

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

Clean, safe water is fundamental to life, to public health, and the economy. Few services are more important than reliable delivery of high-quality drinking water; collecting wastewater from homes and businesses and transforming it into clean water; and managing stormwater runoff to mitigate flooding and reduce pollution.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) is comprised of elected officials, and area government and water utility management. The CBPC has worked regionally since 1998 to improve water quality in area streams, the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. It tracks developments under the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program for implications to local governments and recommends Bay-related policies to the COG Board in addition to addressing a range of water resource issues.



CBPC 2019 Accomplishments:

- **Advocated for Chesapeake Bay Program FY 2020 reauthorization and increased funding.**
- **Commented on MD and VA Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans.**
- **Prepared COG's *Potomac Water Quality Report*.**
- **Formed CBPC Ag Task Force to further agricultural sustainability and resiliency.**
- **Advocacy during Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week 2019**

Strategic Vision

The CBPC committee addresses regional water quality issues, under these five focus areas:

1. Representing the region's technical and policy interests to the Chesapeake Bay Program and providing a voice for local perspectives.
2. Taking policy positions and actions that align with the COG Board's **Legislative Priorities**.
3. Tracking emerging issues, evolving science, and regulations related to water quality, wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water; and collaborating on best management practices.
4. Public outreach and advocacy about Bay restoration progress and local/regional water quality issues. An example is Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.
5. Coordinating with COG's **CEEPC committee** on common objectives such as tree canopy management, sustainable agriculture, and resilience strategies.

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