

2024 Annual Report

Green & Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission



June 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission was established under the Maryland Conservation Finance Act of 2022 (HB 653/SB 348). Building from its 2023 Annual Progress Report, the Commission met regularly between January 2024 and May 2025 to finalize work under the Commission's eight charges under the law and offer final recommendations for state action.

The central goal of the Commission is to pursue thriving and equitable communities throughout Maryland by investing in ecological restoration that enhances overall resilience, sustainability, and socioeconomic benefits now and for generations to come. To this end, the Commission discussed:

- Tracking the risks, co-benefits, and outcomes of green and blue infrastructure,
- Identifying barriers to its implementation, and
- Exploring opportunities for pay-for-success contracting models within the state.

These conversations enabled the Commission to increase awareness of pay-for-success contracting, streamline procurement processes, and improve the tools available to help with implementing green and blue infrastructure. In 2025, the Commission identified further areas of growth and developed six recommendations in response:

Recommendation 1: State agencies should develop targeted communications with practical information on green infrastructure options and implementation, especially for smaller municipalities and unincorporated communities.

Recommendation 2: State agencies should provide more direction to local governments on state policies and programs designed to support resilient green and blue infrastructure as part of Environmental Site Design practices, recognizing that existing standards are insufficient for managing current conditions and the changing climate.

Recommendation 3: State agencies should require pay-for-success projects to include explicit life cycle costing as part of project proposals.

Recommendation 4: MDE and DNR should establish a separate funding pathway within the Bay Restoration Fund or Program Open Space for durable green and blue infrastructure project proposals that include long-term maintenance costs but do not fit a pay-for-success model.

Recommendation 5: State agencies should work with private companies to develop a registry of restoration projects that could be funded through traditional grant and pay-for-success programs, and consider [Wisconsin's Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse](#) as a model.

Recommendation 6: State agencies should solicit cost-effective project proposals that prioritize quantifiable job training and/or entrepreneurial development to further the green workforce and expand environmental literacy in the community.

INTRODUCTION

The Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission (the Commission) has prepared its annual report in accordance with the [State Government Article, § 2–1257](#), Annotated Code of Maryland, for the Governor, the Maryland Secretary of the Environment, and the Maryland General Assembly. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Secretary of the Department of the Environment, the Governor’s Council on the Chesapeake Bay, and local government officials on ways to facilitate and accelerate the scale and pace of implementation of green and blue infrastructure projects in the state.

The Conservation Finance Act defines green and blue infrastructure as the following:

Green Infrastructure

A land-based natural area or natural feature, or a system or feature designed to protect, mimic, or enhance a natural function, that: (i) absorbs and filters pollutants; (ii) protects communities from flooding or storm surge; (iii) reduces erosion; or (iv) sequesters carbon.

This includes: (i) enhanced or restored natural landscape features, such as forests, streams, wetlands, riparian buffers, headwaters, or floodplains; (ii) rain gardens; (iii) permeable pavement; (iv) pocket parks; (v) bioswales; (vi) green roofs; (vii) infiltration planters; (viii) tree plantings or tree boxes; and (ix) rainwater harvesting.

Blue Infrastructure

A water-based natural element or engineered element designed to mimic or enhance the function of a natural element that: (i) absorbs and filters pollutants; (ii) protects communities from flooding or storm surge; (iii) reduces erosion; or (iv) sequesters carbon.

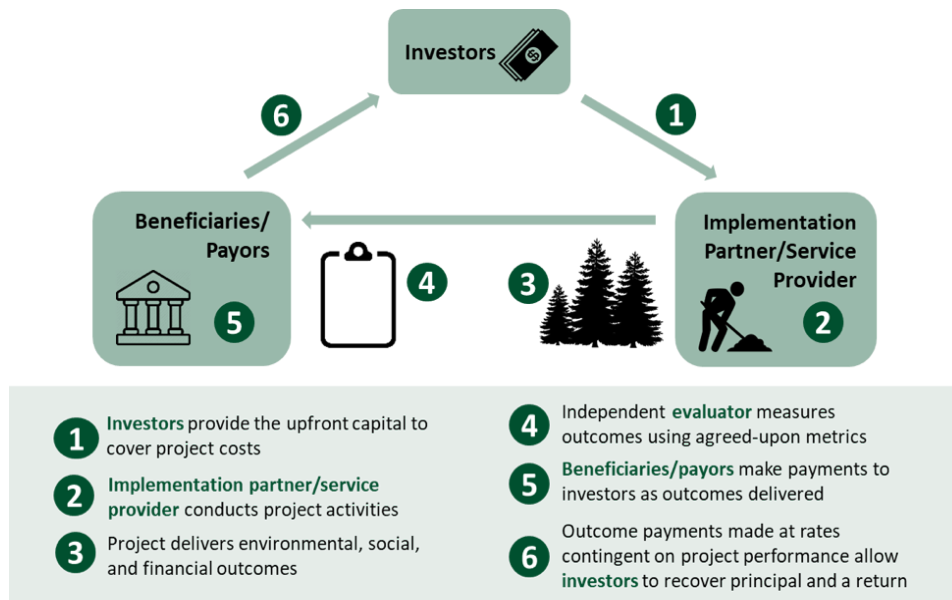
This includes enhanced oyster reefs, seagrass beds, and coastal marshes.

Current Context

In 2017, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Clean Water Commerce Act ([HB 417/SB 314](#)), authorizing the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to expand the use of the [Bay Restoration Fund](#) to purchase environmental outcomes. This payment structure, also referred to as pay-for-success, is additionally used in the State’s collaboration with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to fund projects aligned with the [Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan](#). As the SRBC is a federal-interstate coordinating agency, this is the first example of one state purchasing environmental outcomes produced in another within the watershed. The Act was reauthorized in 2021 ([SB 119/HB 507](#)) to permanently establish the Clean Water Commerce Account and expand the use of the Bay Restoration Fund.¹

¹ Susquehanna River Basin Commission, “Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan,” <https://www.srbcc.gov/our-work/what-we-do/conowingo-watershed-implementation-plan.html>

The Conservation Finance Act ([SB 0348/ HB 0653](#)) of 2022 created the Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission, which held its first meeting that November. It also defined pay-for-success contracting and green and blue infrastructure in law. Pay-for-success is a performance-based contracting method through which a unit contracts with an organization to deliver services or commodities in exchange for payment based on the achievements of outcomes. Rather than attaching payment to initial action, pay-for-success ties payment to quantifiable and verifiable results to incentivize achievement and ensure projects deliver sustainable environmental benefits. The Commission has identified pay-for-success contracting as a valuable method for ensuring the long-term success of green and blue infrastructure.



Pay-for-success model. Image courtesy of the [Conservation Finance Network](#).

In 2023, the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee released the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response ([CESR](#)) report, which suggests that Bay restoration could be more effective by concentrating Best Management Practices (BMPs) in targeted areas where living resources will likely benefit most. The report also promoted the use of pay-for-success in implementing these practices. In light of the CESR report, the Maryland General Assembly subsequently passed the Whole Watershed Act ([SB 969/HB 1165](#)) in 2024, which established a collaborative, science-based approach to watershed restoration across the state, promoting innovative, science-based solutions. This Act furthered the awareness and implementation of green and blue infrastructure across the state. Five pilot watersheds were selected across the state, with work to occur over the next five years.²

Governor Moore’s 2024 Executive Order, “Strengthening Maryland’s Business Climate to Bolster Economic Competitiveness,” established the Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council, enabling faster and more predictable approvals for infrastructure and place-based projects. The

² DNR, “Whole Watershed Act and Fund,” <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/whole-watershed-fund.aspx>

Council's work enhances transparency, reduces permitting delays, and supports economic growth while protecting public health and safety.

Finally, in 2025, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Procurement Reform Act ([HB 500/SB 426](#)), which modernizes the procurement process, increases transparency, and helps small and minority-owned businesses compete for state funding awards. This Act also specified that pay-for-success contracting is available across state agencies and programs, enabling the State to more broadly purchase environmental outcomes and effect meaningful green and blue infrastructure implementation. It also opens doors for more standardized contracts and terms to better engage the private sector for financing. Also in 2025, MDE released its updated MDEnviroScreen Tool, which visualizes the combined measure of pollution and the potential vulnerability of a population to the effects of pollution.

The Commission's efforts build on the work of other Statewide Commissions past and present, including the Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Planting Commission and Maryland Commission on Climate Change, and from current agency investments (i.e., Growing 5 Million Trees in Maryland Plan, Watershed Implementation Plan, Wetlands Action Plan, and the 2031 Climate Pollution Reduction Plan) to strengthen strategies that contribute to Chesapeake Bay restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and facilitate dialogue and action to further realize the benefits of blue and green infrastructure, especially in underserved and overburdened communities.

This report reflects the findings from an independent commission whose charge was directed by the General Assembly's Conservation Finance Act.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its inception in 2022, the Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission has engaged with state agencies, local governments, and a diverse range of stakeholders to explore and evaluate mechanisms to increase the pace and scale of green and blue infrastructure in Maryland.

Key accomplishments of the Commission include:

- **Enhanced awareness about pay-for-success and its role in accelerating quality green and blue infrastructure and increased adoption of pay-for-success in Maryland and the broader region.** MDE advances pay-for-success through the Clean Water Commerce Act and its partnership with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission on the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan.
- **Streamlined procurement processes to make it easier for state agencies to use pay-for-success models.** Recent legislative changes have clarified pay-for-success as a specific contracting method that state agencies can utilize to advance program outcomes and consequently support the development of standard contract templates and terms to accelerate adoption.
- **Improved state mapping and screening tools to support the targeted installation of green and blue infrastructure.** MDE updated the MDEnviroScreen Tool, Climate Vulnerability Tool, Watershed Prioritization Map, and various mapping tools used for its Living Shorelines Regulations.

KEY MILESTONES

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- **April 2022:** Maryland passes the Conservation Finance Act ([SB 0348/ HB 0653](#))
 - **May 2023:** Release of the Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response ([CESR](#)) report
 - **April 2024:** Maryland passes the Whole Watershed Act ([SB 969/HB 1165](#))
 - **December 2024:** Governor Moore signs [Executive Order 01.01.2024.39](#), “Strengthening Maryland’s Business Climate to Bolster Economic Competitiveness”
 - **April 2025:** Maryland passes the Procurement Reform Act ([HB 500/SB 426](#))
 - **June 2025:** MDE releases the updated [MDEnviroScreen Tool](#)

PROGRESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Conservation Finance Act instructed the Commission to study and make recommendations across eight charges. The Commission's work across these charges is summarized below with several recommendations to drive additional state action. This report also features three case studies that highlight the benefits of pay-for-success contracting and green and blue infrastructure.

Charge 1. Ways to prioritize green and blue infrastructure projects through state permitting processes

Implementation Progress

- **May 2024:** Updates to MDE's Living Shoreline Regulations and application processes improved clarity and efficiency for Tidal Wetland license applicants. The creation of the Tidal Shoreline Project Review Team streamlined permit reviews, reducing delays. Enhancements to the [Living Shoreline Assessment Mapper](#) and [Maryland Shoreline Stabilization Mapper](#) provided applicants with better tools to plan and implement effective shoreline protection strategies.
- **August 2024:** The Ecological Restoration Permitting Study Report, submitted to the Governor and General Assembly, offered actionable legislative and regulatory recommendations aimed at accelerating ecological restoration by simplifying and improving the permitting process.
- **December 2024:** The inclusion of pay-for-success contracting in the [MD DNR Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund RFP](#) incentivized results-based environmental restoration. Applicants were required to demonstrate measurable environmental benefits, promoting accountability and long-term impact. Proposal evaluation is underway, with awards expected in summer 2025.
- **March 2025:** Selected FY24 and FY25 projects by MDE's Water Infrastructure Financing Administration (WIFA) expanded access to low-interest loans, loan forgiveness, and grants, accelerating the delivery of high-impact water quality, drinking water, and stormwater management projects across Maryland.

Recommendation 1

State agencies should develop targeted communications with practical information on green infrastructure options and implementation, especially for smaller municipalities and unincorporated communities.

Charge 2: Changes to local development policies and regulations that would facilitate the timely review and approval of green and blue infrastructure projects

Implementation Progress

- **September 2023:** The Task Force on State and Local Government Accounting for Natural Capital, established by the Conservation Finance Act, released its [Final Report](#). The report recommends targeted communications that make it clear it is appropriate to use debt, not just available revenue, to finance green and blue infrastructure, as approved by Maryland's Government Accounting Standards Board. It also suggests the state provide technical assistance to local governments and develop a financing guide to enable further local uptake of green and blue infrastructure.
- **April 2025:** Passage of the Procurement Reform Act clarified that pay-for-success is a contract type rather than a source selection method, removing legal ambiguity and paving the way for broader implementation of outcome-based contracting across Maryland and the region.
- **April 2025:** New Sustainable Growth Planning Principles shifted Maryland's development framework from Smart Growth to Sustainable Growth, aligning state policy with long-term priorities for balanced land use and integrated green and blue infrastructure that supports environmental resilience and community well-being.
- **Ongoing:** MDE's stormwater management program is revising regulations to require green infrastructure solutions to manage increased rainfall volumes associated with climate change. This update will enhance the State's ability to reduce flood risks and improve water quality through more climate-resilient design standards.

Recommendation 2

State agencies should provide more direction to local governments on state policies and programs designed to support resilient green and blue infrastructure as part of Environmental Site Design practices, recognizing that existing standards are insufficient for managing current conditions and the changing climate.



*Trees planted in riparian zones in the Octoraro Lake drainage basin.
Image courtesy of Craig Highfield at Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.*

Case Study: Outcomes-Based Model for Agricultural BMP Implementation Project

The Chester Water Authority in Pennsylvania is reforesting 65.4 acres of open fields in the Octoraro Lake drainage basin to provide clean water to its reservoir. Approximately 27 acres of new forests were planted along stream riparian areas using the Chesapeake Forest Fund, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's revolving loan fund. The Forest Fund contributes to projects that provide quantifiable outcomes, and the riparian-zone forests they funded will be included in the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's pay-for-success program. Through its collaboration with Pennsylvania and the SRBC, Maryland is purchasing environmental outcomes that will flow downstream to the Chesapeake Bay. This implementation project will bring the region one step closer to reaching the goals outlined in the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan.

Charge 3: Ways to phase in life cycle costing requirements for long-term monitoring and repair of state and local government-funded green and blue infrastructure projects

Implementation Progress

- **Spring 2025:** To ensure environmental outcomes are achieved and sustained, the Commission identified strategies to embed life cycle costing analyses³ into pay-for-success contracts for green and blue infrastructure. This approach strengthens accountability by aligning payments with long-term performance and maintenance, leading to more durable and measurable environmental benefits within and outside of the pay-for-success model. The Commission's exploration resulted in targeted recommendations to institutionalize these practices from project inception. The state may consider offering technical assistance programs for the incorporation of life cycle costing into green and blue infrastructure projects.

Recommendation 3

State agencies should require pay-for-success projects to include explicit life cycle costing as part of project proposals.

Recommendation 4

MDE and DNR should establish a separate funding pathway within the Bay Restoration Fund or Program Open Space for durable green and blue infrastructure project proposals that include long-term maintenance costs but do not fit a pay-for-success model.

³ Life cycle costing analyses account for the full cost of a project over its entire lifespan including capital, operations, maintenance, retrofits, rehabilitation, and decommissioning.

Charge 4: Strategies and policies to prioritize green and blue infrastructure projects that both contribute toward the achievement of Chesapeake Bay restoration goals and create local economic, social, and environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities

Implementation Progress

- **July 2023:** MDE enhanced its [Watershed Prioritization Map](#) to more accurately assess flood risk across communities, enabling more informed decision-making and resource allocation. These improvements were incorporated into the updated Climate Vulnerability Score Tool, allowing the agency to better target resilience investments in high-risk areas.
- **Ongoing:** With funding from MDE, the Envision the Choptank partnership—led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation—is advancing community-driven restoration across the Choptank River Watershed, with a focus on historically disenfranchised communities. The initiative established a Community Ambassador Fund to empower local leadership and launched the LEAD the Shore program to equip residents with the skills to advocate for environmental change, building long-term local capacity for stewardship and resilience.

Charge 5: Policies to allow the state and local governments to attract sources of private capital investment and maximize public sector funding for green and blue infrastructure projects

Implementation Progress

- **Spring 2023:** The Commission explored partnership opportunities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Digital Service to leverage existing regional tools to register and track potential ecosystem restoration projects. The Commission recommended that state agencies work with Maryland's Congressional delegation to advocate for federal funding to improve project outcome tracking in the state.
- **Spring 2025:** Changes at the federal level led to a pivot in the Commission's strategy. The Commission assessed the potential of a statewide restoration project registration tool to improve consistency, transparency, and access across Maryland's green and blue infrastructure funding programs. By standardizing project scoring and integrating the [MDEnviroScreen Tool](#), the proposed system would streamline funding processes while prioritizing investments in communities facing environmental justice concerns and accelerating the deployment of nature-based solutions statewide.

Recommendation 5

State agencies should work with private companies to develop a registry of restoration projects that could be funded through traditional grant and pay-for-success programs, and consider Wisconsin's Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse as a model.



*A section of Cape St. Claire's Living Shoreline.
Image courtesy of Will Parson at the Chesapeake Bay Program.*

Case Study: Cape St. Claire Living Shoreline

Cape St. Claire in Anne Arundel County has long faced decreasing beach access due to eroding shorelines. To protect the community's beaches, the Cape Saint Claire Improvement Association (CSCIA) began the first phase of its living shoreline project in 2013. The CSCIA partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for assistance with grant applications and technical advice. With their help, the CSCIA obtained half of its funding through grants at the federal, state, and local levels. Highlights include the Anne Arundel Watershed Restoration Grant Program and the Maryland Bond Bill. With this funding, CSCIA is restoring over 1,000 linear feet of waterfront, including planting over 7,000 native marsh species and reusing dredge material from a nearby channel to build back their shoreline.⁴

⁴ Chesapeake Bay Program, "A thoughtful approach to restoration is giving one community more days at the beach," www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/restoration-cape-st-claire-living-shoreline.

Charge 6: Circumstances in which volunteer-based green and blue infrastructure projects should be prioritized because of cost-saving benefits

Implementation Progress

- **Spring 2025:** The Commission discussed the merits and drawbacks of volunteer-based green and blue infrastructure projects. This charge assumes volunteer-based projects are inherently cost-saving. Commission members drew from their knowledge and experiences to challenge this assumption, noting ‘hidden costs’ within the process such as volunteer training and quality control. Differences also exist between larger non-governmental organizations and community-led organizations in access to both funding and volunteer labor. The need for upfront investment can prevent organizations from accessing volunteer-based projects, which should not prevent them from consideration or prioritization for state funding. Additionally, promoting volunteer-based projects in communities facing environmental justice concerns lacks the consideration of a potential disconnect to their lived experience and reduced access to natural landscapes and resources. As such, it is critical to prioritize investment into these communities, along with environmental restoration, education, and literacy. This charge lent the Commission an opportunity to refocus its efforts on environmental equity and long-term solutions, resulting in the following recommendation.

Recommendation 6

State agencies should solicit cost-effective project proposals that prioritize quantifiable job training and/or entrepreneurial development to further the green workforce and expand environmental literacy in the community.

Charge 7: Best practices for streamlining the procurement and financing process for environmental credit buyers at the local level

Implementation Progress

- **April 2024:** In response to the law that permanently established the Clean Water Commerce Account, MDE introduced more flexible payment schedules to improve program implementation and attract a wider range of participants. Five projects adopted the updated payment model and are advancing through Board of Public Works approval and grant agreement execution—demonstrating early success in accelerating water quality improvements through more adaptable financing. DNR was also exempted from state procurement law for pay-for-success contracts to facilitate related projects through existing Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund processes.
- **April 2025:** Passage of the Procurement Reform Act clarified pay-for-success is a contract type rather than a source selection method, removing legal ambiguity and paving the way for broader implementation of outcome-based contracting across Maryland and the region.



*Residential rain garden designed to intercept, store, and soak in rainwater.
Image courtesy of Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection.*

Case Study: Clean Water Montgomery RainScapes

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection administers the Clean Water Montgomery Program to reduce stormwater pollution and promote healthy streams. Their RainScapes program is essential to its mission.

A RainScape is a landscape or design technique that helps reduce stormwater runoff from individual properties. It can be installed on any kind of property and is therefore available to individuals, communities, and businesses.

Montgomery County has a unique RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program that provides a cost-share approach to achieving on-site retrofits that benefit clean water. The rebate program is funded through the Clean Water Montgomery Grant Program in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Rebates can amount up to \$7,5000 for residential properties, and up to \$20,000 for commercial, HOA, multifamily, or institutional properties.⁵

The Town of Chevy Chase View in Montgomery County provides a supplemental rebate amounting to 70% of the county-approved RainScapes rebate. For example, if a project receives a \$5,000 rebate from Montgomery County, the Town of Chevy Chase View provides an additional \$3,750, provided the combined rebates do not exceed 85% of the total project cost. Because the County reviews, inspects, and approves projects, the cost to the Town is nominal. This synergy exemplifies the amplified environmental and economic impact of county and municipal coordination.

⁵ Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, "RainScapes," www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/rainscapes/index.html

Charge 8: Other policies to achieve the increased scope and scale of ecological restoration

The Commission engaged a range of additional topics and stakeholders that did not strictly fit within the above charges, but that it felt were necessary to increase the uptake of restoration initiatives and improve the quantification of environmental outcomes. Outcomes associated with these discussions are highlighted below.

Implementation Progress

- **November 2024:** MDE, in collaboration with the University of Maryland and NASA's Carbon Monitoring System, launched a scalable forest carbon monitoring strategy to support carbon tracking at the state, local, and project levels. This advancement enhances Maryland's ability to measure carbon storage trends over time, strengthening forest management decisions and informing climate mitigation policies with more accurate, localized data.⁶
- **Ongoing:** MDE continues to quantify carbon outcomes from the 5 Million Trees Initiative, which recently reached the milestone of one million trees planted. The Tree Tracking Tool helps maximize environmental co-benefits—such as improved air and water quality—by prioritizing plantings in underserved urban areas. The public dashboard provides real-time tracking of planting efforts, increasing transparency, guiding restoration in high-priority zones, and building funder confidence by offering visibility into project development. These efforts support the State's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and greenhouse gas inventory through improved carbon accounting.⁷
- **Ongoing:** In response to the Conservation Finance Act, two pilot carbon offset projects—one terrestrial and one aquatic ("blue carbon")—were evaluated by DNR for feasibility. Studies conducted in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Environmental Science Associates found that current carbon market prices are insufficient to cover the costs of implementing and verifying these projects. However, monitoring efforts are moving forward: DNR is tracking tree growth at the 2024 Tuckahoe State Park planting site and partnering with NOAA to monitor soil carbon at the 2023 thin-layer placement project in the Deal Island wetlands. These initiatives aim to deepen understanding of carbon benefits in restoration and inform future climate financing strategies.⁸

⁶Hurt, G., et al. "Beyond MRV: High-Resolution Forest Carbon Modeling for Climate Mitigation Planning over Maryland, USA." *Environmental Research Letters* 14, no. 4 (April 2019): 045013. doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ab0bbe.

⁷ 5 Million Trees for Maryland, "Five Million Trees in Maryland," five-million-tree-tracking-tool-maryland.hub.arcgis.com/

⁸ Blue carbon and resilience study: TNC, "TNC Maryland Blue Carbon Resilience Credit Feasibility Study," dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Documents/Maryland-Blue-Carbon-Resilience-Credit-Feasibility-Study-2023-12-22.pdf; tree planting carbon offset study: DNR, "Tree Planting in Maryland - Carbon Offset Feasibility Analysis and Quantification Plan," dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Documents/Tree-Planting-MD-Carbon-Offset-Feasibility-Analysis-Quantification-Plan.pdf

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the Commission's recommendations and findings on strategies to accelerate the implementation of green and blue infrastructure projects across Maryland. Building on these insights, MDE, DNR, and other state partners will continue to promote pay-for-success contracting models for green and blue infrastructure. These efforts will support programs that incentivize nature-based solutions, addressing local environmental challenges while fostering more equitable, resilient, and thriving communities statewide.

As the Commission came to a close, a few Commissioners provided their thoughts:

"As a co-chair to the Green & Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission I have been able to share information from the local level with others around the State and vice-versa. These conversations have been extremely beneficial to understand not only how blue and green infrastructure should be prioritized, but also how there are multiple funding opportunities that are a mechanism for investing and implementing ecological restoration for a more resilient community."

Stephanie Jones (Co-Chair), Queen Anne's County

"Ecosystem Investment Partners (EIP) congratulates our fellow Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commissioners on the publication of the Commission's final annual report and the six recommendations therein. The State of Maryland already leads the nation in the use of Pay for Success methods to allow the buyers and funders of ecosystem restoration to only pay for measurable and verifiable ecological outcomes, rather than plans or well-intentioned effort, when those results have been delivered. The recommended actions in the annual report will only increase the validity, effectiveness and use of such mechanisms to restore the Bay and our State's critical ecosystems."

Nick Dilks, Ecosystem Investment Partners

"The bottom line is that legislators and the public need to know what it cost to keep a pound of nitrogen, phosphorus, or sediment out of the Chesapeake Bay and other waters and need to know that the state is getting better - not worse - pricing over time. Pay for success contracting is now allowing that to happen."

Tim Male, Environmental Policy Innovation Center

APPENDIX

Commission Members

Per the Conservation Finance Act, the Commission consists of the following members appointed by the Secretary of the Environment:

Member Role	Appointee Name	Organization & Role
Local Government: County Representative	Stephanie Jones (Co-Chair)	Queen Anne's County <i>Long-Range Principal Planner in Planning & Zoning</i>
Local Government: County Representative	Amy Stevens	Montgomery County <i>Chief of the Division of Watershed Management</i>
Local Government: Municipal Representative	Lawrence DiRe	Town of Federalsburg <i>Town Manager</i>
Local Government: Municipal Representative	Nancy Somerville	Town of Chevy Chase View <i>Council Member</i>
Private Ecological Restoration Company Representative	Kristen Keene	Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC <i>Client Solutions Manager</i>
Private Ecological Restoration Company Representative	Marcus Smith	Greenvest <i>Director of Land Acquisition and General Counsel</i>
Investor Company Representative	Nick Dilks	Ecosystem Investment Partners <i>Managing Partner</i>
Investor Company Representative	Tim Mooradd	Hannon Armstrong Structured Investments <i>Senior Manager</i>
Non-Profit Representative	Joseph Galarraga	The Nature Conservancy <i>Coastal Resilience Project Manager</i>
Non-Profit Representative	Laura Todd	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay <i>Green Infrastructure Projects Manager</i>

University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center	Jennifer Egan, PhD	Environmental Economics and Conservation Finance Program <i>Manager</i>
Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory	Scott Knoche, PhD	Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory <i>Director</i>
Public Representative	Tim Male, PhD	Environmental Policy Innovation Center <i>Executive Director</i>
Public Representative	Formerly Greg Burks, currently vacant	
Public Representative	Randy Rowel	Breaking Boundaries Environmental, LLC <i>Founder</i>
State Agency Representative	Suzanne Dorsey, PhD (Co-Chair)	Maryland Department of the Environment <i>Deputy Secretary</i>
State Agency Representative	David Goshorn	Maryland Department of Natural Resources <i>Senior Bay Restoration Coordinator</i>

MDE Staff support to the Commission was provided by:

- Allison Lorentz, 2024-2025 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Fellow
- Frances Marie Panday, Data Analyst
- Gabrielle Leach, Assistant Director of the Air and Radiation Administration
- Dr. Rachel Lamb, Senior Climate Advisor