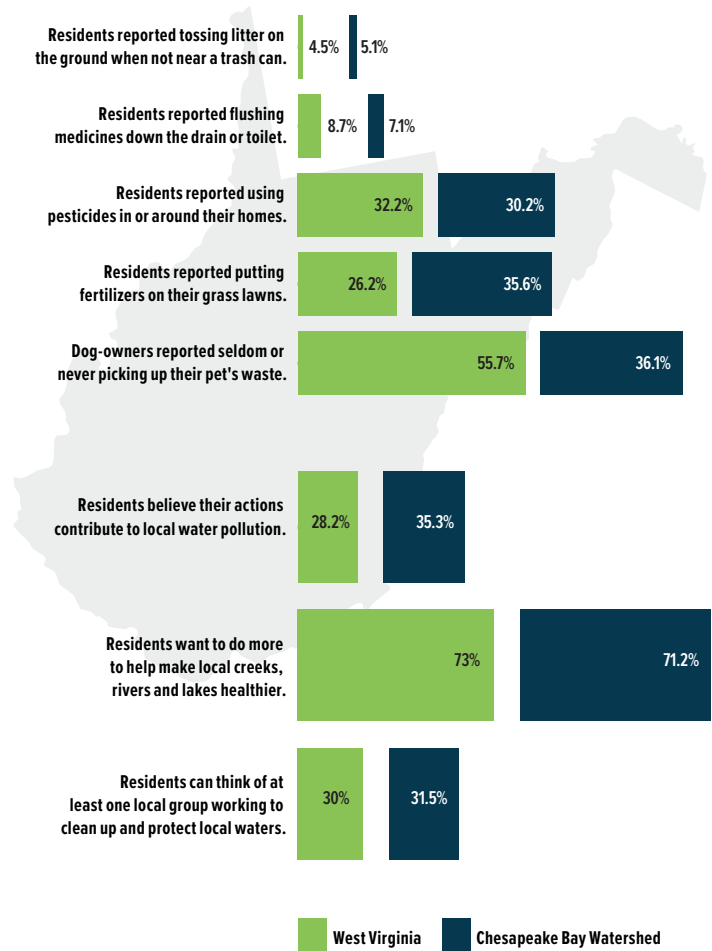
### What is the citizen Stewardship Index?

The Chesapeake Bay Program surveyed 5,200 randomly selected residents of the Chesapeake Bay watershed portions of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia about their environmental stewardship actions and attitudes. This group included 600 people from West Virginia, whose answers were used to inform the first-ever Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide Citizen Stewardship Index.

While a perfect Citizen Stewardship score would be possible if everyone in the region were to do everything in their daily lives to better the environment—including personal actions, volunteering and engaging in civic activities for the environment—the residents of the Chesapeake Bay watershed scored a 24 out of 100. Residents of West Virginia also scored a 24.

This number is based on the adoption rate of 19 actions that individuals can take to improve water quality and environmental health, as well as the portion of the public that is volunteering in community efforts to improve the environment and engaging in civic activities on behalf of the environment.

### How does West Virginia measure up against the Chesapeake Bay watershed?



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### Take action

- Carry a garbage bag in your vehicle to hold onto trash until you can properly dispose of it.
- Take multiple waste disposal bags with you when walking your dog.
- Instead of using chemical weed killers, try dousing weeds with boiling water, table salt or vinegar, or pulling them out by hand and digging up the roots.
- Instead of putting chemical pesticides on your sidewalk or garden, use boiling water to kill weeds, ant colonies and other pests.
- To keep medicine out of our waterways, return them unused to a consumer drug return location or foul your medication with coffee grounds or cat litter and put it in the trash.
- To find local watershed organizations in your area, please visit the West Virginia Watershed Network at [www.wvca.us/wvwn](http://www.wvca.us/wvwn).

### Links and more information

- For more helpful tips, please visit How-To's and Tips at <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/howtotips>
- For more information on the Stewardship Index, please visit <http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/citizen-stewardship>

