



*Increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.*

## Why is this outcome important?

The long-term success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort will depend on local leadership and action that comes from strong citizen stewardship. Support for activities that expand volunteerism, connect citizens to their local streams, create opportunities for local citizen action, and grow the capacity of grass roots partnerships will help ensure long term support for the Bay restoration effort.

## Current Conditions:

Chesapeake Bay Program Partners support a variety of programs and projects that encourage citizen stewardship and local volunteerism through grants and partnership projects.



## How was the outcome derived?

### Who came up with it?

Stakeholder input to the Agreement clearly pointed out the importance of citizen stewardship. These partners along with signatory representatives developed the outcome. The Chesapeake Bay Program Partners are in the process of identifying a mechanism to measure the magnitude of citizen stewardship through the contributions of volunteers and local groups. A 'sound behavior index' that is based on a survey that measures specific, measurable, repetitive behaviors that affect water quality and aquatic health may be one approach that could be developed. By measuring long-term shifts in behaviors and practices across the Chesapeake region, the index gives policy makers a tool to set priorities for regional and local programs that effect change. Programs can then be targeted to support actions that foster additional volunteerism and local engagement.

## What was the basis or baseline?

The outcome measure has not been developed; therefore currently there is no identified baseline. A behavior type index or other measure would fill a gap in our collective ability to measure change and evaluate the effectiveness of social strategies related to Chesapeake Bay restoration.

For More:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/takeaction>

<https://allianceforthebay.org/our-work/engaging-local-communities/>

"Developing Indices from Social Capital and Environmental Survey Data"

<https://www.box.com/s/9b34t0ijy04unm8v27rd>