

Maryland Department of the Environment

FY16 Strategic Plan

June 2015

INTRODUCTION

This document represents MDE's first revision of its strategic plan since January 2015. The mission, vision, and values below were developed by MDE's new leadership team in May of 2015. The goals, objectives, and performance measures for FY16 were established as part of the Managing for Results (MFR) process in Fall 2014, as required. When MDE develops new MFR materials for FY17, which will occur in Fall 2015, these goals, objectives, and measures will be revisited, and updated data will be reported.

MISSION

To protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders.

VISION

Healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities and ecosystems in Maryland.

VALUES

- 1) **Service.** Providing value to citizens, customers, colleagues, and communities by being responsive, inclusive respectful, and resourceful and transparent in how we operate programs and invest the public's money.
- 2) **Science and Technology.** Using science-driven regulation and policy to protect the environment more effectively and information technology to serve customers more efficiently .
- 3) **Innovation.** Embracing creativity to achieve better results, while encouraging the use of market-based and partnership-driven tools and strategies for improvements in environmental technologies, regulation, and finance.

- 4) **Integration.** Integration of air, water, land, and science programs for more effective and efficient results, and better use of ecosystem-based permitting to increase efficiency, offer better consistency and improve environmental protection.
- 5) **Partnership.** Increasing outreach and openness to broaden the range of public and private sector participants and strategies that foster better solutions through broader stakeholder involvement in environmental challenges.
- 6) **Performance.** Focusing on results and tracking outcomes to accelerate progress in how to manage for cleaner air, water, and land and to reduce risks from pollution, climate change, environmental emergencies, and other threats.
- 7) **Employees.** Cultivating and fostering a talented and diverse workforce and providing opportunities for development of professionalism, innovation, productivity, teamwork and leadership.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**MDE’S MANAGING FOR RESULTS FY16 GOALS, OBJECTIVES,
 AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Goal	Objective	Performance Measure	Most Recent Actual Data Available (FY14 unless otherwise noted)	Future Performance Projected in Fall 2014 MFR Submission (FY15 unless otherwise noted)
Provide excellent customer service and community outreach.	Respond to 75% of Public Information Act (PIA) requests within 30 days of receipt.	Percent of PIA responses issued within 30 days	80%	75%
	Meet permit turnaround times for 90% of the permits processed.	Percentage of permits processed within applicable standard time	91%	90%
	Respond to environmental emergencies to reduce risk to public health and the environment.	Number of Environmental emergencies responded to	524 (CY14)	500 (CY15)
Ensure the	Achieve attainment	Number of	5 (CY14)	5 (CY15)

Goal	Objective	Performance Measure	Most Recent Actual Data Available (FY14 unless otherwise noted)	Future Performance Projected in Fall 2014 MFR Submission (FY15 unless otherwise noted)
air is safe to breathe	with the eight-hour ozone and PM2.5 ¹ standards in the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas and Cecil County.	exceedences of the eight-hour ozone standard		
Reduce Maryland citizens' exposure to hazards	Improve the initial significant compliance rate at radiation machine facilities to at least 80 percent.	Percent of inspected radiation machines in initial compliance	80%	80%
	The freshwater fish tissue concentrations of mercury in all sampled areas will [be below is 0.30 mg per kg, allowing] at least three meals per month to be safely eaten.	Five-year median fish tissue concentrations of mercury	0.31	0.30
	Ensure that Maryland shellfish are harvested from waters that are clean enough to meet National Shellfish Sanitation Program requirements.	Percent of required sampling achieved	94% (CY14)	90% (CY15)
	Reduce the number of elevated blood lead levels	Reported exceedences of elevated blood lead standard	371 (CY13)	300 (CY14)
Protect water resources and ensure safe and adequate	Achieve an annual Maryland nitrogen load to the Bay of less than 47.57 M lbs/year	Annual MD nitrogen load to Bay	47.57 (FY13)	47.33 (FY14)
	Reduce the volume of sewage overflows by	Percent change in gallons of sewage	-27%	-27%

¹ Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) is an air pollutant with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less and is small enough to invade human airways. All ozone data reflect the current eight-hour ozone standard of 75 parts per billion. Ozone is monitored during the ozone season only, from April 1st through October 31st per EPA guidelines.

Goal	Objective	Performance Measure	Most Recent Actual Data Available (FY14 unless otherwise noted)	Future Performance Projected in Fall 2014 MFR Submission (FY15 unless otherwise noted)
drinking water.	an amount equal to a 50 percent reduction of the three-year average amount (2002, 2003, 2004: 521,761,000 gallons)	overflow from 2002-4 three-year average		
	At least 97 percent of the population served by public water systems (community and non-transient non-community) will be in compliance with the drinking water regulations	Percent of Marylanders served by public water systems in compliance with all rules in effect for five years or more.	96%	90%
	Maintain 80% significant compliance with groundwater standards for all active municipal solid waste landfills each year.	Percentage of municipal solid waste landfills in significant compliance with groundwater standards	85%	85%

MDE 2015 Calendar Year Priorities

MDE Department-wide Priorities

1. **Service:** Promote a customer service culture that assists customers in understanding environmental regulatory requirements and achieves compliance.
2. **Innovation:** Consider new approaches to permitting and compliance with environmental laws which will examine public-private partnerships, nutrient trading and sustainability, among other ideas.
3. **Performance:** Develop performance measures to ensure all programs across MDE are consistent with priorities, are coordinated, and are mutually supportive and efficient.

Air and Radiation Management Administration

4. NOx Rule Implementation: Implement the 2015 requirements of the NOx (nitrogen oxide) rule consistent with the emergency regulation and adopt the 2020 requirements for the rule by the end of 2015.
5. Regional Coordination: Coordinate with other Eastern states to achieve voluntary reductions of NOx from power plants in the East for the summer of 2015 and ensure that these reductions are included in enforceable “Good Neighbor SIPs” by summer 2016.
6. Greenhouse Gas Emission Report: Finalize the report due to the Governor and General Assembly in October 2015 that provides the mandated status report on the requirements of the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act.

Land Management Administration

7. Brownfields Redevelopment: Ensure timely reviews of documents and approvals of redevelopment projects so that new businesses can begin operating at Sparrows Point and Harbor Point.
8. Marcellus Shale Regulations: Complete review of comments and determine the best way to address the proposed regulations so that the regulations can be finalized by October 1, 2016.
9. Lead Poisoning Prevention: Complete lead registrations on pre-1978 rental properties and increase multi-agency coordination; continue development of integrated databases.
10. Animal Feeding Operations: Through meetings with stakeholders, develop a system for communications among government and industry entities regarding the rapid increase in construction of new chicken houses to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

Water Management Administration

11. Tidal Wetlands: Develop revisions to Tidal Wetlands Pier Regulations by Fall 2015.
12. Permitting Process for MS4's: Adopt expedited permitting processes that will support efforts by the 10 large population governments to implement their Watershed Improvement Plans and meet the requirements of their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 permits).
13. Water Quality Trading: Form a workable nutrient-trading program that serves as an acceptable mechanism for meeting the pollutant reductions required under the Chesapeake Bay Pollution TMDL. Trading can encompass point to point source trading as well as point to nonpoint source trading (including MS4) to optimize the costs and opportunities to achieve pollution reductions.

14. Financial Assurance Plans: Establish procedures for the review of financial assurance plans required by 2015 Senate Bill 863 to implement the requirements of the local MS4 permit requirements.

Science Services Administration

15. Aquaculture: Keep pace with the growing aquaculture industry by continuing to inspect all aquaculture operations annually to protect public health and safeguard the seafood industry.
16. Restoring the Chesapeake Bay: Report Maryland's progress toward the 2014 - 2015 two-year milestone goals and establish draft 2016 - 2017 implementation and programmatic milestones.
17. TMDL Development Plan: Establish Maryland's TMDL Development Pace by the end of 2015 and implement the EPA public engagement requirements of the 303(d) section of the Clean Water Act for restoring priority waters.
18. Water Quality Standards: Resolve EPA technical issues on Maryland's draft chloride water quality criteria and provide final recommendations. Complete briefing materials on proposed anti-degradation regulation revisions.

Office of Budget and Infrastructure Financing

19. BRF Regulations: Propose regulations for the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) to be consistent with 2015 Senate Bill 133.
20. Septic BAT Bids: Develop Request for Bid for statewide septic BAT unit prices for FY 2017-2019.