CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

Maryland
2011 MILESTONE PROGRESS

choose clean water

AT A GLANCE

Agriculture

- Cover Crops
- Forest Buffers
- Wetland Restoration
- Stream Fencing

Urban/Suburban

- Septic System Management
- Stormwater Retrofits

Wastewater

- Nitrogen Reduction
- Phosphorus Reduction

For more detailed information on the progress Maryland has made in these areas, see the chart on the back of this sheet.

Maryland's Plan for Clean Water: Are They Making Progress?

The Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams are polluted—evidenced by algal blooms, oxygen-deprived dead zones, and water that is too often unsafe for swimming. To clean up our waters, we must reduce the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution that causes these problems. Pollution sources include animal waste and farm fields; runoff from urban and suburban development; wastewater treatment plants and septic systems; and air pollution from cars, trucks, and power plants.

The history of Chesapeake Bay restoration is full of long-term goals set—then missed. Most recently, in 2000, the Chesapeake Executive Council promised to restore the Bay's health by 2010, but in 2008 the Chesapeake Bay Program acknowledged it would fail by a wide margin. This failure triggered two actions. First, the Executive Council charted a new course for the Chesapeake Bay's recovery by committing to short, two-year goals, or "milestones," to reduce pollution to local rivers, streams, and the Bay. Second, science-based pollution-reduction targets and the state plans (Clean Water Blueprints) to achieve them were completed in December 2010.

Setting the Milestones

In May 2009, the Executive Council released their first milestones, a set of measures to be implemented by 2011 that would accelerate the pace of restoration and put the states on a trajectory to achieve full implementation by 2025. Ensuring that the states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency not only set effective milestone goals, but actually achieve and enforce them, is critical to the success of the Clean Water Blueprints.

As such, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Choose Clean Water Coalition are partnering to evaluate and publicize milestone progress. The intent: to ensure that the deadlines for Bay cleanup are met, in part, by holding the states accountable for achieving their milestone commitments. This analysis of Maryland's 2011 milestone progress is the first outcome of this collaboration.

Milestone Progress

We selected a subset of implemented practices within three pollution source categories—agricultural runoff, urban/suburban sources, and wastewater treatment—based on their potential to provide substantial nitrogen and phosphorus pollution reductions, other ecosystem values, and/or those practices that reflect state programs to accelerate implementation. The table (see reverse) lists the selected practices along with the 2011 milestone goal, the percentage of the goal that was achieved, the percentage of Maryland's 2017 goals that were achieved, and lessons learned. Maryland modified many of its milestone goals prior to 2011, the "modified goal" and the percentage of the modified goal that was achieved are also included. Data were provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program Office.

Transparency and Accountability

Maryland adjusted some of their milestone goals, in most cases, downward, without any explicit public notification or input. We asked the state agencies about these changes and about the reliability of some of the reported data. They responded that Maryland is using a process of Adaptive Management, through the BayStat Program, to recalculate milestone goals based on funding resources and local

input. The state has made some reporting changes for the 2012-13 milestone period (e.g., stormwater BMPs), has agreed to publicly post implementation progress by county for agricultural practices beginning in fiscal year 2013, and will provide greater transparency for decision-making that may result in future milestone changes.

Assessment of Maryland's Progress on Selected Pollution-Reduction Targets for the 2011 Milestone

AGRICULTURE	ORIGINAL GOAL & PROGRESS	MODIFIED GOAL & PROGRESS	PROGRESS TO 2017 GOAL*	LESSONS LEARNED
Total Cover Crops *acres/year*	460,000 83%	325,000 118%	108%	Milestone goal was adjusted downward. The new goal was achieved by targeting resources from the Bay Restoration Fund.
Forest Buffers *acres*	5,100 29%	895 166%	38%	Milestone goal was adjusted downward. The revised goal was achieved, but greater implementation of this critical practice is needed.
Wetland Restoration *acres*	1,700 79%	1,155 116%	52%	Milestone goal for this ecologically important practice was adjusted downward. The revised goal was achieved.
Stream Fencing *acres*	3,000 73%	3,000 73%	41%	Implementation of the proposed nutrient management regulations may accelerate implementation of this practice.
URBAN/ SUBURBAN	ORIGINAL GOAL & PROGRESS	MODIFIED GOAL & PROGRESS	PROGRESS TO 2017 GOAL	LESSONS LEARNED
Septic System BMPs *systems*	3,000 101%	3,139 *96%*	10%	Targeting resources from the Bay Restoration Fund lead to success.
Stormwater Retrofits *acres*	90,000 *72%*	90,000 *72%*	35%	Recent passage of the stormwater utility fee bill may accelerate implementation by providing dedicated funding for these practices.
WASTEWATER	ORIGINAL GOAL & PROGRESS	MODIFIED GOAL & PROGRESS	PROGRESS TO 2017 GOAL	LESSONS LEARNED
Nitrogen Reduced *pounds*	740,000 207%	930,000 *165%*	26%	Targeting resources from the Bay Restoration Fund lead to success. Continued success will be ensured by the recent doubling of the Bay Restoration Fund fee.
Phosphorus Reduced *pounds*	39,000 367%	39,000 *367%*	58%	

Source: EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office (*2025 goal data not available) Goal met or exceeded Goal not met

Conclusion

Overall, Maryland achieved six out of the eight practices selected for evaluation. While achievements in wetland restoration, cover crops and wastewater are notable, Maryland must redouble its efforts in stormwater retrofits, forested buffers and upgrades to septic systems to stay on track to achieve 60 percent implementation by 2017 and full implementation by 2025. In addition, as noted above, transparency in the process must be improved.

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