

A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay

BUILDING THE WORKFORCE OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay is a seven-module series created to support decision making by local officials. As a local leader, your decisions set the course for your community. Your actions determine the health and vitality of your jurisdiction, as well as that of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. You can achieve win-win outcomes by prioritizing local economic development, infrastructure resiliency, public health, and education while also protecting your environment. This fact sheet accompanies a module about the importance of a skilled green workforce and how to prepare your community's workers for the future.

WHAT'S THE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW?

The jobs of the 20th century have dwindled and given rise to new fields, including what are referred to as green jobs. Green jobs include working for a business that benefits the environment or working to make their establishment more environmentally friendly.

The green economy in the United States is valued at **\$1.3 trillion** annually, employing nearly **9.5 million** workers.

Green job sectors include:

Georgeson and Maslin 2019



Outdoor recreation & parks



Green infrastructure



Clean energy



Green construction

PREPARING YOUR WORKFORCE

Use these examples to think about ways that you can train, expand, and inspire your community's workforce.



Programs in Maryland and Virginia have trained commercial fishers (or watermen) to lead on-water tours using their own vessels and expertise. These tourism opportunities bring new visitors and the watermen guides show tourists first-hand why a clean, restored Chesapeake Bay is necessary for healthy, abundant local seafood. The Watermen Heritage Tourism Program in Virginia also helps watermen supplement their fishing incomes while sharing their knowledge with others.

Photo by Green Fin Studio

Howard EcoWorks offers Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY), a summer workforce program for young adults aged 16-25 years old. This program teaches high school students and young adults about the environment, increasing stewardship giving them valuable work experience in a green job.



Photo by W. Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program



The Clean Water Certificate (CWC) Training Program trains workers to fill entry-level jobs in the stormwater industry; the certificate is a foundation for additional credentials and helps the existing workforce expand their careers. The program also aims to increase opportunities for individuals in low-income communities and under- or unemployed individuals to secure a living wage job leading to financial stability.

Photo by W. Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Create hands-on learning opportunities for installation and maintenance of best practices that address local needs such as flooding and beautification.



Prioritize contracting with local workforce development programs for green infrastructure installation/maintenance, especially those that work with previously incarcerated, veteran, and other disadvantaged populations.



Require the hiring of trained and certified contractors to install and maintain publicly funded green infrastructure.



Invest in your future workforce by funding STEM education, with a particular focus on under-resourced communities.

A FEW RESOURCES

Beyond this module, here are a few other resources you may find useful.

Alliance for Chesapeake Bay's Workforce Development Programs
<http://bit.ly/AllianceWorkforce>
Learn about the Correctional Conservation Collaborative, Ready Green Jobs Training Project, and RiverSmart Stormwater Contractor Training programs.

Maryland Climate Leadership Academy
<https://www.mdclimateacademy.org/>
Advances the capacity of state and local government agencies, infrastructure organizations and businesses to develop and implement sound climate change initiatives to ensure current and future public health, security, and economic prosperity.

EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants
<http://bit.ly/EPAJobGrants>
Find information about EPA's workforce development grants, including resources like FAQs.

EPA's Making Water a Career of Choice
<http://bit.ly/EPAWaterCareers>
Explore water workforce case studies from across the country (including one in PA and one in VA).