

## Challenge

Meeting Chesapeake Bay goals for reducing pollution from urban sources in the Washington metropolitan region will require the implementation of increasingly costly pollution controls. Improvements to date in reducing the amount of nutrients and sediment that flow to the Bay have come largely from upgrades to wastewater treatment plants and the implementation of best management practices on farms. However, the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program has determined that the Bay is still too polluted to meet water quality standards.

Under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulation that EPA issued in December 2010, the Bay watershed states and the District of Columbia are required to pursue further efforts to reduce pollution. These include additional reductions from the agricultural community and wastewater plants, as well as increased regulatory (MS4) requirements for local government stormwater management programs. These include provisions to retrofit older developed areas built before the routine installation of modern stormwater controls, which is a complex, highly costly process. In comparison to reduction efforts to date, these potential new measures will cost several orders of magnitude more per pound of pollutant removed, potentially as much as \$10 billion in the COG region. Based on current budgets and technology, this will exceed local governments' ability to achieve full implementation by the current 2025 deadline.

### Chesapeake Bay by the numbers:

- Largest estuary in the United States
- 200 miles in length
- 64,000 square mile watershed area
- 11,684 miles of shoreline
- 150 major rivers and streams in watershed

## Regional Commitment:

By 2025, achieve 100% of Chesapeake Bay Program's Water Quality Implementation Goals;

By 2050, 50% of all sentinel watersheds will be in good or excellent condition

### Region Forward Sustainability Targets

*COG's members have:*

- Participated in efforts to develop more detailed plans for implementing the Bay TMDL, known as watershed implementation plans (WIPs);
- Remained on schedule installing state-of-the-art controls at their wastewater plants;
- Implemented utility fees or dedicated taxes to raise additional funding and install more water quality controls under their stormwater management programs;
- Pioneered state-of-the-art stormwater technology, such as low-impact development and environmental site design techniques, as well as extensive efforts to educate the public on the impacts of urban stormwater.

# One Region Moving Forward

# Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

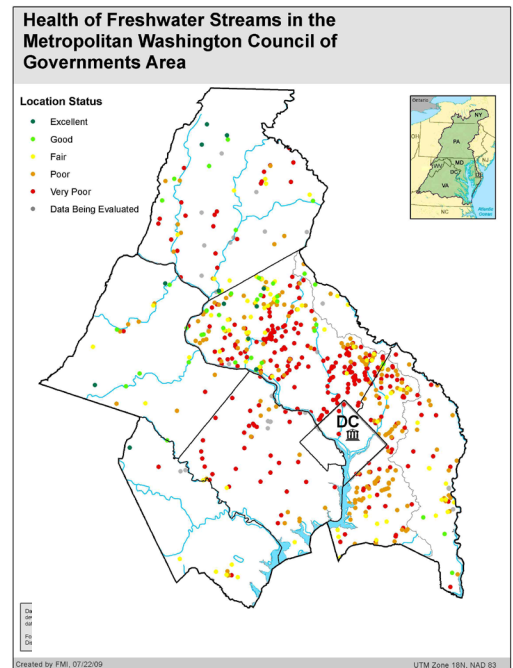
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22 Jurisdictions • 250+ Elected Officials • 5 Million Residents



## What We Need From You

- Flexible, realistic schedules for TMDL implementation; consideration should be given to extending the 2025 deadline
- Development of alternatives to installing highly expensive stormwater retrofits of existing urban lands as a means of reducing urban stormwater pollution, such as viable trading systems between stormwater and wastewater or with agriculture
- Funding support from state and federal governments, including enhancements to existing programs that provide cost-share funds for wastewater plant upgrades, as well as new funds to supplement other local government responsibilities, such as for stormwater management and septic systems
- State and federal regulations that provide flexibility to local governments in the implementation of new stormwater standards, that favor infill development and that integrate MS4 permit and Bay restoration requirements



For more information about COG, this Chesapeake Bay & Stormwater Management Policy Brief, or any other of COG's Policy Priorities, please contact Nicole Hange, COG's Government Relations Coordinator at 202.962.3231 or [nhange@mwkog.org](mailto:nhange@mwkog.org)

# One Region Moving Forward

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