CLIMATE RESILIENCY GOAL

Climate Adaptation Outcome

2025 PROGRESS
OFF COURSE

OUTCOME: Continually pursue, design and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The Climate Adaptation Outcome is off course. Very little has been done to pursue, design and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of the Bay and aquatic ecosystems. This is in part due to limited progress on the monitoring and assessment outcome, which will provide information to guide adaptation actions. Current coordination efforts with local governments and subject matter experts are leading to recommendations addressing climate-related flooding. More work is required to connect scientific assessments with adaptation planning to target, design and ultimately fund the implementation of restoration and protection projects.

BACKGROUND: While no formal ecological condition or programmatic baseline for climate adaptation had been established prior to the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, Chesapeake Bay Program partners had been engaged in climate change-related activities for several years. In the 2010 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, it was noted that changing climatic conditions are a significant challenge to the successful restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The Climate Adaptation Outcome is built off of the strategy's recommended objectives to minimize the vulnerability of the watershed, including its habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to adverse impacts from climate change, as well as demonstrate and implement effective restoration planning. Reports prepared by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (particularly, *Climate Change and the Chesapeake Bay: State-of-the-Science-Review and Recommendations*) have provided a sound basis pursing, designing and constructing restoration and projection projects to enhance the resiliency to the impacts of changing climatic conditions within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

BASELINE: A current baseline for the Climate Adaptation Outcome does not yet exist. However, on-the-ground restoration efforts will be addressed largely through the 29 individual outcomes that make up the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. It is highly recommended that these efforts be made "climate smart" by considering and integrating changing climatic conditions, such as sea level rise and storm surge factors in the pursuit, design, implementation and long-term maintenance of restoration components for each outcome. Climate change considerations must also be designed into current agricultural, forestry, urban and wastewater best management practices.

DATA SOURCE: Data sources do not currently inform the Climate Adaptation Outcome.