



## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES November 2022

### **Chesapeake Bay Program**

[The 2025 Bay Restoration Goal Won't be Met, but Recent Investments are a Reason for Optimism](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Leaders Resolute Even as Cleanup Targets Become More Elusive](#)

As the 2025 federal deadline for states to meet ambitious goals for cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay draws closer, it is starting to dawn on state and U.S. officials and other stakeholders that some states will fall short.

The Bay Barometer Report, released in October, Highlights Progress Towards Nine Environmental Outcomes

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/annual-report-spotlights-the-chesapeake-bay-programs-continued-restoration-efforts>

A “Clean Water Story” for the Clean Water Act’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/my-clean-water-story-martha-shimkin>

Maryland’s Chesapeake Conservation Corps is Twelve Years Strong and Expanding in Climate Change Focus

[https://www.bayjournal.com/news/climate\\_change/chesapeake-conservation-corps-delivers-results-and-expands/article\\_850f8d44-507d-11ed-9b7a-4308dc9b8628.html](https://www.bayjournal.com/news/climate_change/chesapeake-conservation-corps-delivers-results-and-expands/article_850f8d44-507d-11ed-9b7a-4308dc9b8628.html)

### **Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater**

[Virginia Department of Environmental Quality releases integrated water quality report](#)

This biennial report satisfies the requirements of the U.S. Clean Water Act sections 305(b) and 303(d) and the [Virginia Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act](#).

### **COG’s Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) Updates**

The CEC has created a several 15-second videos for social media to inform residents to throw wipes in the trash. They are currently being promoted on Facebook. Here is one of the videos:

<https://protectyourpipes.org/wipes>

Later this November the CEC will be opening an Art Contest for high school students on the theme of source water protection. More information will be available on the COG website. The CEC will also be messaging on YouTube and Facebook about avoiding pouring fats and oils down the drain in time for Thanksgiving.

<https://protectyourpipes.org/grease>

### **Equity Tools**

Below are links to COG’s Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) webpage and to the Maryland Department of Environment’s (MDE) EJ Screening Tool.

<https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/equity-emphasis-areas-eeas/>

<https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/EJ/>

This month MDE is using their EJ Screening Tool to update how Maryland defines “disadvantaged communities criteria.” One reason that the definition of the disadvantaged communities criteria is important is that it is a qualifying measure for much of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s no interest funding being dispersed through state revolving fund (SRF) programs.

### **Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought**

[Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin CO-OP begins daily monitoring due to low streamflow on the Potomac River](#)

CO-OP begins daily monitoring when flow at the [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) stream gage](#) at Point of Rocks, Maryland, falls below 2,000 cubic feet per second. During drought monitoring, CO-OP sends out daily email reports to stakeholders summarizing flow, weather, and demand conditions.

### **Climate and Energy**

[Region Surpasses 2020 Climate Goal](#)

At its October meeting, area leaders on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors were presented with preliminary results revealing the region met and surpassed its climate goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. COG staff told the board that emissions decreased at least 24 percent between 2005 and 2020.

[Officials recognize local initiatives for actions advancing regional climate goals](#)

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) presented the 2022 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards to Frederick County for its Power Saving Outreach and Engagement Initiative for Vulnerable Communities Project and the Rise N Shine Foundation Inc. for its “Can We Do Something About Food Waste?” project. These projects were recognized for contributing to COG’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and advance equity across the region by prioritizing historically underserved populations in the planning of their programs.

[Fairfax County Board Adopts its Climate Resilience Plan which includes stormwater and drinking water.](#)

Fairfax County now has a plan to become more resilient in the face of a warming planet. The County Board of Supervisors adopted the plan, which lays out a roadmap to help residents and infrastructure adapt to a warmer and wetter climate. [The Resilient Fairfax plan](#) analyzes the impacts climate change will bring to the county in coming decades. Among the biggest threats: an increase in the number of days with extreme heat, as well as longer, hotter summers.

[Chesapeake States to Get Millions for Climate-Smart Ag Practices](#)

Federal grants totaling hundreds of millions of dollars are heading to Chesapeake Bay drainage states as part of an initiative to get farmers and forest landowners to adopt climate-smart practices.

## [County Faces Increased Flooding With the Rise of Climate Change](#)

As climate change intensifies, Prince George's County continues to be affected in a variety of ways.

## **Food and Agriculture**

### [The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's New Report Highlights the Economic Benefits of Investing in Agricultural Conservation Practices.](#)

### [Students Are Learning and Growing in Frederick Douglass' Garden Lab](#)

When Kindergarten teacher Marykirk Cunningham first arrived at Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Leesburg 11 years ago, she saw a large, open courtyard space in the center of the newly built school and knew that it was an opportunity for "something special."

### [AS COP27 Approaches, a Push for More Attention to Food and Agriculture](#)

On November 6, world leaders met in Egypt for [COP27](#), the 27th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference. In the run-up to the event, many groups called attention to what they see as an alarming lack of progress toward reducing emissions from food and agriculture and building a more resilient system.

### [Federal Government Has Given \\$800 Million to Keep Indebted Farmers Afloat](#)

More than 13,000 farmers have benefited from nearly \$800 million in federal debt relief, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said Tuesday.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- COG's Annual Meeting is December 14
- CBPC 2023 Meeting Dates:
  - January 20
  - March 17
  - May 19
  - July 21 (joint with CEEPC)
  - September 15 (Annual Forum)
  - November 17

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