



**CLEAN WATER COMMERCE ACCOUNT
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES
SOLICITATION INSTRUCTIONS AND SCORING SYSTEM
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROPOSALS, ONLY**

Overview:

In accordance with the Maryland Clean Water Commerce Act of 2021 (the Act), which authorizes the use of the Bay Restoration Fund to purchase environmental outcomes (nitrogen load reductions that can directly measured or modeled using the Chesapeake Bay Program Models), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is requesting proposals to sell environmental outcomes achieved through environmental practices. **This RFP is strictly for projects alleviating the environmental harms and risks borne by communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks.**

The Act provides \$4 million a year for purchasing environmental outcomes from projects that alleviate the environmental harms and risk borne by **communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks**, with the goal of improving the health of Maryland's waterways in a cost-effective manner. These projects include stormwater management and green infrastructure projects for which at least 50 percent of the project cost or project scope serves, protects, or benefits **communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms or risks** as identified by a Socioeconomic Score (Distribution Across Maryland) of 75 or higher using [MDE's Environmental Justice Tracking Tool](#) (20% of funding; \$4M).

If a proposal is accepted by MDE, the reductions and price will be specified in an agreement between the selected entity and MDE. The agreement will specify the duration of the contract, which may be between 10 and 20 years. MDE intends to enter into multiple contracts. Each application must specify the environmental practice source for which it is being considered.

Evaluation and Selection Process:

Maximum of 100 points

All proposals will be scored using the scoring system below. Proposals will be selected based on their ranking using the Total Score received.

Maximum of 100 points

Cost-effectiveness (Maximum of 60 points)

1. A maximum of 60 points for the proposal with the lowest price per pound of nitrogen, 45 for the second lowest price, 30 for the third lowest price, and 15 for the fourth lowest, and 0 for all the other proposals.

Co-benefits (Maximum of 40 points)

Co-benefits for each project can be received for all of the below categories, based on the applicant selecting the co-benefit in the application form and providing explanation and/or documentation to substantiate the selection.

2. 10 points for enhancing the mitigation of and/or resilience to the effects of climate change, including one or more of the items included on the application form.
3. 10 points for alleviating the environmental harms and risks borne by communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks as identified by a score of 75 or higher in at least one census tract using MDE's Environmental Justice Tracking Tool.
4. 10 points for contributing toward the attainment of local water quality standards, including one of the items included on the application form.
5. Up to 10 points for phosphorous or sediment load reductions that can be counted toward the State's pollution reduction requirements under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Based on the following:
 - 1 point per 100 lbs./year of phosphorus reductions, or
 - 1 point per 30 tons/year of sediment reductions (1 ton = 2,000 lbs.)