**Outcome**

100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy.

**Status**

The Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team has developed the [Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment](https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/chesapeake_healthy_watersheds_assessment_report.pdf) framework to provide information on the current condition, level of protection and whether or not watershed catchments are potentially vulnerable or resilient. This helps jurisdictions to detect signals of change in state-identified healthy watersheds and beyond (provided the data to inform the assessment is updated over time). The Healthy Watersheds Outcome is currently uncertain.

**What has helped achieve success since 2014?**

*Mention key successes from 2014 to 2023. No more than three-five bullet points.*

* The development of new data and tools that help characterize and provide context for healthy watersheds, such as the [Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment](https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/chesapeake_healthy_watersheds_assessment_report.pdf), [Chesapeake Bay Phase 6 Land Use Viewer](https://chesapeake.usgs.gov/phase6/map/), [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard](https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/wip/dashboard/), [CBP Land Use/Land Cover Data Project](https://www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/conservation-innovation-center/high-resolution-data/lulc-data-project-2022/), Land Use Methods and Metrics indicators on impervious cover and change, and the [Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard](https://chesapeake-deij2-chesbay.hub.arcgis.com/).
* Projects that enhance focus on communications, such as the [Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy](https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/cst91_chesapeake_forest_restoration_strategy_web_508_final.pdf), [Conservation Land-Use Policy Toolkit](https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/chesapeake_land_use_policy_report_final_5-31-2017.pdf) and [Resource Lands Assessment](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/programs/resource-lands-assessment).
* Increasing knowledge at a local-scale through the development of such tools as the [Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/local-leadership-workgroup), [Improved Technical Service Delivery to Landowners](https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/17727_FinalReport.pdf), [Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure](file:///C:/Users/rfelver/Downloads/Targeted%20Outreach%20for%20Green%20Infrastructure), Chesapeake Watershed Finance Intensive workshops, [Maryland Healthy Watershed Assessment](https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/MDHWA_FINAL-2022-07-15_updated-2022-12-19.pdf) and the automation of Chesapeake Protected Lands data.

**What challenges have hindered progress?**

*Mention key impediments to achieving the outcome by 2025.*

* The amount, type and way in which land use occurs is the biggest factor impacting healthy watersheds.
* A wide range of natural and human factors, such as climate change and invasive species.
* Ensuring local governments and decision-makers have the best available information—and understand it—to make land use decisions.
* Projects necessary for assessing the spectrum of watershed health and vulnerability on a Chesapeake Bay regional scale are in progress and are expected in late 2023.
* Lack of support effective communication, coordination and leadership with the CBP and the HWGIT at the state and local level to protect healthy watersheds.
* The HWGIT Coordinator has been leading a multiyear healthy watershed assessment effort due to limited state capacity to report whether we've lost or gained any healthy waters since the 2014 Bay Agreement was signed.
  + Existing reporting through the integrated monitoring reports under section 305b and 303d of the Clean Water Act may help inform reporting and progress tracking.
  + It is the intent that the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment be used as a proxy to determine the spectrum of watershed health and vulnerability and be updated regularly when new data is available.
* Measures to protect healthy watersheds vary across—and sometimes within—watershed jurisdictions.
* Meeting the Healthy Watersheds Outcome is dependent on the participation of related workgroups and their work/products.

**If on course, what is needed to continue current trajectory? If off course, what is needed to accelerate progress? If uncertain, what would need to be done before 2025 to classify as on course/off course and can this be done in that timeframe?**

*No more than three-five, succinct bullet points.*

* Completion of the CHWA 2.0 (August 2023) and commit to updating the CHWA with the best available input data as available, and consider additional watersheds identified by the CHWA as healthy in addition to state-identified healthy watersheds to augment state efforts.
* Continued Development and application of the LUMM indicators and continued support high resolution LU/LC data
* Investigation and development of indicator(s) related to watershed health and vulnerability.
* Update the Watershed Protection Map
* Implementation of [STAC Rising Temp workshop report](https://www.chesapeake.org/stac/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/EMBARGOED_STAC-Report_Rising-Temps_1.21.23.pdf)
* Strengthen local commitment and capacity to utilize and understand the spectrum of watershed health and vulnerability and increase their capacity to protect healthy watersheds.