

A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay

CLEAN WATER FOR THE ECONOMY

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 focused on the economy.

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Clean water attracts and supports businesses, including breweries, farms, restaurants, and outdoor recreation.



Turkey Hill Dairy's partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers cooperative helps dairy farmers implement conservation plans to prevent nutrients and sediment from flowing into local waterways. The Natural Resource Conservation Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation contribute funding. Farms that implement the plans using grant money receive a premium from Turkey Hill for their milk. To learn more, visit the [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's](#) website.

Over 120 breweries nationwide have joined the Natural Resource Defense Council's Brewers for Clean Water Campaign in support of clean water legislation, proclaiming small streams and wetlands essential to brewing craft beer. In 2019, there were almost 1,300 breweries in the Chesapeake Bay watershed states valued at \$13.9 billion and employing 98,000+ people.

Data from the [Brewer's Association](#)



COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF CLEAN AND HEALTHY WATERWAYS



Geese, ducks, deer, fish, and other wildlife rely on healthy habitats. In the United States, people on recreational fishing and hunting trips spent about **\$30 billion** on gear, travel, and other purchases related to their craft in 2016.

Data from the [Fish and Wildlife Service](#)



Disease-causing bacteria and harmful algal blooms caused by excessive nutrients can make people sick if they play in, on, or near the water or through fish and shellfish harvested from polluted waters.



Wetlands absorb and filter water, protecting your infrastructure from flooding while keeping local waterways clean.



Interpretive outdoor experiences and environmental education are more impactful when learners have access to a hands-on, outdoor learning environment.

Photos by W. Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Reduce impervious surfaces in your jurisdiction to limit pollutants entering your local waterways and protect local water quality. Review the module for technical and financial resources, as well as case studies for inspiration from other communities.



Prioritize habitat conservation and protection for water quality. Nature does a better and cheaper job at protecting water quality than built infrastructure. See the module "Preserving Local Character and Landscapes" for more information.



Lead your community to achieve environmental and local government goals by exploring technical and funding resources, like grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, EPA, and your state.



Share this information with others to create an even stronger, more resilient community.

A FEW RESOURCES

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

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Saving Chesapeake Bay - It's a Job

<https://youtu.be/d073bGPaWJw>

Hear about jobs that were created and are supported by the reduction of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Prince George's County's The Economic Values of Nature

<http://bit.ly/ValueofNature>

Read through a real example of a county that has quantified the benefits of their trees

EPA's The Economic Benefits of Protecting Healthy Watersheds

<http://bit.ly/WetlandBenefitsEPA>

Learn about the monetary values of ecosystem services that wetlands provide in this fact sheet.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's The Economic Benefits of Cleaning Up the Chesapeake

<http://bit.ly/BenefitsOfCleaningUpTheChesapeake>

Learn about the value of benefits gained by having clean water.