Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

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Local Government Leadership Workgroup Report

Maura Christian, VA DEQ, Chair
Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG, Vice Chair

Local Government Leadership

Outcome:

Increase knowledge and support the capacity of local government leaders in decision-making, such as land-use planning, to implement local actions that advance the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Targets:

Engage directly (e.g., roundtable discussions) with at least 400 local government leaders annually.

Engage indirectly (e.g., newsletters) with at least 4,000 local government leaders annually.

Direct Engagement



Wandering Pennsylvania's Waterways Peer to Peer Tour

Panel on Stormwater at Pennsylvania Municipal League Summit



Indirect Engagement

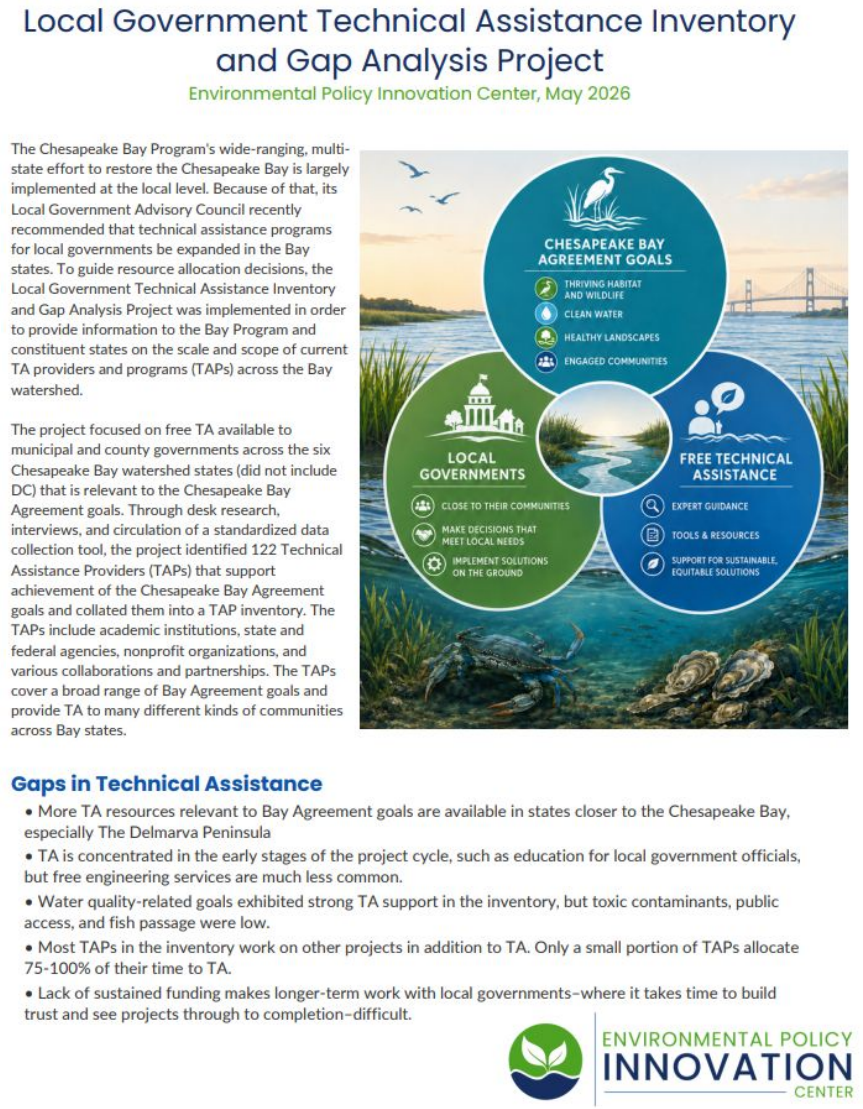


<u>Since launching about three years ago:</u>

- 18k page views (5.9k in the last year)
- 8.7k unique users (3.5k in the last year)
- *How Your Watershed Works* and *Protecting Your Infrastructure Through Stormwater Resilience* are the most popular modules

Local Government Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis

- Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) recommendation on expanding technical assistance led to GIT-funded project to inventory existing technical assistance and identify gaps
- LGLW served as technical lead on this project
- Identified 123 free local government TA providers from federal, state, regional, county, academic and non-profit partners
- Found uneven geographic distribution and uneven distribution across *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* outcomes
- List of recommendations on filling gaps



Local Government Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis Project

Environmental Policy Innovation Center, May 2026

The Chesapeake Bay Program's wide-ranging, multi-state effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay is largely implemented at the local level. Because of that, its Local Government Advisory Council recently recommended that technical assistance programs for local governments be expanded in the Bay states. To guide resource allocation decisions, the Local Government Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis Project was implemented in order to provide information to the Bay Program and constituent states on the scale and scope of current TA providers and programs (TAPs) across the Bay watershed.

The project focused on free TA available to municipal and county governments across the six Chesapeake Bay watershed states (did not include DC) that is relevant to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals. Through desk research, interviews, and circulation of a standardized data collection tool, the project identified 122 Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) that support achievement of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals and collated them into a TAP inventory. The TAPs include academic institutions, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and various collaborations and partnerships. The TAPs cover a broad range of Bay Agreement goals and provide TA to many different kinds of communities across Bay states.

Gaps in Technical Assistance

- More TA resources relevant to Bay Agreement goals are available in states closer to the Chesapeake Bay, especially The Delmarva Peninsula
- TA is concentrated in the early stages of the project cycle, such as education for local government officials, but free engineering services are much less common.
- Water quality-related goals exhibited strong TA support in the inventory, but toxic contaminants, public access, and fish passage were low.
- Most TAPs in the inventory work on other projects in addition to TA. Only a small portion of TAPs allocate 75-100% of their time to TA.
- Lack of sustained funding makes longer-term work with local governments–where it takes time to build trust and see projects through to completion–difficult.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INNOVATION CENTER

LGLW Quarterly Meetings

- Quarterly Meeting - August 25th 9:30am - 11:30am
  - Identified resources related to changing land use and tree canopy
  - Reviewed and discussed the draft *Local Government Leadership Management Strategy*

- Quarterly Meeting - November 19th 9:30am - 11:30am
  - Objectives:
    - Identify and share resources to increase the knowledge and capacity of local government leaders on septics and rural wastewater management
    - Plan for Local Government Leadership workgroup activities in 2027