



## PHASE III WIP GENERAL INFORMATION FACT SHEET

# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' ROLE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CLEANUP EFFORT

On Dec. 29, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a historic and comprehensive cleanup plan with accountability features to guide federal, state and local actions as they work to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and the streams, creeks and rivers that feed into it. Specifically, the TMDL calls for a 25% reduction in nitrogen, 24% reduction in phosphorus and 20% reduction in sediment delivered to the Chesapeake Bay. The TMDL was required under the federal Clean Water Act and responded to consent decrees in Virginia and the District of Columbia from the late 1990s.

Local governments throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, along with federal and state government, nonprofit organizations, private businesses and citizens, are making significant progress restoring and protecting the health of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. By taking actions such as upgrading wastewater treatment plants, reducing stormwater runoff and restoring streambanks to reduce erosion, local governments are ensuring that waterways are less polluted, communities can attract new businesses, home values increase and drinking water quality is protected. Although this progress is commendable, many waterways throughout the region remain impaired. Stakeholders must continue working to meet the pollution-reduction targets established in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

### Actions Guided by State-Developed Watershed Implementation Plans

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) created by each state serve as a guide for meeting the pollution-reduction targets in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Phase I WIPs, developed in 2010, describe actions the states need to take by 2017 and 2025. Phase II WIPs, developed by the states in 2012, build on the initial Phase I WIPs by identifying specific activities that need to be implemented locally. Two-year "Milestone" targets also guide implementation by describing specific actions to be taken by the state or others during the next two-year period.

### How Are We Doing?

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners are conducting a "Midpoint Assessment" to evaluate progress toward the 2017 goal of having practices in place to meet 60% of the overall nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions required in the TMDL.

As part of the Midpoint Assessment, the suite of computer analysis models, commonly referred to as "the Chesapeake Watershed Model" or "Model," is being enhanced. The revised Model, which informs the actions of those working to restore the Chesapeake Bay, will allow reporting of newly approved pollution-reduction practices. In addition, updated high-resolution land use and land cover data have been incorporated to more accurately represent what's happening on the ground. Finally, the Model has been calibrated using almost three decades' worth (1985 to 2013) of water quality monitoring data from a network of more than 200 monitoring stations (tidal and non-tidal) throughout the watershed.

### What Do Local Governments Need to Do?

**Ensure local actions are reported to the state.** Each state is responsible for reporting to EPA, actions taken during the last year to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution. States in turn need local governments, farmers and others working at the local level to report actions they've taken so that the state can report the full extent of actions taken within the state. This information, along with other data such as the number and type of septic systems and agricultural census data, is fed into the Model to assess progress made to date towards the overall pollution reduction targets and inform the next set of Two-year Milestones.

**Help develop the state's WIP.** Local governments' play a vital role in implementing a state's WIP. EPA expects each state to establish measurable local planning goals. These local planning goals, and strategies for achieving them, will be articulated in each state's Phase III WIP.

### THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED:

Spans **64,000 square miles** and includes the District of Columbia and portions of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

### POPULATION:

**18 million residents**  
(2010 Census)

### UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

**+/- 1,800**



*It is critical that local government leaders are involved in developing the WIP to ensure the plans are realistic, reflect local priorities, will benefit local communities and clearly identify the resources (e.g., funding, technical support) that are needed to get the job done.*

For more information on the Local Government Advisory Committee  
[www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/local\\_government\\_advisory\\_committee](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/local_government_advisory_committee)



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

### Greetings, MML Summer Conference Participants!

As you may know, between now and April 2019, Maryland and the other Bay states will develop Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to reduce pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. These plans, required by the federal Clean Water Act, will chart a course for achieving each state's share of the Bay cleanup goal by 2025.

We need your help to ensure we develop a cost-effective WIP that meets federal requirements while supporting local needs and interests. Partnerships and open dialogue will be essential to craft a successful final WIP.

Maryland stands to benefit greatly by this federal initiative that ensures our upstream neighbors do their fair share of the cleanup. We are confident that we can chart a fiscally viable path to our 2025 Bay cleanup target and beyond. Because of good investments already being made, Maryland has a strong foundation on which to build.



We want to work with you, your staff and your constituents to help shape Maryland's plan. For more information, please contact Ms. Kathy Stecker at (410) 537-3864 or [Kathy.Stecker@Maryland.gov](mailto:Kathy.Stecker@Maryland.gov). Thank you, and enjoy the conference!

**Ben Grumbles**

**Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment**

### General WIP Schedule

**2016** - Finish collecting background information and develop WIP planning tools

**2017** - Initiate the Phase III WIP planning process

**2018-2019** - Complete a draft WIP in 2018 and a final WIP in April 2019

### For More Information

**Get local water quality information:**  
[eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov](mailto:eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov)

**Maryland's Chesapeake Cleanup page:**  
[bit.ly/MDbayclean](http://bit.ly/MDbayclean)