



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

September 30, 2026
Healthy Landscapes Goal Team

Land Use Planning & Decision Support (LUDS) Outcome Management Strategy Updates

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Overview

- I. Approvals/Timeline
- II. Management Approaches
- III. Jurisdictional Programs
- IV. Questions



Approvals & Timeline

Approvals & Timeline for Land Use Outcome Materials

Management Strategies for Goal [#]: [Goal Name]

Goal
[copy and paste Goal language from the CBWA]
[[Numbering format used throughout the Strategic Plan, Management Strategies, and Workplan documents: [Goal Number]],[Outcome Number],[Management Approach Number],[Workplan Activity Number]
*0 is used as the Outcome number for Goal-level analyses]

Situation Analysis for Goal [#]: [Goal Name]
In the table below, the Goal Team has summarized the most critical challenges facing each of its Outcomes that are within CBP's ability to impact or influence. The Goal Team and its Workgroups, as appropriate, have identified those challenges show in **bold** as critical for Workgroups to begin addressing within the next six years via the development and implementation of Management Approaches. Challenges associated with Changing Environmental Conditions are denoted with an asterisk (*). [In the table below, add "Challenges" in the first column, then place an "X" to identify which Outcomes are facing that challenge. Do not include Workgroups. Where feasible, Goal Teams should describe challenges that exist across Outcomes first brainstorm situation analysis responses at the discussions about commonalities, differences, re addressing identified challenges. While workgroups influencing Outcome attainment that are both within control, Goal Team documentation in the situation challenges that CBP can impact. Challenges and considerations may not apply to all Outcomes and Workgroups.]

Land Use Planning & Decision Support

Develop and disseminate relevant and actionable land use information in consultation with local governments, to organizations and communities involved in local and regional land use planning. This information should include past, present and future conditions, as well as the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of changing conditions.

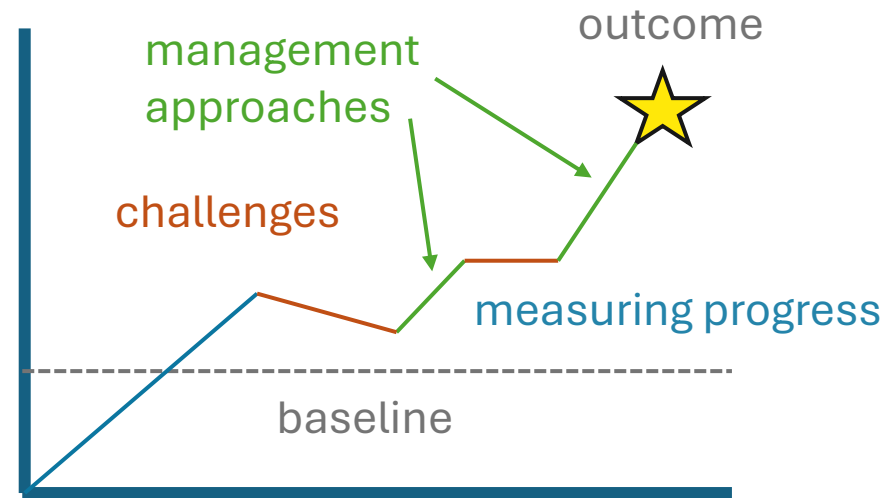
- Develop at least five use cases annually, informed by and provided at the county, watershed or municipal scale to inform land use planning and decisions and maintain the ecological integrity of watersheds supporting good stream health. Use cases can include watershed protection, aquatic connectivity, stormwater, tree canopy, agricultural preservation or redevelopment.
- Highlight at least two widely applicable land use cases annually to showcase best practices and share this information with local governments and partners through diverse communications products.

In **late 2026/early 2027**, we plan to start working on our “workplan” to outlines specific tasks on how we plan to accomplish our Management Strategy.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 1: Partnership coordination - develop shared stream restoration monitoring protocols and technical guidelines.				
Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
1.1	Form an action team to identify commonalities among existing protocols	Volunteers XYZ Workgroup members & jurisdiction representatives	Watershed-wide	Winter 2024 – Summer 2024
1.2	Develop a STAC Workshop proposal to engage scientific experts to identify best practices & identify monitoring priorities from diverse stakeholders. If funded, convene diverse stakeholders, host workshop, & finalize workshop report	XYZ Workgroup Chairs, Coordinator, Staffer & Workgroup members STAC Workshop Planning Committee	Watershed-wide	Winter 2024 Summer 2024 – Spring 2025
1.3	Collaborate on & shared stream restoration monitoring protocols and technical guidelines.	XYZ Workgroup Chairs, Coordinator, Staffer, & Workgroup members (including jurisdiction representatives)	Watershed-wide	Fall 2024
1.4	Update ABC stream restoration database. Analyze reported data.	XYZ Workgroup Chairs, Coordinator, & Staffer	Watershed-wide	Spring 2025
1.5	Convene XYZ workgroup meeting to reflect on shared protocols & yr 1 data.	XYZ Workgroup	Watershed-wide	Fall 2025
How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?		What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?
Stream restoration monitoring protocols and technical guidelines are inconsistent between individual jurisdictions, federal agencies and NGOs. Establishing consistent, shared protocols and guidelines will enhance watershed-wide monitoring efforts and for improve our understanding of the effectiveness of stream restoration efforts.		Number of partners who adopt & utilize shared protocols & guidelines. Improvement to information collected in ABC stream restoration database, and improved understanding of stream restoration effectiveness.	Annually updated ABC stream restoration database Use data to assess number, impact & geographic spread of stream restoration projects. Apply learnings to BMP development.	• STAC workshop report • Presentation of findings to MB • Leverage trusted stakeholders w/in jurisdictions

In **August 2026**, the Land Use Workgroup approved the near-final Land Use Planning and Decision Support outcome Management Strategy.

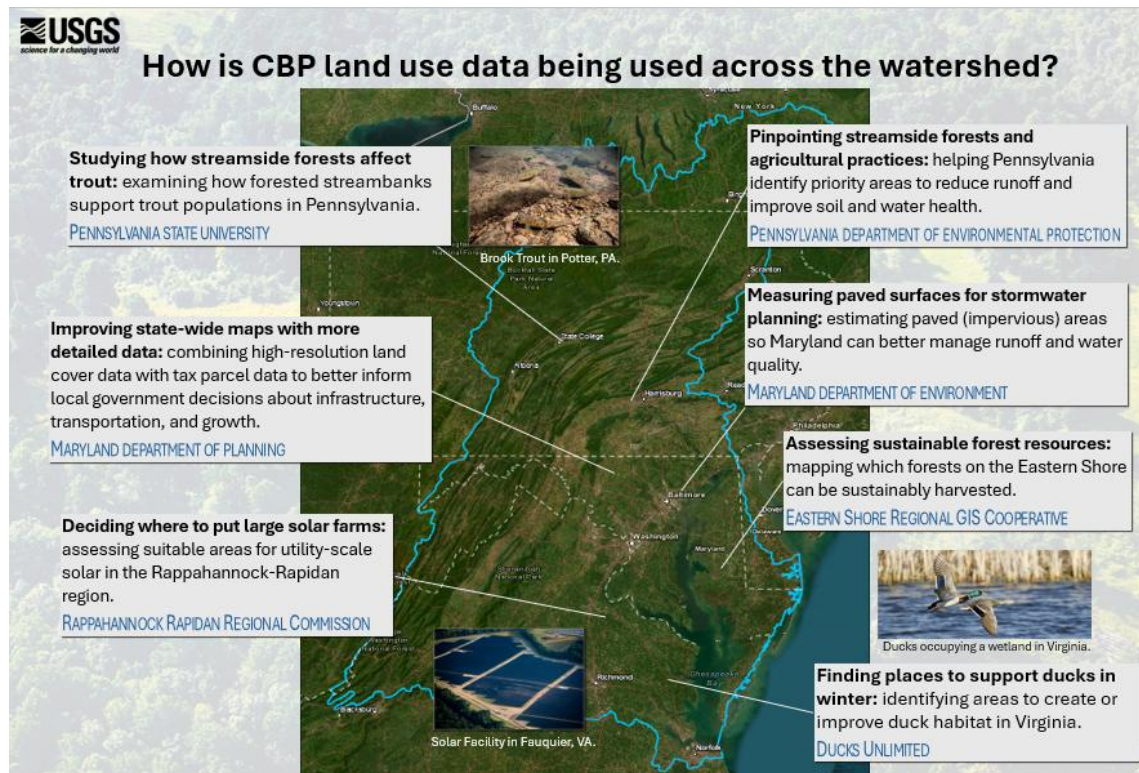
* Snapshot of signatory programs and statutory authority of signatories sections will be added at a later date once obtained from the Goal Team.



Management Approaches

How might we address the challenges identified in “Situation Analysis”?

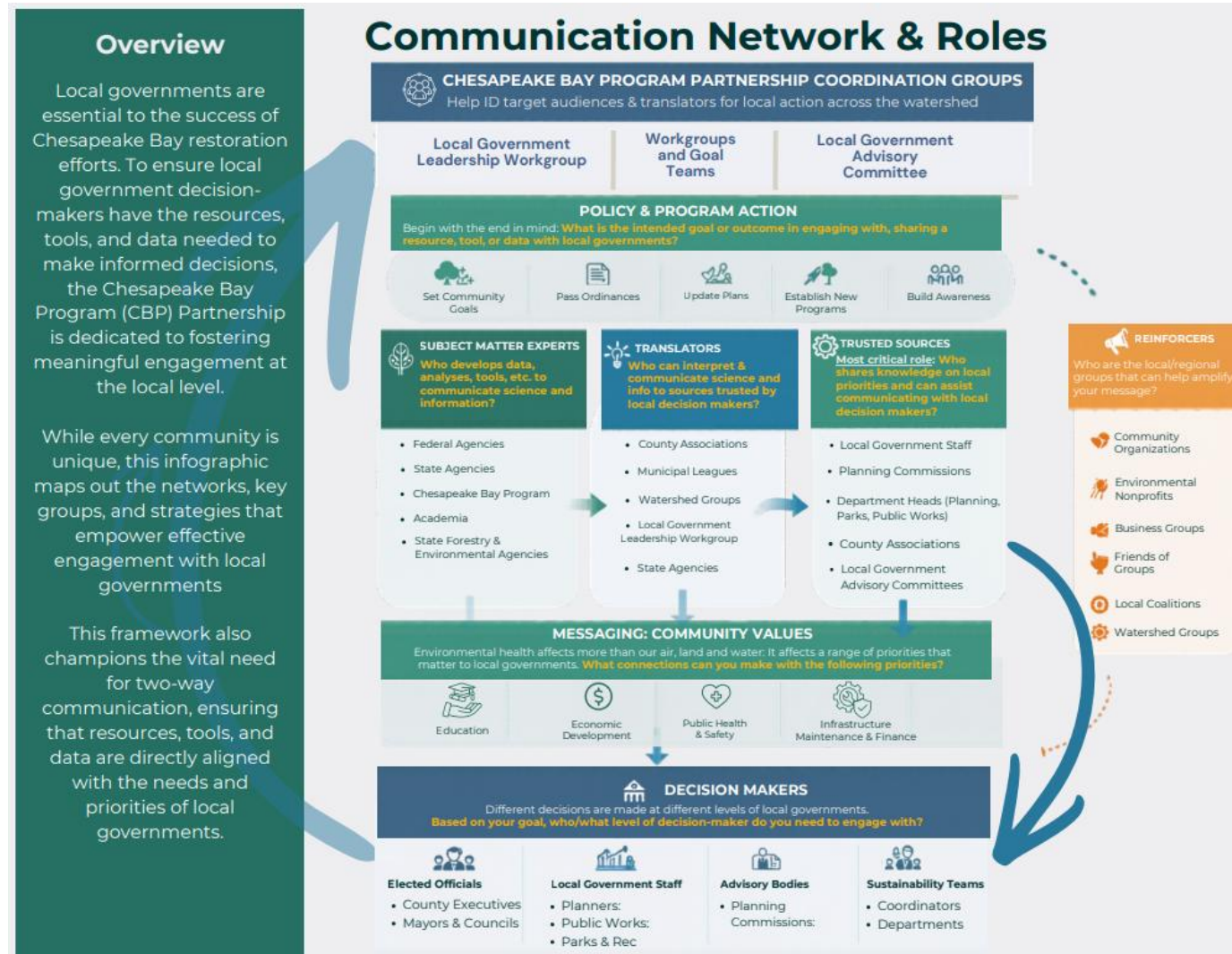
Management Approach 3.3.1: Expand and Improve the Land Use Decision Support Use-Case Repository



- Refine use-case survey to collect essential information
- Display in web viewer or story map
- Leverage examples for outreach
- Publish annual impact memo to highlight five use cases that influence planning decisions and two widely applicable use cases

Management Approach 3.3.2: Strengthen Local Land Use Decisions Through Trusted Networks

- Use CBP's Local Government Leadership Workgroup to identify and engage with trusted sources and regional partners
- Identify local priorities and community values
- Leverage existing use-cases for outreach





Jurisdictional Programs

Signatory Snapshot(as of 09/28/2026)

Delaware

- [Chesapeake Implementation Program](#) (Estimated \$200K in FY25 for Land Use and Decision Support in Chesapeake Bay Watershed) oversees several funding programs while working closely with related programs to help local governments, community groups, and landowners in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed take actions and make changes to protect and improve water quality in the watershed through planning and implementation.
- [Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination](#) (FY25 – N/A**) provides continuous improvement of the coordination and effectiveness of land use decisions made by state, county, and municipal governments while building and maintaining a high quality of life in the State of Delaware.
- ** Annual appropriations are a mix of federal and state sources and cannot be determined at this time.

Maryland

- [Critical Area Commission](#) (\$2.9M in FY25) The Commission works with local area management programs to foster consistent, uniform, and sensitive development activity within the Critical Area - which includes all land within 1,000 feet of Maryland's tidal waters and tidal wetlands - to minimize the adverse effect of human activities on water quality and natural habitats.

Pennsylvania

- [Department of Community and Economic Development Community Planning Technical Assistance Program \(C-TAP\)](#) helps local and county governments, along with municipal partner organizations, plan, prepare, and implement strategies that support long-term growth and development. C-TAP helps communities move confidently from idea to implementation, with up to 400 hours of technical assistance available per project.
- [Department of Community and Economic Development Municipal Assistance Program \(MAP\)](#) provides funding to assist local governments to plan for and efficiently implement a variety of policies, programs, or projects, and soundly manage development with an emphasis on intergovernmental approaches. Funding is available for two groups of activities: shared services, and community planning. \$621,156 in grants were awarded in May 2026 to 14 projects across 14 counties.
- [Department of Transportation Free Assistance to Municipalities](#) to better integrate local land use, development, and transportation goals into the state transportation planning process. Any municipal staff member, government official, or planning partner is eligible to request free assistance to help during any stage of the land use and transportation planning or project development process.
- The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code mandates that the Governor's Center for Local Government Services prepare a comprehensive State Land Use and Growth Management Report every five years, beginning in 2005. This requirement is codified in Section 107 of the Code, which defines the report as containing information, data, and conclusions on statewide growth and development patterns, plus recommendations for coordination of executive action, regulation, and programs. The most recent report was published in 2025: [2025 State Land Use and Growth Management Report - PA Department of Community & Economic Development](#)

Signatory Snapshot (as of 09/28/2026)

District of Columbia

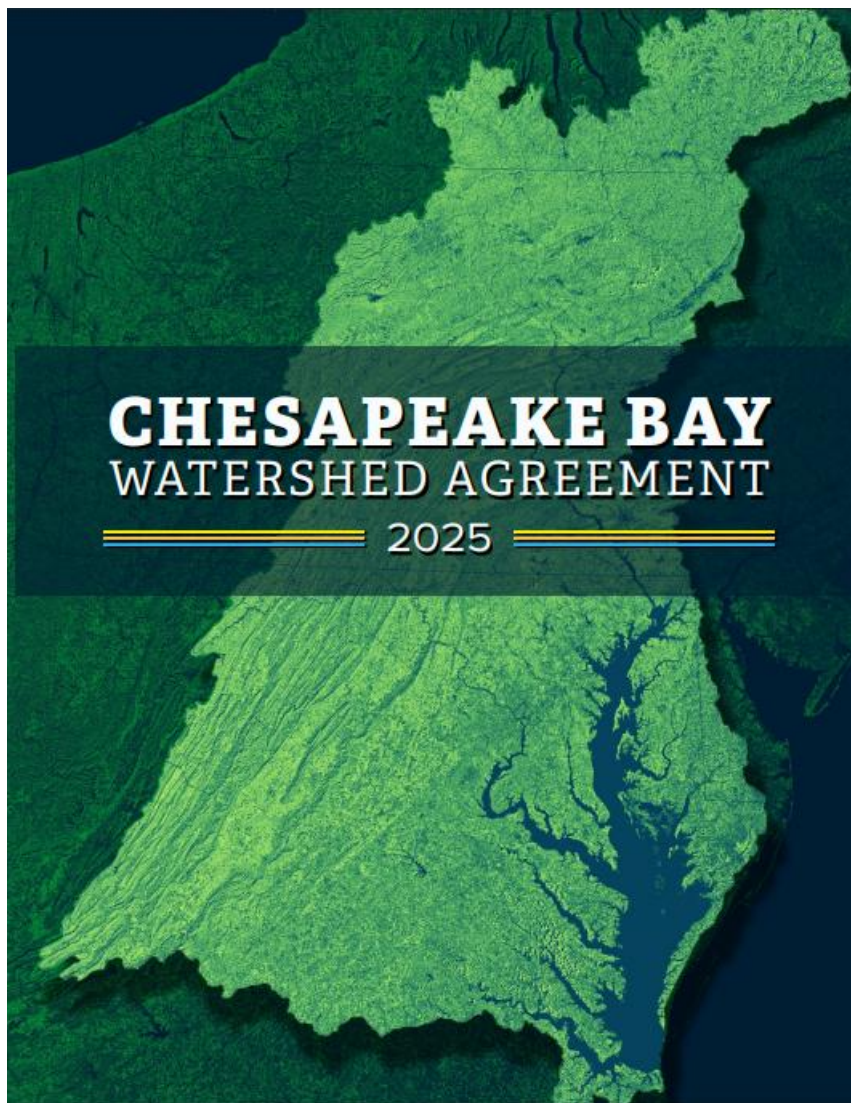
- Small Area Plans (DOEE does not have an associated funding amount): DC's Small Area Plans ([Small Area Plans, Studies and Reports | op](#)) are planning documents that guide land-use decisions at the neighborhood scale, shaping redevelopment, zoning updates, and public-realm investments; they provide a structured pathway for integrating stormwater management, tree canopy goals, and climate resilience into future growth across priority corridors and emerging development areas.
- Office of District Waterways Management (\$270,000 in FY26) The Office of District Waterways Management advises District agencies on waterways adjacent land-use and infrastructure decisions that affect local rivers. The Waterways Advisory Commission provides guidance on environmental protection, stormwater pollution mitigation, and public access needs on waterways adjacent land. ODWM is developing the Waterways Advisory Plan, a framework that reconciles diverse priorities to support more resilient waterways.

Chesapeake Bay Commission

- As a tri-state legislative commission, the Chesapeake Bay Commission advances the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement by working collaboratively with Bay Program partners to identify and pursue legislative, budgetary, and policy needs within the legislatures of our member states and the U.S. Congress.

Statutory Authority (as of 09/28/2026)

Outcome: Land Use Planning & Decision Support	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Va. Code § 30-240
	MD Natural Resources Code §8-301
	1985, June 25, P.L. 64, No. 25
Pennsylvania	PA Clean Streams Law
	25 Pa. Code Chapter 102. Erosion And Sediment Control
	PA ACRE Law (Act 38)
	Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code
Maryland	COMAR 27 Critical Area Commission
	MD Public Safety Code §14-1201 - §14-1204 Office of Resilience
District of Columbia	Zoning Act of 1938, approved June 20, 1938 (52 Stat. 797; D.C. Official Code § 6-641.01 (2008 Repl.); Green Area Ratio 11-C DCMR § 600
	D.C. Law 24-20. Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2021



Thank you!

Any Questions?
Contact Jackie Pickford, USGS/CBPO at
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Acronyms

- CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program (partnership)
- CBPO: Chesapeake Bay Program Office
- CBLCM: Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model
- CBWA: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
- LDT: Land Data Team (internal CBPO land use team)
- LGLW: [Local Government Leadership Workgroup](#)
- LUDS: Land Use Planning & Decision Support [Outcome]
- LULC: Land Use/Land Cover
- LUWG: [Land Use Workgroup](#)
- MS: Management Strategy
- USGS: United States Geological Survey



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Appendix A: Official Language from Management Strategy

Reference slides with official language taken from the near-final Management Strategy for the Land Use Planning & Decision Support Outcome.

Full near-final draft can be accessed here:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/files/documents/Management-Strategy_LUDS_NEARFINAL_20260831.pdf

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- Highlight at least two widely applicable land use cases annually to showcase best practices and share this information with local governments and partners through diverse communications products.

Management Approach 3.3.1: Expand and Improve the Land Use Decision Support Use-Case Repository

The LUWG will enhance its use case repository by transforming it into a more accessible system that supports local planning and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals. The LUWG will refine the current use case survey, or create a follow-up survey, to collect essential details, such as problem framing, decision context, data sources, partners, methods, outcomes, and opportunities for replication. The LUWG will also develop a public-facing online viewer or story-map platform that allows users to search case studies by topic, jurisdiction, or watershed and explore examples through visual formats and links to relevant datasets. The viewer will be developed with extensive feedback from state and local partners to ensure it is useful and aligned with their needs.

To highlight progress, LUWG will publish an annual “Impact Memo” featuring at least five influential use cases and two broadly applicable examples. Jurisdictions will be encouraged to contribute and champion use cases for inclusion each year. The memo could also summarize metrics demonstrating how examples influence decisions, policies, and environmental outcomes across the watershed.

Management Approach 3.3.2: Strengthen Local Land Use Decisions Through Trusted Networks

The LUWG will work to strengthen land use decisions through trusted networks by utilizing concepts from the Communication Network & Roles Framework, developed in coordination with the Local Government Leadership Workgroup (LGLW). The LUWG will leverage the Local Government Leadership Workgroup (LGLW) and the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to identify local priorities, gather structured feedback on data products, and understand which information formats are most useful to local governments. This partnership will also help reveal the trusted communication channels that already exist with local governments. In addition to trusted sources represented on LGLW and LGAC, the LUWG will identify and engage influential networks such as watershed organizations, agricultural partners, non-profits, universities, or regional planning organizations that often serve as key conduits for land use information. Using insights from these networks, LUWG will update existing products or develop new communication materials to meet locally defined needs. Some examples of this may include creating impervious surface change summaries, updating tree canopy analyses, integrating parcel-level data with Chesapeake Bay Program land use datasets, identifying flood-prone areas, or mapping future development probability using land use forecasting tools.

Whenever possible, the LUWG will adapt, replicate, or promote existing use cases to help jurisdictions or trusted sources apply proven approaches without starting from scratch. Throughout this process, the LUWG will maintain consistent two-way communication with LGLW, LGAC and other trusted sources, creating regular opportunities for feedback and collaborative refinement of land use-related data and tools.