

Water Quality Improvement Assistance

Many communities have expressed a desire to demonstrate a “good faith effort” with regard to improving water quality in advance of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development and/or implementation. This fact sheet contains a compilation of financial, technical, and informational resources that may assist with these activities. Additional resources may be available through other public and private sources, and communities are encouraged to explore them as well.

STATE AGENCY RESOURCES (see also www.op.state.md.us/clhouse/redbook/redbook.html)

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: Works to reclaim and restore land and water resources adversely affected by past mining activities. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 301-689-6764 x317 for more information.

Bay Restoration Fund: A dedicated fund, financed by wastewater treatment plant users, to upgrade major Maryland’s wastewater treatment plants with enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technology and septic systems to best available technology for nitrogen removal. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3806 for more information.

Biological Nutrient Removal Cost-Share Program: Provides, as part of the Chesapeake Bay 40% nutrient reduction strategy, grants to local municipalities and agencies for the removal of nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3806 for more information.

Boat Sewage Pump-out Program: Provides grants for the purchase

and installation of marine sewage pumpout facilities at public and private marinas. Call Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8772 for more information.

Buffer Incentive Program: Offers information about planting forest buffers along streams and waterways to help reduce non-point source pollution. Call Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8531 for more information.

Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program: Provides grants to assess non-point source water quality problems and implement recommendations. Call Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8735 for more information.

Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program: Assists farmers and landowners in implementing best management practices to reduce agricultural sources of water pollution. Call Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5864 for more information.

Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program: Provides grants and assistance to preserve and protect coastal resources. Call Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8740 for more information.

Maryland Cooperative Extension: Offers publications regarding water resources and the Chesapeake Bay. Go to www.agnr.umd.edu/ces/pubs/topics/watreschesbay.html for a list of available titles.

Maryland Drinking Water and Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund Programs: Offer low-interest loans for water quality improvement projects. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3119 for more information.

Maryland Linked Deposit Water Quality Loan Program: Offers

low-interest financing for capital improvements to reduce nutrient loading to the Chesapeake Bay. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3119 for more information.

Rural Legacy Program: Provides the focus and funding necessary to protect large, contiguous tracts of land and other strategically chosen areas from sprawl development and to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection through cooperative efforts among state and local governments and land trusts. For more information, go to www.dnr.state.md.us/rurallegacy.

Sewage Facilities Supplemental Assistance Grant Program: Provides financial assistance to local governmental entities in the form of grants, supplementing the Water Quality Loan funds where affordability is a problem and to correct public health or water quality problems. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3722 for more information.

Shore Erosion Control: Provides technical and financial assistance to waterfront property owners in the design and installation of shoreline stabilization and streambank restoration projects. Call Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8523 for more information.

Small Creek and Estuary Water Quality Restoration Cost-Share Program: Offers financial assistance to local governments for voluntary stream and creek restoration projects that provide water quality and habitat benefits. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3908 for more information.

Stormwater Pollution Cost-Share Program: Provides financial assistance for the implementation of stormwater management retrofit and conversion projects as a means of controlling the loads of nutrients entering the State's waterways through the use of Best Management Practices. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3981 for more information.

University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center: Assists local communities in finding creative ways to pay for environmental projects. Call 301-403-4220 or go to www.mdsg.umd.edu/EFC for more information.

Wastewater Permits Program: Provides key regulatory and technical assistance functions for environmental permitting, wastewater discharge permits, stormwater permits, and individual wells and on-lot sewage disposal systems. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3599 for more information.

Water Quality Infrastructure Program: Provides financial and technical assistance to local governmental entities in the form of grants and loans for wastewater and nonpoint source pollution abatement projects and safe and adequate drinking water. Call Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3574 for more information.

OTHER RESOURCES

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: Offers programs and training to promote watershed stewardship. Go to www.acb-online.org for more information

Canaan Valley Institute: Provides organizational and technical support to watershed and other volunteer groups within western Maryland. Go to www.canaanvi.org for more information.

Center for Chesapeake Communities: Provides communities with financial and technical support to assist local governments in their land management and watershed initiatives. Go to www.chesapeakecommunities.org for more information.

Chesapeake Bay Trust: Provides financial grants to support efforts to preserve and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Go to www.chesapeakebaytrust.org for more information.

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage: Offers programs for creating, restoring, and protecting wildlife habitat, and establishing a more sustainable agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Go to www.cheswildlife.org for more information.

Conservation Easement Tax Credit: Legislation passed in 2001 allowing a State income tax credit for donations of conservation easements to the Maryland Environmental Trust and Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Program. Go to www.dnr.state.md.us/met for more information.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip for more information.

Farm Bill: Provides record funding for conservation programs on working farmlands, including programs to create and maintain jobs in rural communities and the first ever energy title. Go to www.usda.gov/farmbill for more information.

Local Soil Conservation Districts: Provide technical assistance and advice to farmers and landowners regarding the installation of soil conservation practices and the sound management of farmland to prevent erosion. Check local telephone listings.

Maryland Center for Environmental Training: Provides on-site technical assistance to Maryland communities and businesses to ensure that water and wastewater facilities comply fully with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act. Go to www.mcet.org for more information.

Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): A joint federal/State initiative that pays farmers and landowners a one-time sign up bonus along with attractive rental rates to remove environmentally-sensitive cropland from production and

plant streamside buffers or create wetlands. Go to www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/milo for more information.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program: Provides technical and financial assistance to protect and restore watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment. For more information, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III Water Protection Division: Offers financing to plan, build, and protect drinking water, wastewater, and other water quality-related infrastructure. For more information, go to www.epa.gov/region03/grants.

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TMDL Technical Development Program
Maryland Department of the Environment
410-537-3667 or 410-537-3937