

# CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 2016-2017

# BAY BAROMETER

HEALTH & RESTORATION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

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

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## HOW'S THE BAY DOING?

### CRITTERS ARE THRIVING.

**455 MILLION**

BLUE CRABS LIVED HERE IN 2017

**722 ACRES**

OF OYSTER REEFS HAVE BEEN RESTORED  
IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA RIVERS

**2,000 BREEDING PAIRS**

OF BALD EAGLES NESTED HERE IN 2016

**97,433 ACRES**

OF UNDERWATER GRASSES GREW HERE IN 2016

### POLLUTION IS STILL A PROBLEM.

**18.1 MILLION**

PEOPLE LIVE HERE, AND MORE PEOPLE  
CREATE MORE POLLUTION

**60 PERCENT**

OF THE BAY DOES NOT MEET OUR  
STANDARDS FOR CLEAN WATER

**80 PERCENT**

OF THE BAY IS CONTAMINATED BY TOXICS



# YOU CAN HELP THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

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Our everyday actions have a big impact on the environment around us. By making simple changes in the way you use water and energy and pick up after yourself, you can help protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

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## PICK UP TRASH

PLASTIC BAGS, BEVERAGE BOTTLES AND OTHER LITTER  
ADD TOXICS TO THE WATER AND MAKE ANIMALS SICK

## CONSERVE WATER

TAKE SHORTER SHOWERS AND TURN OFF THE WATER  
WHILE YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH

## SCOOP THAT POOP

PET WASTE CARRIES BACTERIA, VIRUSES AND PARASITES  
THAT MAKE PEOPLE AND ANIMALS SICK. PICK UP AFTER  
YOUR PET TO KEEP PET WASTE OUT OF RIVERS AND STREAMS

## PLANT A TREE

TREES PROTECT CLEAN AIR AND WATER  
AND PROVIDE HABITAT TO WILDLIFE

## MULCH YOUR LEAVES

BAG, MULCH OR COMPOST FALLEN LEAVES,  
WHICH CAN ENRICH THE SOIL IN YOUR GARDEN

## KEEP PIPES CLEAR

AVOID POURING COOKING OIL OR KITCHEN GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN  
TO MAKE SURE WASTEWATER CAN EXIT YOUR HOME'S PLUMBING

LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!

VISIT [WWW.CHESAPEAKEBAY.NET/ACTION](http://WWW.CHESAPEAKEBAY.NET/ACTION)



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