



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Discussion: What does 2040 mean for RENPS Target 2?

WQGIT/CWGT Meeting
April 27th, 2026

Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Sediment


Implement and maintain practices and controls to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. These reductions are necessary to achieve the applicable water quality standards, as described in the Bay TMDL. Those water quality standards support living resources and protect human health, as required by the Clean Water Act.

- Through 2030, signatories will continue to accelerate completion of all interim water quality planning targets through implementation of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans, two-year milestone commitments and other innovative strategies to achieve and maintain reduced levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.
- By December 31, 2030, revise the planning targets approved by the Principals' Staff Committee for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, incorporating the latest watershed modeling, monitoring data and research findings, and develop new or amended Watershed Implementation Plans to meet the updated targets by 2040.
- Demonstrate net reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment through multiple lines of evidence, including modeling and monitoring data.




RENPS Target #2

By December 31, 2030, revise the planning targets approved by the Principals' Staff Committee for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, incorporating the latest watershed modeling, monitoring data and research findings, and develop new or amended Watershed Implementation Plans to meet the updated targets by 2040.






Key Questions

- What does 2040 signify for RENPS Target 2?
 - What is our objective for 2040?
 - How do we articulate that to the public?
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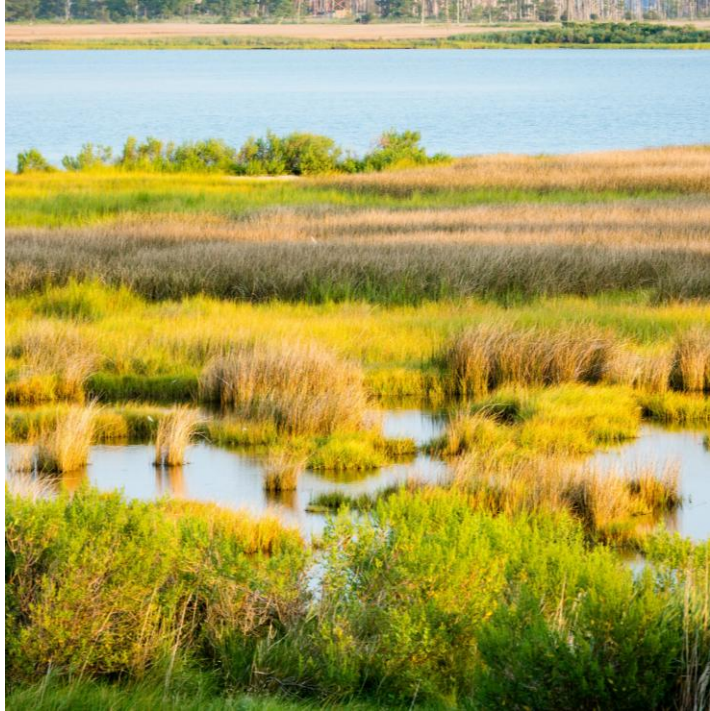
Considerations

- With previous estimations of the impacts and increased level of effort based on changing environmental conditions, it may realistically take longer than 2040 to meet all water quality criteria in all Bay segments.
 - Our 2040 objectives should be challenging, but achievable. How far do we go?
 - What does meeting our past objective of all practice in place to meet water quality standards look like?
 - How does tiered implementation fit into this? Is it part of a longer timeline with some interim set of objectives in 2040?
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Planning Target Development Considerations

- What is the lowest common denominator for planning target development? Water Quality Standards? Other outcomes?
 - Default method
 - Default method “on steroids”
 - Outside-in
 - Tiered implementation
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Karen Noonan Center in Crocheron, Md. | Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

Next Steps

Presentation and continued discussion at the June 22-23 hybrid CWGT meeting.

Questions or comments? Email CWGT leadership:
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