

## WV Two Year Milestone Summary

West Virginia is committed to meeting our current obligations within our Two Year Milestones and further reduce nutrient and sediment runoff with our 2025 progress being the baseline. As we move into Phase 7 and begin to work on the new outcomes and targets associated with the amended Chesapeake Bay Agreement West Virginia's primary focus will be on water quality and more specifically the reduction of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment across non-point and point sources within our Chesapeake Bay region. As in the past, West Virginia's primary focus will be on both the agriculture and developed sectors as those are our most prominent sources of nutrient pollution. West Virginia will reduce nitrogen and phosphorus runoff into the Chesapeake Bay watershed by accelerating agricultural best management practices (BMPs), such as planting cover crops, installing forest buffers, and improving nutrient management. Further efforts include upgrading wastewater treatment plants and implementing urban green infrastructure to reduce polluted runoff.

Within the Agriculture sector West Virginia will continue to encourage BMP implementation through cover crops, reducing nutrient runoff through transfer of excess poultry litter as well as establish new poultry litter programs, exclusion fencing, planting riparian forest buffers and developing and implementing Nutrient Management Plans throughout the region. This will be done by both on the ground efforts by the WV Department of Agriculture as well as outreach and education of our farmers and producers within the Bay watershed.

Within the developed sectors West Virginia has and will continue to reduce nutrient runoff through the development of new and upgraded wastewater treatment facilities and encouraging and providing funding for green infrastructure within and around our municipalities. WV is the most forested and least developed state in the Bay watershed with 78% of the state being forested. As more development occurs within our Bay watershed WV will continue to enforce regulatory requirements for new wastewater facilities to offset any nutrient increase caused by these expansions. WV is currently developing a nutrient trading program within our Bay Counties in order to ensure nutrient credits are available to offset any new facility construction. This program will allow for economic growth while still managing our nutrient runoff to the Chesapeake Bay.

West Virginia has also partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Trust which has greatly increased our capacity to oversee and implement Green Infrastructure projects over the past 3 years. This partnership is proving to be a catalyst in WV by putting projects on the ground faster with greater efficiency. Thirty two projects have been funded since 2023 and this partnership will allow WV to expedite nutrient reductions moving forward.