

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES March 2021

Chesapeake Bay Program

Biden Pick for EPA Pledges Support for Chesapeake Bay

Biden's choice for EPA Administrator, Michael Ragan, at his February 3rd confirmation hearing assured Senators Cardin and Van Hollen that he would uphold Bay TMDL goals, in addition to restoring science, transparency and a focus on climate change in EPA.

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/policy/biden-epa-pick-pledges-resources-to-help-meet-chesapeake-cleanup-goals/article_52f928ce-6a15-11eb-be5c-ffab6260dd10.html

Local Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater

Summary of 2021 Legislative Session Focus Areas for MD and VA

This article provides a good overview of the core environmental legislative agendas for Maryland and Virginia this year.

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/climate_change/states-mull-conservation-action-under-shadow-of-covid-19/article_aec370d0-540b-11eb-9d77-0b7710f1b953.html

Water Utilities' Customer Relief Programs

COG's CEC committee has developed social media messaging to urge customers to call them to learn about bill relief programs and payment plans. Please contact Heidi Bonnaffon, hbonnaffon@mwcog.org for graphics.

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/consumer/some-providers-have-free-money-to-help-with-your-utility-bills/2583667/>

Earth Day is April 22

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Project Clean Stream lists stream cleanup projects happening around the region.

<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/project/project-clean-stream/>

Drug Take Back Day is April 24

The DEA Drug Take Back Day is April 24, 2021 from 10:00-2:00. Unwanted medications can be dropped off at locations around the COG region, which is better for water quality than flushing them.

For more information and to locate permanent drop boxes:

<https://protectyourpipes.org/medications>

Winter Salts

Road Salts Can Be Toxic to Fish

<https://www.npr.org/local/305/2021/03/15/977435049/road-salt-can-be-toxic-to-wildlife-did-it-kill-these-fish-in-gaithersburg>

The CEC has developed messaging tips for winter salts. The northern Virginia Salt Management Strategy Toolkit is publicly available via the 2nd link below.

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/policy/prescription-for-northern-virginia-low-salt-diet/article_6c3e50d6-69af-11eb-ba41-237f8c1e43a0.html?mc_cid=c09d28d81a&mc_eid=UNIQID

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/water-resources/outreach-and-education/winter-salt-smart/>

Food and Agriculture

Earth Day Food Waste Challenge for schools and other teams

Teams can enter a challenge to measure their food waste and reduce it. Enter by April 1. Recycle Leaders, Audubon Naturalist Society and Sustainable DC have organized a challenge to reduce food waste. It counts toward student community service credits.

<https://www.recycleleaders.com/current-challenge>

Building Racial Equity in the Food System

The Virginia Tech Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation & R.E.A.L (Racial Equity in Agriculture Lab) present “Building Racial Equity in the Food System: From Individual Anti-Racism to Dismantling Institutional Systems”

A Two-Part Workshop, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 | 10:30-12:30 & 2:30-4:30 (EDT)

More information and [RSVP here](#).

Climate and Energy

May 2021 Conservation Café: William Pegeus: Cooling our Cities with Real Cool Roofs!

<https://anshome.org/events/conservation-cafe-green-roofs/>

Member News

COG’s Policy Committees Lead the Way on Regional Issues

<https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2021/03/04/cog-policy-committees-help-lead-the-way-on-regions-priorities/>

DC Water is LEED Platinum Green Building

In February the U.S. Green Building Council awarded DC Water's headquarters building a LEED Platinum certification.

<https://www.dewater.com/whats-going-on/news/dc-water%E2%80%99s-iconic-green-glass-headquarters-awarded-leed-platinum-distinction>

Fairfax County Department of Public Works Awarded Eight APWA Awards

This article provides an overview of the eight recent American Public Work Association recognitions for Fairfax County.

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/feb/18/fairfax-county-department-public-works-and-environ/>

Fairfax County to add Solar Panels to Some Government Buildings

http://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/fairfax-to-add-solar-panels-to-some-county-buildings/article_32a1524c-720b-11eb-91af-d7cbd0259c24.html

Upcoming Meetings and Events

The next Food and Agriculture Regional Member Ad Hoc Committee (FARM) will be Friday, April 9th at 11 am. COG anticipates that its Regional Food Access and Food Security calls on Thursdays at 4 pm will reconvene in late March.

CBPC May 21, 2021

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