

FISCAL YEAR 2021  
IMPACT REPORT



CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION

*Saving a National Treasure*



*Innovating and Inspiring to*  
**SAVE THE BAY**  
**Your investment at work, every day**

# Your investment spurred a transformational year for the Bay.



The Chesapeake Oyster Alliance expanded from 60 to 73 partners and has **ADDED OVER 2.37 BILLION OYSTERS.**



The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership grew from 138 to 197 members and has **PLANTED OVER 3.09 MILLION TREES.**



**EDUCATED 45,000 LEARNERS** across 1,000 live online classes.



**INSPIRED 37,293 ACTIONS** taken to support clean water and a healthy Bay.



**CONVERTED 800+ ACRES OF FARMLAND** to rotationally grazed pastures.



**FILED MULTIPLE LEGAL ACTIONS** against regulatory rollbacks and urged the new administration to restore key programs.

## CBF Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

Our watershed is shared by more than 19 million people, and it is more diverse than ever. Why does this matter for CBF? Just as biodiversity is the key to a thriving ecosystem, human diversity is the key to saving the Bay. Success depends on people from widely diverse backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, identities, and races taking collective action. Clean water, clean air, and a safe environment are rights we all share.



DIVERSITY | EQUITY | INCLUSION | JUSTICE

*“From this very same place, [the Chesapeake Bay], we can also see examples of American innovation and leadership that, if taken to scale, can prevent a climate catastrophe and benefit American workers and communities. It’s changes like these that will help preserve the Bay as we know it, and all of the communities and livelihoods it sustains.”*

—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, at a press conference at CBF’s Annapolis headquarters, the Philip Merrill Environmental Center



# All Eyes on the Bay

While the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed all our lives, the deadline to save the Chesapeake Bay remains the same. And the 2025 deadline for the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint—the Bay’s cleanup plan—will be here before we know it. As a member of CBF’s extended family, you know the task ahead. You also know the stakes.

In this impact report, we look back at a year unlike any other. Our fight could easily have stalled, pushed to the backburner during an era of almost daily crises. But thanks to your steady support, this year turned into a time of innovation, collaboration, and progress.

A year ago, we had no idea what to expect. Today, there are millions more oysters in the Bay, hundreds of thousands more trees lining our streams, and tens of thousands more students educated about the watershed and their role in saving it.

You’re getting this report because you know the Chesapeake Bay watershed is worth fighting for. It provides for us. It comforts us. It is our home.

In these pages you’ll see that our effort to save it has emerged from this challenging year stronger than ever. **We could not have done it without you.**

# Building a Stronger, Healthier Bay

From oysters to trees and beyond, you expect CBF to lead the way in Bay restoration. And we have. With your support, the fight for a healthy Bay continued on the ground and in the water.

- Completed a multi-year project that planted **more than 60 million oysters** in the Little Choptank and Tred Avon Rivers.
- With partners, neared complete restoration of the Tred Avon River, with **150 acres of restored oyster reefs**. This will be the third completed project in Maryland with a goal of restoring two more rivers by 2025.
- Constructed and planted **70 oyster reef balls** in the Nansemond River with Nansemond River Preservation Alliance and with volunteers from the Nansemond Indian Nation and other local partners.
- Began a three-year project to restore **200 acres of streamside forest** along the Upper James River watershed, which will prevent 200,000 pounds of sediment from entering the river each year.
- Partnered with farmers in Pennsylvania's Lancaster and Lebanon Counties to plant **600 trees** as a test to determine the best methods for installing trees in grazed pasture.
- Conducted rainfall simulations at **eight major Pennsylvania agricultural events**, including Lancaster Water Week and Ag Progress Days, to educate farmers on the importance of soil health for their farms and their local waterways.
- Through the Mountains-to-Bay Grazing Alliance, helped farmers in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania build healthy soils. To date, the alliance has:
  - ◆ Installed **54.4 acres of forested buffers**.
  - ◆ Converted **803.4 acres of pastureland** to rotational grazing.
  - ◆ Constructed **16,896 linear feet of stream fencing** to reduce livestock waste entering the water.
  - ◆ Prevented **5.8 million pounds of sediment, 38,000 pounds of nitrogen, and 6,000 pounds of phosphorus** from reaching the Bay.

## MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER

With 2025 right around the corner, you helped make sure CBF's Making History Campaign stayed on track. Pivoting to virtual outreach, partnerships skyrocketed to keep our ambitious goals within reach.

- Now with 197 partners, the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership has planted **3.09 million trees** and is on track to plant 10 million by 2025.
- The Chesapeake Oyster Alliance, now 73 partners strong, has planted **2.37 billion oysters**, and we are on our way to 10 billion by 2025.
- Since the campaign began, we have raised **509,648 voices** in support of the Blueprint and a saved Bay. Building on the passion and support of dedicated Bay savers like you, we will continue to grow our ranks toward our goal of one million voices by 2025.



*“Imagine a child from Baltimore pulling up oysters from the Bay’s bottom, or a Frederick County farm kid learning about how the stream on his property affects the Bay, or a child from Crisfield understanding how the fish she just caught is part of a much larger ecosystem. These are the lessons CBF is providing to our students.”*

—14 Maryland teachers in an open letter to the state legislature to restore funding for environmental education, published in *Maryland Matters*.



# Bringing Outdoor Education Home

Through a groundbreaking new online offering, CBF set a record for the number of people accessing our education programs.

Living rooms became science labs. Parents and pets became valued research assistants. And nearby parks and other open spaces became vibrant outdoor classrooms. Thanks to your investment and support, what could have been a lost year for environmental education turned into a time of innovation that allowed students and teachers to experience the wonders of the Bay from the safety of their homes.

- **45,000+ students, teachers, and adults in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania** experienced the wonders of the Bay through CBF’s Online Watershed Learning (OWL) program.
- **73 students from across the watershed** participated in our Student Leadership program, drafting a Chesapeake Clean Water Bill of Rights and leading projects in their communities aimed at saving the Bay.
- **269 teachers** participated in Chesapeake Classrooms, receiving training in outdoor education curriculum while also learning tips on how to provide engaging online lessons.
- **115,000 video views** were logged in CBF’s new suite of online educational resources.
- CBF opened the **Macon and Joan Brock Classroom** in partnership with Virginia Beach City Public Schools, a reimagining of the educational experience that allows high school students to complete science courses directly on the Bay.

# Uplifting Voices, Strengthening a Movement

Saving the Bay is the work of all of us. CBF can't do it alone, but with your support, we are bringing together partnerships across the watershed to grow our movement and energize more advocates. This year, with your support, CBF:

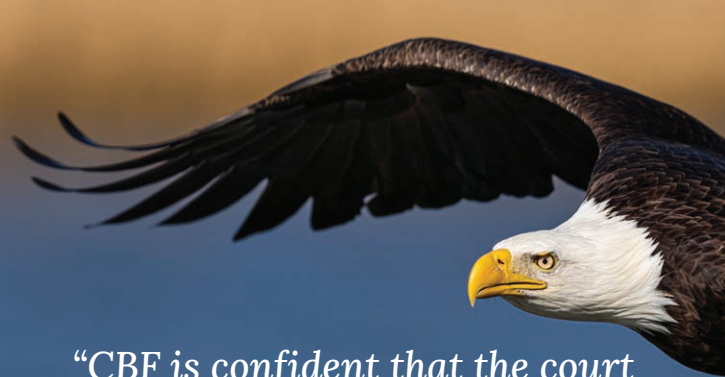
- Continued to engage and inform over 300,000 members and supporters just like you.
- Inspired 37,293 actions at the local, state, and federal levels. Targeted hyper-local actions to empower advocates in specific communities, including urging Charles County (MD) residents to support their local Forest Conservation Ordinance and giving people living in coastal Virginia counties the opportunity to comment on the state's Community Flood Preparedness Fund.



By supporting CBF, you give communities across the watershed an authentic partner and strong ally in the fight to improve environmental resources, fight damaging construction projects, reduce the threat of toxic materials, and more. Our environmental justice work continued throughout the watershed, including in Southside Richmond, where strong advocacy efforts were already underway to build more tree canopy and safe green spaces in the under-resourced community. CBF's scientific and legal expertise helped elevate these efforts while empowering emerging environmental leaders.

*“We’re going to be making history and setting an example for other churches and other communities. Instead of losing trees to growth, we can plant more trees in our cities as we grow.”*

—Oscar Contreras, Deacon at Branch's Baptist Church in Southside Richmond, on turning half an acre of asphalt on church property into trees.



*“CBF is confident that the court will uphold the legal framework of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, as it has done in the past, and require EPA to do its job. As the Bay’s watchdogs, CBF will pursue every option to hold EPA and the states accountable to their clean-water commitments.”*

—CBF President Will Baker  
on the EPA lawsuit

The Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint includes very clear requirements for watershed states. Per the Clean Water Act, the EPA is responsible for holding states accountable. And it has not been doing its job. In September 2020 CBF, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, D.C., Maryland’s Anne Arundel County, The Maryland Watermen’s Association, and Robert Whitescarver and Jeanne Hoffman sued the EPA for its failure to require Pennsylvania and New York to develop implementation plans that will achieve 2025 restoration requirements.

# Forcing Accountability, Increasing Investment

The Bay deserves a strong advocate, and your support puts CBF where we need to be: out in the community, on the water, and in the halls of power. The scale of the work that needs to be done demands nothing less, and Bay savers like you keep the fight going every day.

## MAKING THE LAW WORK FOR THE BAY

- Secured the reauthorization—and an **increase in funding to \$87.5 million**—for the EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Secured the passage of the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense program and activated **6,517 messages** in support of fully funding the program at \$15 million.
- **Fought regulatory rollbacks throughout 2020** and presented a transition document to the Biden administration urging restoration of critical regulatory programs, including automobile fuel economy and emissions standards, Waters of the United States, and the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Partnered with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and over 40 businesses and conservation organizations to propose a **State Agricultural Conservation Cost-**

**Share Program** to provide farmers with funding support needed to keep soil on their land, reduce pollution, and protect long-term viability of their farms.

## HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE

- With partners, filed **suit against the relicensing of the Conowingo Dam** on the Susquehanna River in Maryland without requiring necessary changes to the notorious “pollution gate” that spills pollutants into the Bay every time it rains.
- Alongside other prominent environmental groups, CBF filed a **notice of intent to sue** Valley Proteins for routinely exceeding pollution limits at its plant on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.
- With local residents and partners, filed **opposition to the permit for a compressor station** for the Mountain Valley Pipeline in Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

*“From the indigenous people who originally took care of it, to the various animals and plants that live there, the multitude of people whose livelihoods depend on the Bay, and the future generations of people who will live in the watershed, the health and prosperity of the Chesapeake is absolutely essential.”*

—Clare Chung, Student Leadership participant, Reservoir High School senior, Howard County, Maryland



# Thank you!

Your support makes all of this possible. From towering oyster reefs to vibrant streamside forests to thousands of inspired learners and advocates, your generosity improves the health of the watershed every day. **With you at our side, we will save the Bay.**

Transparency and accountability are core values at CBF. We hold high ratings with the top charity rating organizations in the United States, including:



GuideStar Exchange  
Platinum Participation Level



America's Best Charities  
Seal of Excellence

CBF also meets all the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability.



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