

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL & Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan

Working Together to Clean Local Waters and the Chesapeake Bay

How Will Maryland Develop the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP)?

During 2011, the State is working with local teams to develop the Maryland Phase II WIP. The local teams, organized at the county scale, include representation of entities with responsibility and authority to control nutrient and sediment pollution like county and municipal governments, Soil Conservation Districts, federal and state agencies among others.

State staff will serve as "Liaisons" to the local teams and lead them through the steps to formulate the plan. Guidance materials for the development process are provided on the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) website.

We realize that this is a very difficult time for local governments, businesses, communities and our citizens. It is also a critical time for the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams, that have driven the economy of Maryland and helped to form her identity as a desirable place to live, work, and play. Working together in a coordinated and strategic approach, we can be successful in restoring the Bay to a healthy and sustainable level for future citizens of Maryland to respect and enjoy.

What Can You Do As An Elected Official to Help With The WIP?

1. Support and encourage staff to:
 - Participate on or lead the local WIP Team.
 - Verify/check state data on your jurisdiction's current rate of implementation.
 - Identify their anticipated rate of implementation based on permit requirements, past experience or anticipated budget constraints.
 - Identify local needs, barriers, and issues to meeting the target load.
 - Describe current and expected mechanisms for tracking progress.
 - Develop strategies and a schedule to address barriers and needs that may include:
 - Programmatic or regulatory issues, funding, technical support, land availability.
 - Write the plan with state staff assistance as appropriate and needed.
2. Introduce yourself to your state WIP liaison.
3. Ask for regular updates on the WIP development.
4. Support the web page that is set up for each county to inform the public on team meetings, actions, updates and products.



Key dates in 2011 and 2012 for the Phase II WIP and Two-Year Milestones

EPA is requiring draft Phase II WIPs by December 1, 2011. Maryland's schedule to meet this deadlines is as follows:

- **April-August 2011** - Work with local teams to compile current and anticipated level of implementation, define tracking programs and identify potential strategies and milestones for consideration in the final draft. Also prepare local teams to work with final allocations when released in August.
- **August 15, 2011 - November 1, 2011** - Deliver county scale allocations by sector to local teams and develop strategies and 2 year milestones to meet the allocations.
- **November 1, 2011** - Draft local county scale plans are due to the State for compiling into the statewide plan.
- **December 1, 2011** - State delivers draft Phase II WIP to EPA with county scale chapters.
- **December 1, 2011 - February 1, 2012** - EPA reviews State WIP to assure the strategies will meet TMDL allocation and provide reasonable assurance.
- **December 1, 2011 - March 30, 2012** - State and/or local public review timeframe.
- **March 30, 2012** - Final WIP due to EPA

Practices That Reduce Pollution - *What Can You Do To Help?*

Much of the Phase II WIP will be consistent with Phase I but will be more geographically specific and reflect local preferences for strategies and approaches. Maryland has moved forward to deal with nutrient sources including regulation to address air pollution, lawn fertilizer and septic systems in the Critical Area.

Plant Natural Filters

- Restore wetlands on public and non-agricultural private lands
- Plant streamside forest buffers
- Plant streamside grass buffers and restore grasslands

Upgrade Wastewater Treatment Plants

With State help from the Bay Restoration Fund

- Eliminate sewer overflows
- Upgrade Wastewater Treatment Plants to Maryland's Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) standards including federal facilities

Reduce Urban Stormwater

- Renew stormwater permits to require reductions
- Increase rural residential tree planting
- Implement urban tree canopy goals
- Implement stream restoration and connection to the flood plain to mimic natural stream conditions and provide nutrient and sediment reduction

Upgrade or Eliminate Septic Systems

- Continue to eliminate or upgrade new and failing septic systems especially in the Critical Area
- Connect septic to ENR wastewater treatment plants
- Require upgrade all septic systems in Critical Area

Offset for Future Growth

- Account for and offset nutrient and sediment loads from growth
- Adopt nutrient offset policies and programs for septic system and land development
- Participate in nutrient trading programs
- Create incentives for smart growth

Agriculture

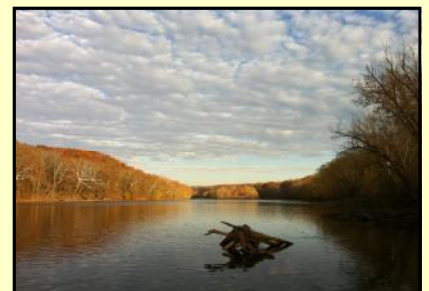
Local governments can work cooperatively with Soil Conservation Districts to enhance the local ability to meet restoration goals.

Local Soil Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Extension Service staff will work with farmers to install specific practices that may include:

- Plant cover crops
- Develop and implement Nutrient Management Plans and Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans
- Manage cropland irrigation
- Construct runoff control systems
- Increase no-till farming
- Restore drainage channels and streams
- Increase the management of livestock and poultry manure and waste through a variety of practices
- Use "Phosphorus-sorbing" materials to soak up dissolved phosphorus
- Construct water control structures
- Protect streams and stream banks with and without fencing
- Plant streamside grass and forest buffers
- Construct wetlands
- Retire highly erodible land
- Establish setbacks from streams for the application of crop nutrients and for livestock feeding areas
- Implement Decision / Precision Agriculture
- Develop other innovative practices appropriate for the region

State Contacts for the Watershed Implementation Plan

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| • Jim George
410-537-3579 | Maryland Department of the Environment
jgeorge@mde.state.md.us |
| • Catherine Shanks
410-260-8717 | Maryland Department of Natural Resources
cshanks@dnr.state.md.us |
| • Jason Dubow
410-767-3370 | Maryland Department of Planning
jdubow@mdp.state.md.us |
| • Beth Horsey
410-841-5896 | Maryland Department of Agriculture
horseyea@mda.state.md.us |



Helpful Websites for More Information

- **MDE**- [Development Support for the Chesapeake Bay Phase II WIP](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/PhaseIIBayWIPDev.aspx)
www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/PhaseIIBayWIPDev.aspx
- **EPA**- [Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\), or Bay TMDL](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/ChesapeakeBay/tmdlexec.html)
www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/ChesapeakeBay/tmdlexec.html