



Progress and Future Challenges

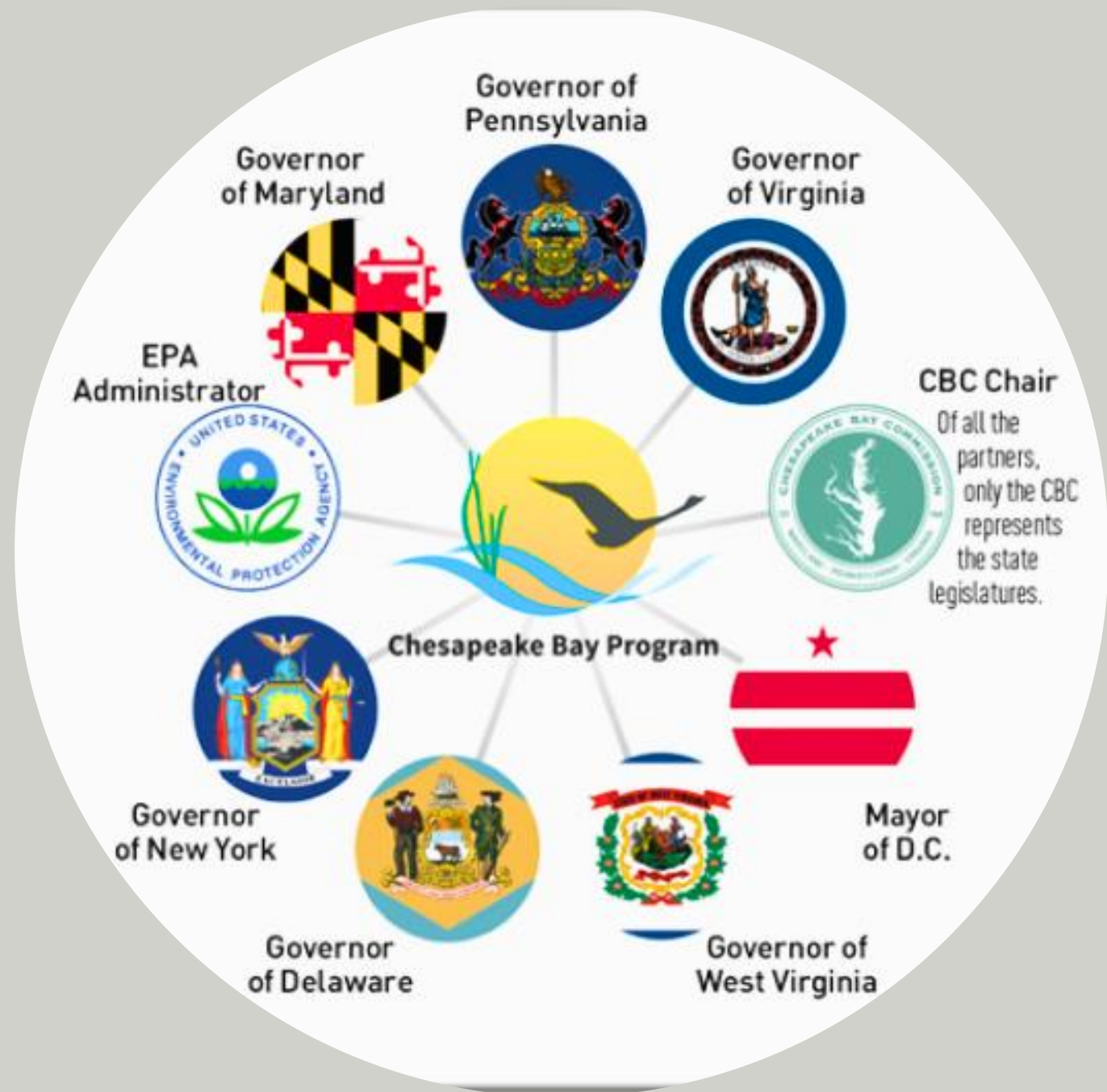
FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

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Chesapeake Bay Commission

Metropolitan Washington Council on Governments
Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
May 19, 2023



About the Chesapeake Bay Commission



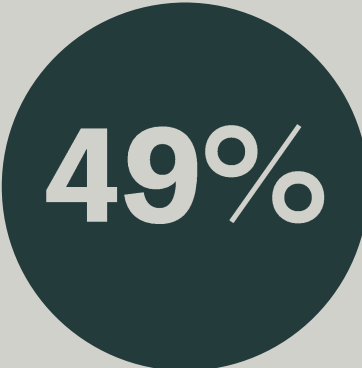
TRI-STATE LEGISLATIVE BODY

- Codified by General Assemblies of MD, VA, and PA in the 1980s
- Signatory to each Bay Agreement
- Legislative voice within the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Advise General Assemblies and US Congress
- Translate science and local issues into policy

7 MEMBERS FROM EACH STATE

- 2 State Senators
- 3 House Members
- 1 Gubernatorial Designee
- 1 Citizen Representative

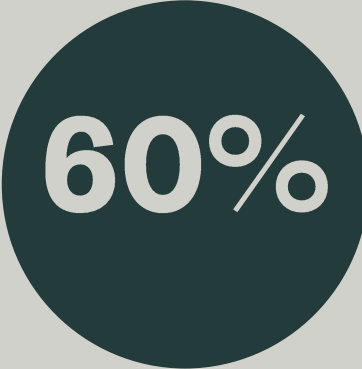
Watershed Implementation Plans



Nitrogen pollution
reduction goal
achieved by 2021



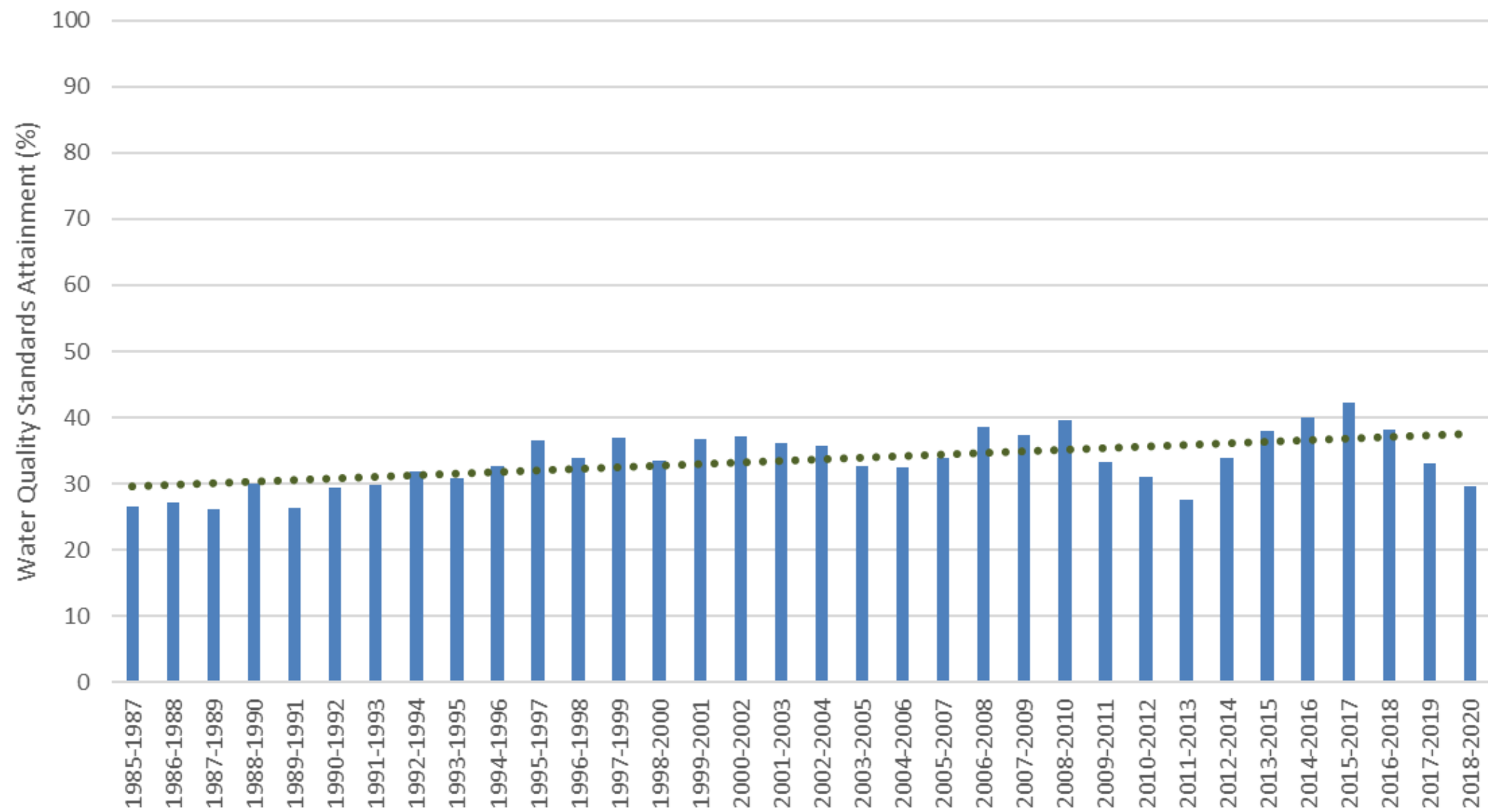
Percent of total
nitrogen reductions
achieved by the
Developed sector



Percent of total nitrogen
reductions achieved by
Wastewater



Achievement of Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards 1985-2020



Water Quality Response

Only 29% of tidal waters have attained water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll *a* -- up from 26% in 1985 but down from an all-time high of 42%.

**"...clean water,
abundant life,
conserved lands,
and access to the
water, a vibrant
cultural heritage
and a diversity of
engaged
stakeholders."**

**- Chesapeake Bay Program
Vision**

10

Goals

31

Outcomes

14

Outcomes Completed
or On Course

17

Outcomes Uncertain
or Off Course



Advancing an Ecosystem and all its services

Greater recognition of how our goals and outcomes relate to each other and to the beneficial use of our watershed's natural resources will help diversify our stakeholders and our resources, empowering local action watershed-wide.



Photo: Dave Harp

Fisheries

"[Blue Crab] fishery exploitation rates have been low, but both **adult abundance and recruitment have not increased consistently as expected.** This apparent disconnect between the spawning stock, recruitment, and fishery performance indicates **a clear and pressing need to reevaluate the stock assessment model.**"

-2022 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab
Advisory Report

Forests and Tree Canopy

190,557
acres

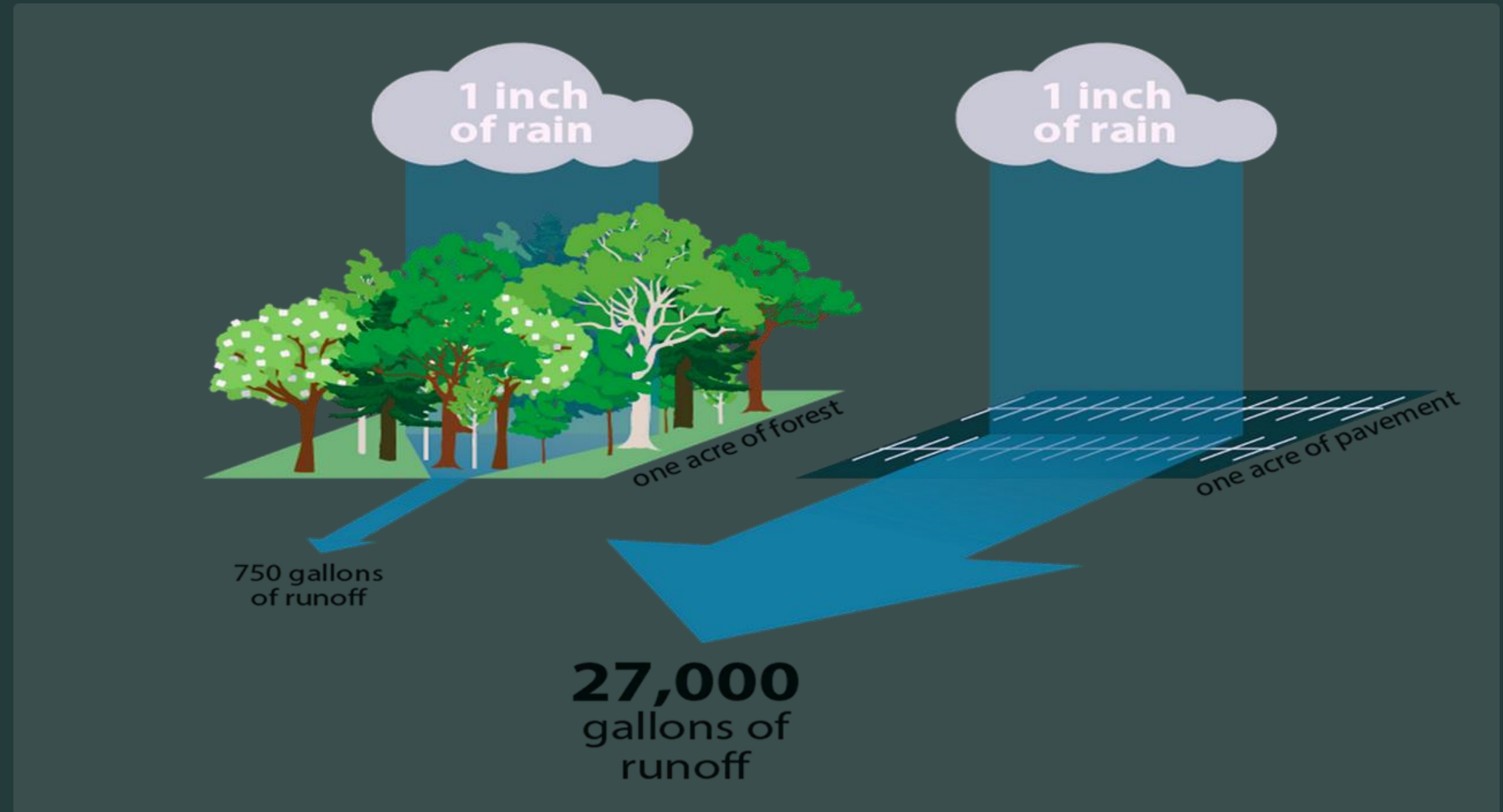
Cumulative forest buffer implementation planned by 2025

20%

Forest buffer progress by 2021

25,000
acres

Net loss in Urban Tree Canopy Cover between 2013/14 and 2017/18



Green Fin Studio for Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium

Climate Change

Understanding how our changing projections of rainfall, sea levels, and temperatures will impact runoff rates, freshwater flows, habitat loss and species response.

Helping communities mitigate the impacts to their homes, their livelihoods, and their culturally-significant spaces.



High tide flooding in Annapolis
Source: WTOP news

Chesapeake Bay Conference, Dec. 8, 1983
Chesapeake Bay Program photo archives



Thank you

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