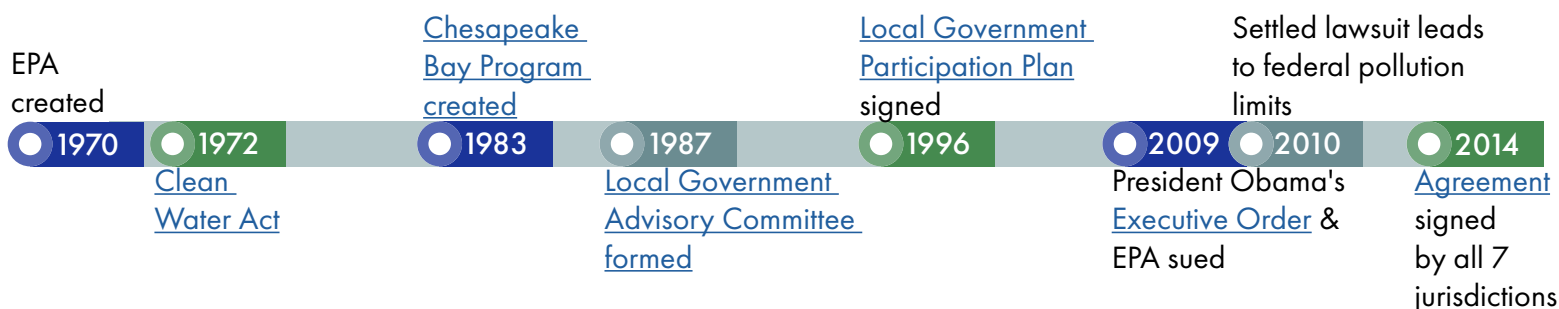## A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay
FOUNDATIONS OF CLEAN WATER

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 exploring clean water rules & regulations.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Many environmental policies in place today are the result of past and present bipartisan action.

Year	Event (above)	Event (below)
1970	EPA created	
1972		Clean Water Act
1983	Chesapeake Bay Program created	
1987		Local Government Advisory Committee formed
1996	Local Government Participation Plan signed	
2009	Settled lawsuit leads to federal pollution limits	President Obama's Executive Order & EPA sued
2010		President Obama's Executive Order & EPA sued
2014		Agreement signed by all 7 jurisdictions

IN THE PRESENT

The tourism industry loses about **$1 billion each year** because of nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms.

A toxic algae called cyanobacteria are lethal to animals, including people, fish, dogs, and livestock and grow in polluted waters.

Nitrogen pollution in wellwater can cause health complications for pregnant women and infants.

Check the EPA's website to find water infrastructure grant programs.

Learn more about the Chesapeake Bay Program's Environmental Literacy goal.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) are federal "pollution diets" that limit the amount of pollutants that can enter a waterbody. The Chesapeake Bay TMDL addresses pollutant limits for nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment entering the Bay and its tidal waters.

The Bay's TMDL numbers are set based on modeling tools, monitoring data, peer-reviewed science, and input from jurisdictions to ensure that the Bay and its tidal rivers will meet, and then continue to meet, water quality standards.

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) detail how each jurisdiction will meet their TMDL requirements.

Photos by W. Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

Please visit the Chesapeake Bay Program website for more information.

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PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT YOU CAN DO

See what your jurisdiction is doing to meet their TMDL requirements:
- Chesapeake Bay milestones and two-year programmatic milestone goals
- Information on each jurisdiction's Phase III WIPs
- WIPs Jurisdiction Contacts

Explore collaborative partnerships to help meet TMDLs.
- For an example, read about Turtle Creek in PA

Support environmental protections that are essential for a healthy and resilient community.

A FEW RESOURCES

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

Chesapeake Bay Commission's 40th Anniversary Webinar recording and presentation
https://www.chesbay.us/webinar
Learn about the history of the Chesapeake Bay watershed protections

Chesapeake Bay Program's Restoring the Chesapeake Watershed
http://bit.ly/CBPhistory
Hear a brief overview of the formation and progress in this five-minute video.

Chesapeake Bay Program's Understanding Chesapeake Bay Modeling Tools: A history of updates, governance, policy and procedures
http://bit.ly/CBModelingTools
Explore TMDLs, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, and more in this short document.

The EPA Administrators: Looking back at 50 years of environmental protection
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGRHCfC5oqM
Hear EPA administrators throughout history talk about their time at the EPA in a 7-minute video.