ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

Jennifer Cotting

Director, Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland

AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL FOCUS:

- Sustainable financing of resource protection and restoration
- Programmatic and project analysis
- Local government, stakeholder, and project partner coordination
- Public education and outreach, training and workshop development

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

Jennifer works in leaderships roles to build the capacity of communities to address their environmental priorities. She joined the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland in 2004 and currently is the center's Director. Jennifer guides the implementation of three to four dozen programs and projects across a broad array of environmental sectors and finance challenges. Prior to this role, Jennifer developed extensive expertise in green infrastructure finance developing solutions that address needs across a diverse set of drivers, engage a variety of partners, and occur at multiple scales. She brings a wealth of experience in direct community engagement, technical assistance, and communications.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: 22

SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE:

Director | Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD | February 2018 to present

Prior positions, November 2004 to January 2018: Associate Director; Research Associate – Green Infrastructure; Assistant Director; Program Manager

After fifteen years with the Center, Jennifer was confirmed as Director in early 2019. She was previously the Associate Director managing the day-to-day operations of the center and team, overseeing more than three dozen programs and projects and coordinating efforts with the broader EFC Network. Jennifer also served five years as the EFC's Research Associate for Green Infrastructure, managing the center's green infrastructure finance programming, spanning large landscape conservation, habitat management, urban land use and stormwater management applications of green infrastructure. Her own projects over the past ten years have involved research and analysis on resource management, financial business planning, and public education and community engagement, particularly in the water quality regulatory arena. Jennifer has been a guest lecturer for UMD's Plant and Landscape Architecture program and Virginia Tech's Executive Masters in Natural Resources Program. Current and recent projects include: overseeing the delivery of technical assistance on water infrastructure to Mid-Atlantic communities; supporting the development of a Sustainability and Climate Action plan for Towson University; connecting university resources to community food forests and urban farms; co-leading a One Water Finance stakeholder process for the Philadelphia Water Department; and Stormwater Unit studies for six Maryland communities.

EDUCATION:

University of Maryland, College Park, MS in Sustainable Development & Conservation Biology
Marymount University, Arlington, VA, BA in Communications

AFFILIATIONS AND ADDITIONAL ROLES:

Environmental Finance Center Network; Source Water Collaborative; Maryland Watershed Assistance Collaborative; Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Government Leadership Workgroup.