



CHAMPIONS FOR CLEAN WATER

A YEAR ON THE FRONTLINES

IMPACT REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022

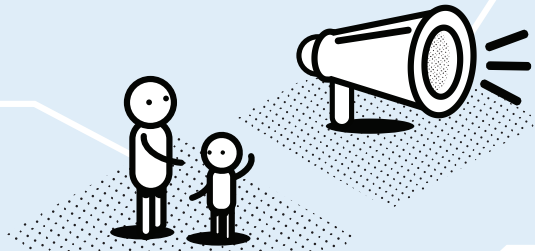


**CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION**
Saving a National Treasure

DEBRA WEISLIN

THIS YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT SPURRED TREMENDOUS SUCCESS ON LAND, IN THE WATER, AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

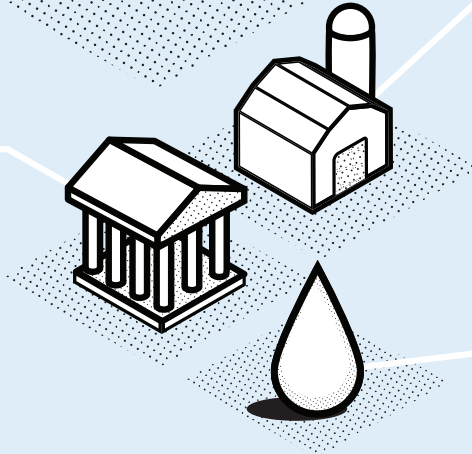
Educated **17,000 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**, back in-person and on the water.



Rallied **126,735 VOICES** to take action in support of clean water and a healthy environment.

Converted almost **800 ACRES** of farmland to rotationally grazed pastures (nearly 1,600 acres in two years).

Filed several **LEGAL ACTIONS** to stand up to polluters and hold government regulatory agencies accountable.



Secured an unprecedented **\$220 MILLION** in the Pennsylvania State Budget for a Clean Streams Fund.

MAKING **HISTORY**

CAMPAIGN



The Chesapeake Oyster Alliance expanded from 73 to 87 partners and has added **OVER 3.5 BILLION OYSTERS.**

The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership grew from 197 to 230 members and has planted **OVER 4.25 MILLION TREES.**



OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE

Clean water, clean air, and a safe environment are rights we all share. Equitable solutions to these issues require the voices and input from the communities most impacted. But for too long, the environmental movement, CBF included, has not

provided adequate space for these voices. We need to do better. That's why we're committed to intentionally increasing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) in our own organization and throughout the Bay restoration effort.

NO TIME TO LET UP

We are one year closer to the 2025 deadlines for the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint (the Bay's cleanup plan), and we are making progress. Pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay has been halved in recent years, and this year has seen historic investments of public funding in critical restoration projects.

This impact report shows what we're capable of achieving, but it also shows that we must remain wary. With every sign of progress (the best oyster harvest in decades), we see signs of concern (the lowest blue crab count since 1990). Climate change is an ever-growing threat, and it will require unprecedented and bold action in the face of powerful opposition. This year has been a reminder that a better world is possible, but it won't just happen on its own. We have to fight for it.

These pages tell the story of a movement that is growing every day. It's a movement that is addressing the wrongs of its past by opening its doors to important perspectives and diverse new partnerships. Together, our accomplishments are remarkable.

We have three years until 2025, and although that year is a deadline, it is not the finish line. As long as there is a Chesapeake Bay, there will be CBF. We will protect the progress we've made while exploring innovative new ways to achieve our ultimate goal: A saved Chesapeake Bay and a healthy environment for our nearly 19 million neighbors and over 3,600 species in its watershed.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

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What does it mean to save the Bay in an era of climate change? Who are we saving it for, and how can we include those who've been ignored and excluded? How can we apply both social and environmental science to ensure nature and people thrive together? These are the exciting questions animating our work. If we accept them as the great opportunity they are, and meet people where they are, we will create a movement and watershed that work for us and for nature.”

HILARY HARP FALK

*President and CEO,
Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

AILEEN DEVLIN

Creating a Stronger, Healthier Bay

We are working hard every day, on land and on the water, to achieve our shared vision of a thriving Chesapeake Bay that enhances our lives, communities, and economy in a way that benefits everyone living in the watershed.



TERRY YOUNG/AIR ASPECTS

◀ In Virginia, the brand-new **Prudence H. & Louis F. Ryan Mobile Oyster Restoration Center** completed its first oyster season. Sitting atop two linked barges in Hampton Roads, we raised over **3.5 MILLION OYSTERS**, 780,000 more than expected.



BJ SMALL/CBF STAFF

MAKING HISTORY

Support for the Making History Campaign has laid the groundwork for accelerated progress in the years to come as we work toward the ambitious goals needed to restore and protect the Bay.

Expanding to 230 partners, the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership has planted **4.25 MILLION TREES**—enough to absorb up to 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year—on the way to 10 million by 2025.

The Chesapeake Oyster Alliance continues to grow, with 87 partners fueling an effort that has added more than **3.5 BILLION OYSTERS** toward a goal of 10 billion by 2025.

The number of voices raised for clean water—through advocacy actions, volunteering, and more—increased from 509,648 to **636,383 VOICES** en route to 1 million by 2025.

And we're seeing our restored reefs thrive. ▶

A healthy reef ecosystem must have at least 50 oysters per square meter.

CBF conducted a survey of three restored reefs in the Lafayette River and found **156 TO 365 OYSTERS PER SQUARE METER**.



KENNY FLETCHER/CBF STAFF

▶ With the help of over 120 volunteers and in partnership with the Stone Independent School, CBF and the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership planted **2,000 TREES** in Lancaster and York Counties in Pennsylvania during the Keith Campbell Day of Service.

- A collaborative project of CBF and Chesapeake Oyster Alliance partners, the Solar Oyster project is an innovative way to grow oysters on a floating platform powered by the sun. It launched with **300,000 OYSTERS** on board that, when fully grown, will be placed on sanctuary reefs in Baltimore Harbor.

- Through the Mountains-to-Bay Grazing Alliance, we have helped farmers across the watershed plant forest buffers, install streamside fencing, and adopt rotational grazing. To date, these efforts have prevented over **14 MILLION POUNDS OF SEDIMENT** and other pollutants from reaching the Bay.

Learning Outside Again

Paddles in the water, footsteps on the dock, laughter echoing across the water: The sounds of outdoor learning are finally back!

As of fall 2021, students are back in the field, learning outdoors through the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's award-winning outdoor education programs. This exciting return came after more than a year and a half of disruption brought by the global pandemic. While our innovative

virtual programming helped students stay connected from the safety of their homes, seeing students back on the water has been a welcome sight for everyone, and it would not have been possible without your steadfast support.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **17,000 STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADULTS** in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania learned out on their local waterways through immersive, original curriculum tailored to their specific communities and interests. In the coming year, we will continue to ramp back up, with a goal of reaching over 25,000 participants.
- **80 STUDENTS** from across the watershed participated in our Student Leadership program, working together to study their local environments, build advocacy skills, and take action on projects in their communities.
- **260 TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS** participated in Chesapeake Classrooms, receiving training in outdoor education curriculum while learning how to be ambassadors for environmental education in their schools and communities.



I never really thought that at 18-years-old I'd be doing this. It felt really empowering. It felt like all the work I've been doing over the years and all the things I've learned are finally coming to fruition. CBF has been such a great connection to have. They helped me through the entire process. We all have the opportunity to do this, you just need to reach out."



JORDYN LEWIS
CBF Student Leader, Kellam High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia, after a visit to meet with legislators at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond

KENNY FLETCHER/CBF STAFF



After suspending in-person programming for over a year and a half due to the pandemic, students returned to learning on the water this year.

KRIS BELESSIS/CBF STAFF

Farms like Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm in Baltimore, created by Farmer Chippy (pictured) and a group of Caribbean/American citizens, will benefit from the USDA's grant.

PRESTON KERES/
USDA-FPAC

Building a Movement

You and everyone else working to Save the Bay have a voice, and that voice is powerful. At CBF, we work to give you the tools, training, and resources to join your voice with thousands of others. At the same time, our legal team works on strategic litigation to advance our shared goals. Because when we all come together, policymakers, regulators, and polluters have to listen. And that's when we can create change.

THIS YEAR, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, CBF:

- Encouraged **28,704 ACTIONS** at the local, state, and federal levels, including targeted local actions to give advocates an opportunity to impact their own communities.
- Inspired **2,438 LETTERS** that led to changes to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's striped bass fishery management plan—accounting for 56 percent of all letters received during the public comment period.
- Urged the passage of **CRITICAL LEGISLATION** to implement the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan to help the state tackle climate change and mitigate flooding.
- Secured public comments to update and **STRENGTHEN PROTECTIONS** in the Pennsylvania Department of Environment's Environmental Justice Policy.

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I was impressed at the level of community involvement of the participants. I thought that it was really cool that people came prepared with agendas, and that this class, hopefully, will help them to be empowered to implement them.”

CARLA POOL
Richmond Resident and attendee of
CBF's Volunteers as
Chesapeake Stewards advocacy
training program.
(Times-Dispatch interview)

This year, our focus on environmental justice took another major step forward.

Thanks to a significant grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CBF is ready to partner with Black and Indigenous farmers in the region to implement agricultural conservation practices that are good for water quality, climate resiliency, soil health, and farmers' bottom lines.

Working with community, academic, and government partners, we will work to eliminate the barriers to farm ownership and agricultural entrepreneurship that have been in place for generations around the Bay region.

FORCING ACCOUNTABILITY FROM GOVERNMENT AND POLLUTERS

- Together with our partners, CBF continued our ongoing lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to take action against Pennsylvania for its insufficient plan to meet clean-up requirements by 2025.
- On behalf of Blue Water Baltimore, our members, and local residents who experience frequent flooding that causes wastewater and sewage to wash up onto their streets and into their homes, CBF filed legal action challenging the state permits granted to the storm sewer systems of Baltimore City and Baltimore County.
- In December, CBF, along with several environmental organizations, grassroots advocates, and local residents, urged the Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board to deny a permit for Mountain Valley Pipeline's proposed Lambert compressor station in Pittsylvania County. The board voted 6-1 to deny the permit, for the first time in approximately 20 years, and did so on environmental justice grounds, noting the dangerous health risks to nearby communities.

Unfortunately, following this nearly unprecedented decision, the Virginia state legislature stripped the board of its permitting power. This shows the powerful forces we are up against, but CBF and our partners will continue to fight on multiple fronts for environmental justice and the health and clean-water rights of our neighbors throughout the watershed.

ACHIEVING HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN THE BAY

After years of advocacy—including over **2,000 ACTIONS** taken by CBF members in Pennsylvania—we helped secure a Clean Streams Fund in the state budget that includes a \$220 million comprehensive funding package to address the top sources of stream pollution, with \$154 million dedicated to an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program to help farmers pay the costs of implementing conservation practices.

Our advocacy and testimony helped lead to the passage of the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act, one of the boldest climate policies in the country, which sets the state on the path to **NET ZERO BY 2045**.

Our advocacy in Virginia helped secure **HISTORIC INVESTMENTS** in the state budget that are crucial to meeting the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint's requirements.

The budget funded a range of important clean-water programs, including agricultural cost-share, stormwater local assistance, environmental education, and mussel restoration.

At the request of senators Ben Cardin (MD) and Bob Casey (PA), the federal government committed **OVER 3 MILLION DOLLARS** in funding for two watershed restoration plans in Pennsylvania developed by CBF in partnership with over 70 partners including nonprofits, private businesses, governmental agencies, and academia.



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“There’s a big change in water quality [in our pond]. There’s much less sediment, and that pasture ground takes up water quicker. There’s also been a significant increase in bird activity, specifically song birds.”

MATT FRY
Fair Hill Farms, Eastern Shore of Maryland, on how regenerative agriculture and support from CBF helped transform his farm.

THANK YOU

The Chesapeake Bay and the nearly 19 million people living in its watershed need a strong advocate.

With your support of CBF, you power our movement. Every oyster we add, every tree we plant, every student we inspire, every courtroom battle we engage, we do so knowing that you are beside us.

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“This is our community. This is where we live. We should be taking care of it.”

BECKY MCDONOUGH

Richmond Resident and one of over 3,000 Clean the Bay Day volunteers who helped remove over 65,000 pounds of trash and debris across over 250 miles of Virginia's waterways.

For decades, CBF has built a reputation for transparency and accountability.

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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FOUNDATION**

Saving a National Treasure

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