



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

January 29, 2026

Follow-Up to the Mapping of BMPs to Load Source Groups

Agriculture Workgoup

Recap & Introduction

- WTWG is working to approve the mapping of Phase 7 Load Sources to BMPs and Load Source Groups. Urban Stormwater Workgroup and AgWG were asked to review mappings and provide recommendations.
- The preliminary mapping matrix of BMPs to load sources was presented at the December 2025 AgWG meeting.
 - The AgWG did not indicate any concerns; however, there was a request to further explore mapping of agricultural BMPs to solar land uses.

Agricultural BMPs on Solar Land Uses

Goals for Today:




- Provide the AgWG with examples of acreage and aerial imagery for land around and between arrays.
- Discuss the proposed list of Ag BMPs mapped to solar land uses.
- Approve the updated matrix developed by Jess
 - Recommend to WTWG to approve mapping the 6 identified BMPs to solar land uses.

Examples from Aerial Imagery



Example #1






-  Solar Field Panel Arrays (Solar Infrastructure)
-  Solar Field Pervious
-  Pervious Developed



Example #2



-  Solar Field Panel Arrays (Solar Infrastructure)
-  Solar Field Pervious
-  Pervious Developed

Solar Acreage (At Present)

State	Year	LandAcres	Solar Pervious	Solar Infrastructure	% Solar Pervious	% Solar Infrastructure
DC	2021	39,335	-	0	0.000%	0.000%
DE	2021	51,7684	15	37	0.003%	0.008%
MD	2021	10,2345,8	1,121	1,537	0.019%	0.026%
NY	2022	56,2323,9	219	591	0.006%	0.015%
PA	2022	87,80614,2	216	509	0.002%	0.004%
VA	2021	80,09213,7	327	3,728	0.002%	0.027%
WV	2022	77,7432,2	-	-	0.000%	0.000%
Watershed	2021/2022	03,21040,6	1,899	6,403	0.005%	0.016%

Solar Acreage (At Present)

- Note: We recognize this practice is expanding and acreage will likely grow over time.
- Details for forecasting have not yet been finalized, and discussions will continue at the Land Use Workgroup. AgWG members are encouraged to attend Land Use Workgroup meetings and/or bring concerns to their LUWG member.

Proposed Agricultural BMPs on Solar

1. Land retirement to ag open space - converts to ag open space
2. Land retirement to pasture - converts to pasture
3. Tree planting - converts to forest
4. Narrow forest buffers - converts to forest
5. Narrow grass buffers - converts to ag open space
6. Grass buffers – converts to ag open space

Decision

- To what extent does the AgWG agree with the following:
- The AgWG recommends the Watershed Technical Workgroup approve the updated Load Source Mapping Matrix, with six listed BMPs mapping to solar land uses.

Next Steps

- The AgWG decision/recommendation and finalized matrix will be sent to the WTWG for their review today (1/29).
- The WTWG will vote on the matrix (incorporating the USWG and AgWG recommendations) at their February 5th meeting.