

Pennsylvania's Getting Stuff Done: Focus on Streamlining and Improving Processes

Office of Water Programs
9/04/2025



Our Agency

Who We Are:

- We are: **2,600+ dedicated public servants**
- We are: Engineers, Geologists, Sanitarians, Nuclear Health Physicists, Clerks, Attorneys, Public Administrators, Community Organizers, and more
- We are: committed to upholding the Mission, Vision, and Values of DEP



Our Agency

What We Do:

- More than **86,000 miles of streams and rivers**
- Nearly **8,000 drinking water facilities** that provide clean drinking water to 12 million Pennsylvanians.
- Over **217,000 oil and gas wells** – and nearly **27,000 orphaned and abandoned wells**
- Almost **2,000 active coal mines and quarries**
- Perform **over 500,000 laboratory tests** every year



Our Mission

The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).

We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses to conserve and restore our natural resources and to address all current and future environmental challenges including climate change and environmental justice.



Our Vision

To be a model environmental agency that moves at the speed of business and leads the way in science, innovation, and best practices to ensure clean air, land, and water for the health and safety of present and future generations.



Our Values

- Public Service
- Environmental Stewardship
- Commitment to Customers
- Excellence and Continuous Improvement
- Communication
- Accountability



Our Goals

DEP aims to align agency-wide efforts under a shared vision and direction, ensure all goals contribute to the long-term success of DEP's mission.

Empower a future-ready workforce through innovation, learning, and leadership.

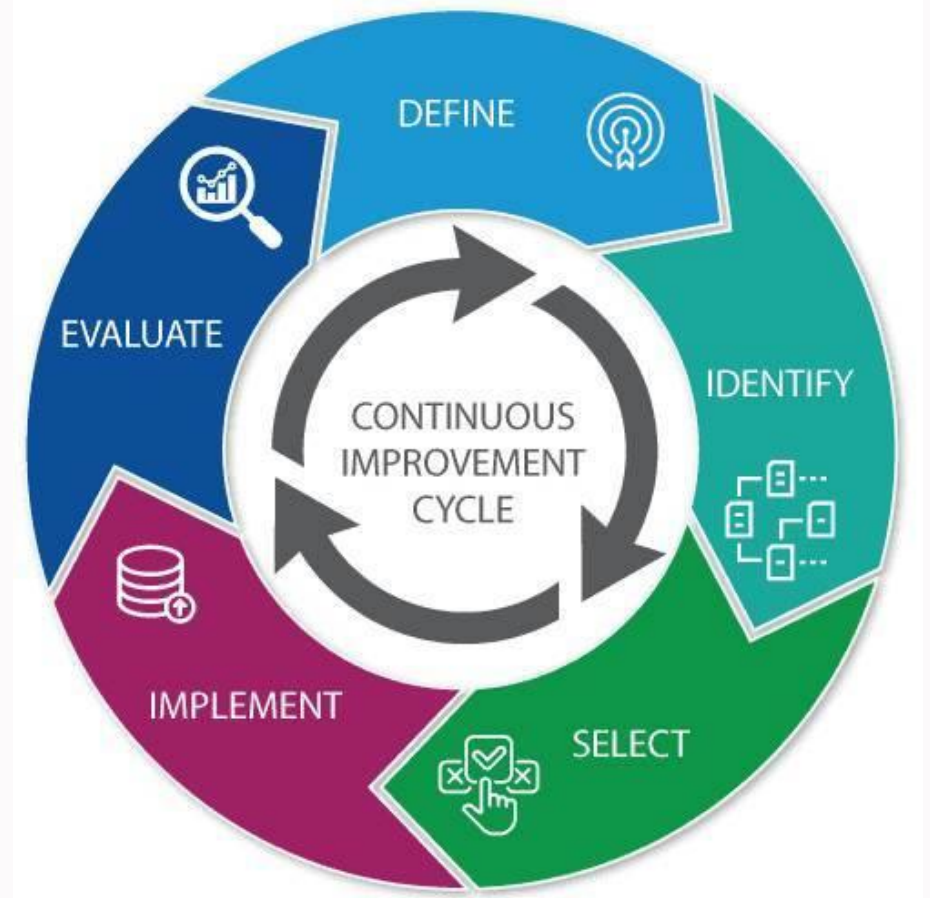
Elevate customer experience in support of environmental outcomes.

Modernize operations and foster a unified, high-performing DEP.

Build a transparent, data-driven organization.

How the Goals Work Together

- Each goal supports the others – this is a connected strategy.
- Workforce capacity enables better service, smarter operations, and stronger data use.
- A better customer experience builds trust, improves outcomes, and informs innovation.
- Operational modernization creates the foundation for consistency and collaboration.
- Data-driven decision-making powers continuous improvement across all goals.
- Program goals will align with and advance these agency-wide priorities.





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Why is DEP Modernizing Now?

- Need to update foundational 1990s era IT systems
- Need for more timely decisions
- Need for immediate tracking and reporting
- Need to have data transparency for the public
- Need to be able to measure outputs and outcomes, individual performance, and overall workload more easily and effectively



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Permitting Efficiencies

- Governor Shapiro's Office of Transformation and Opportunity (OTO) [FastTrack Program](#)
- PA DEP and Conservation District Pilot Permitting Programs for [Chapter 102](#) (Erosion and Sediment Control and Postconstruction Stormwater Management) and [Chapter 105](#) (Water Obstructions and Encroachments)
- [DEP Permit Backlog Reduction](#)
- The [Pennsylvania Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development \(SPEED\) Act Program](#)
- Governor Shapiro's [PAYback Program](#)
- The PA DEP [Permit Tracker](#)



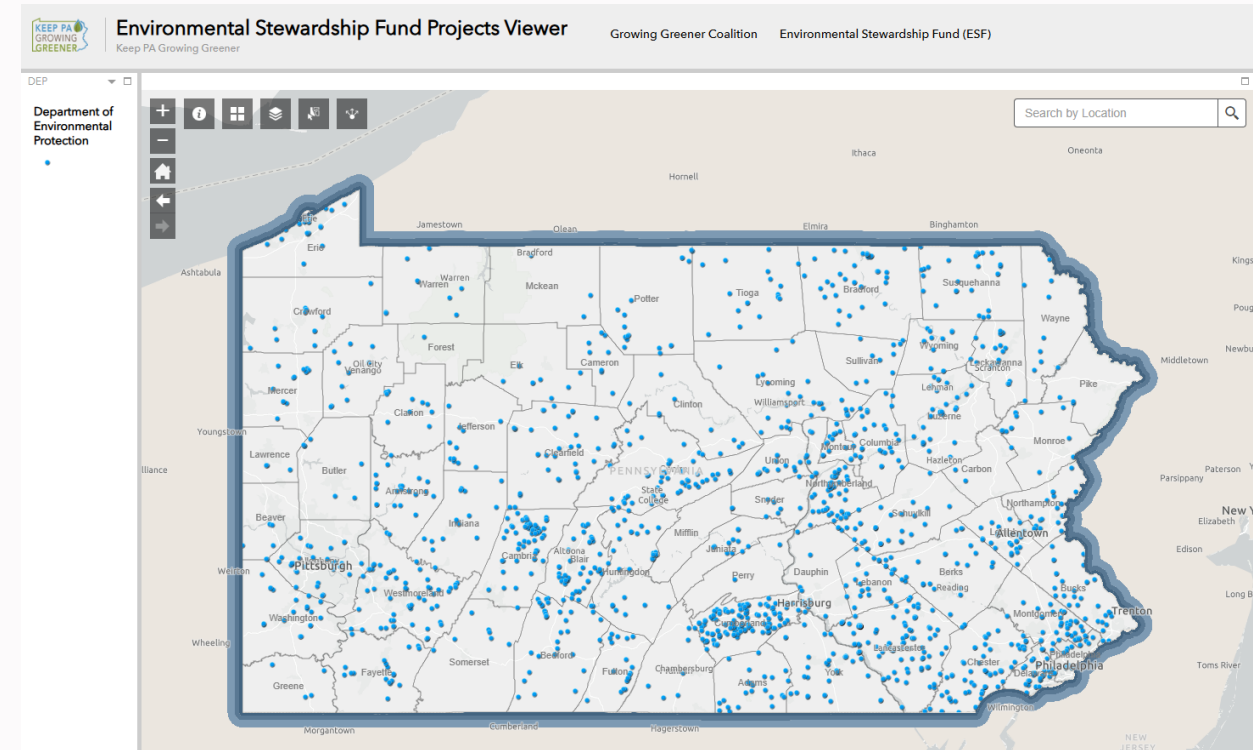
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High-Level Modernization Efforts

- Modernization initiative aimed at improving the transparency, consistency, and efficiency of our regulatory processes:
 - Upgrade electronic permitting and compliance systems
 - Standardize technical review tools
 - Increase use of digital platforms, GIS, interagency coordination, and public engagement


Modernization Efforts - Example

- Transparency - DEP Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management (BWRNSM), in partnership with DCNR and WeConservePA, launched an interactive map to show projects implemented using our state Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener and Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grants)



Modernization Efforts - Example

Digital and Standardized Tools - DEP BWRNSM created internal PowerBI tools to easily assess and conduct QA/QC on incoming data from our centralized geodatabase (statewide shown here). Error reports are generated and provided to reporting programs to address prior to submitting to EPA for annual numeric Chesapeake Bay progress reporting.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Statewide BMP Report

8/27/2025 1:00:14 AM
Latest RefreshDate

County
All

Funding Source
All

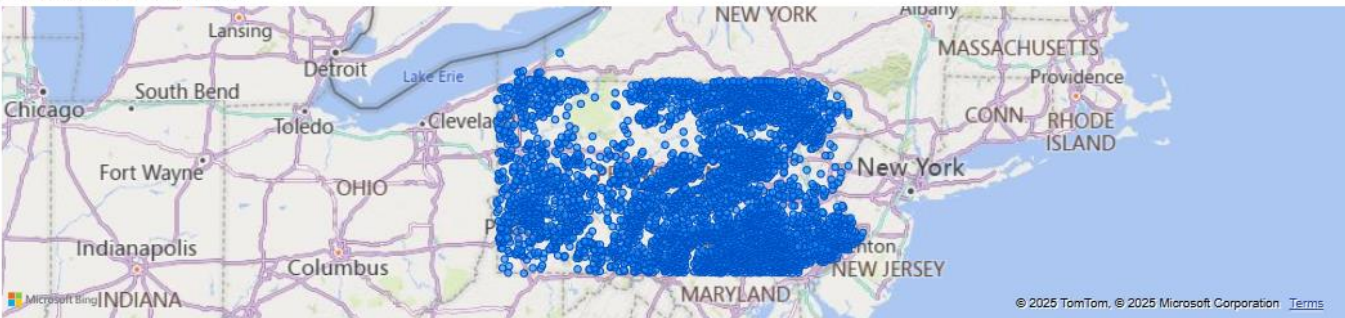
BMP Name
All

Date BMP Installed
1/1/1900 5/31/3024

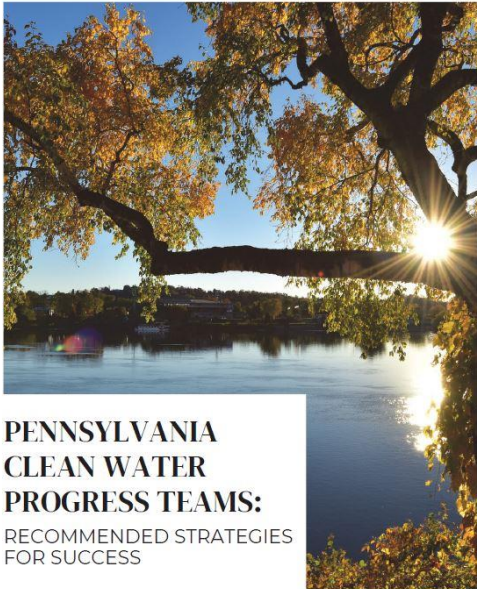
Date Created
6/1/1992 8/26/2025

BMP Inspection Date
4/15/1978 8/25/2025

47.98K
Number of BMPs

Latitude and Longitude


County	BMP ID	BMP Name	Date Installed	BMP Extent	unit	Date Created	Latest Inspection	Funding Source
	BMP-00-09963	Riparian Forest Buffer	7/14/1998	2.00	ACRE	7/14/1998		Private
	BMP-00-09968	Riparian Forest Buffer	10/13/2017	0.00	ACRE	10/13/2017		Private
	BMP-00-09979	Riparian Forest Buffer	5/11/2005	1.00	ACRE	5/11/2005		Private
	BMP-00-09980	Riparian Forest Buffer	10/12/2017	0.00	ACRE	10/12/2017		Private
	BMP-00-09984	Riparian Forest Buffer	3/29/2002	12.00	ACRE	3/29/2002		CBP-SP
	BMP-00-09985	Riparian Forest Buffer	7/16/2006	24.00	ACRE	7/16/2006		CREP
	BMP-00-09990	Riparian Forest Buffer	11/12/2002	25.00	ACRE	11/12/2002		Growing Greener Grant
	BMP-00-09991	Riparian Forest Buffer	10/15/2017	7.00	ACRE	10/15/2017		Growing Greener Grant
	BMP-14-01351	Pipeline	4/1/2016	380.00	FEET	7/3/2025		Growing Greener Grant
	BMP-15-03823	Grassed Waterway	9/28/2023	0.00	ACRE	10/25/2022		CAP
	BMP-15-04090	Terrace	5/2/2025	350.00	FEET	1/10/2023		CAP
	BMP-15-04240	Diversion	5/2/2025	350.00	FEET	4/11/2023		CAP
	BMP-15-05201	Critical Area Planting	10/17/2024	0.00	ACRE	10/23/2024		CAP
	BMP-15-05642	Mulching for moisture conservation	5/2/2025	0.00	ACRE	6/10/2025		CAP
	BMP-30-00026	Roof Runoff Structure	8/30/2024	1.00	COL INT	11/8/2024		ΔCAP



A view of the document listing the
[Clean Water Progress Teams'](#)
[Strategies for Success.](#)

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Strategies for Success

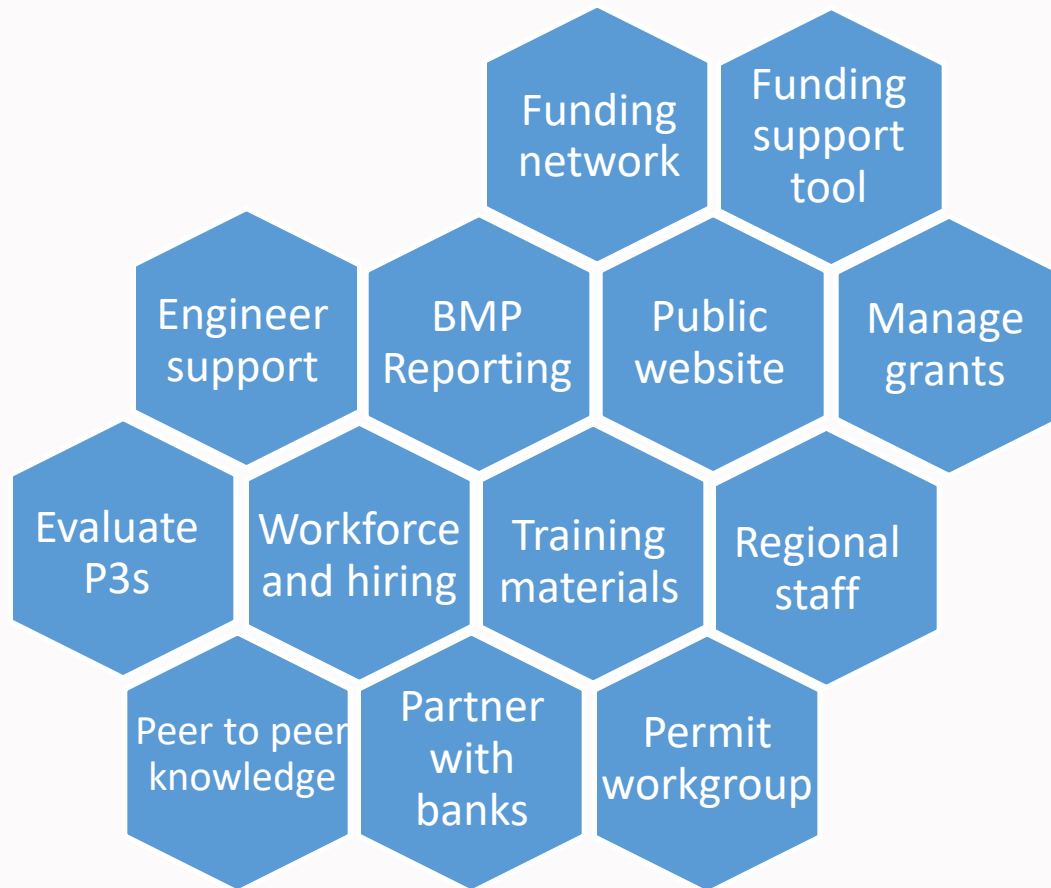
Interagency Coordination and Public Engagement - Three collaborative and diverse Clean Water Progress Teams met throughout 2024 to produce a set of actionable, recommended strategies addressing priority action area challenges. The strategies were organized under six thematic groupings:

- 1. Digital Tools**
- 2. Streamline Best Management Practices**
- 3. Research & Improvement**
- 4. Advocacy for Funding**
- 5. Networking & Collaboration**
- 6. Leadership Development**



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Clean Water Action Teams



The Clean Water Action Teams advancing the 25 recommended Success Strategies presented at the January 2025 Clean Water Gathering.

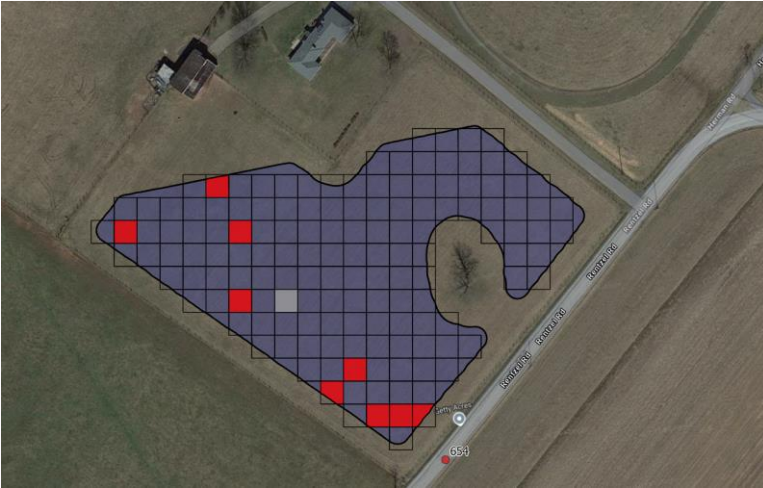
The Success Strategies address barriers to clean water project implementation identified by federal, state and local action leaders as well as non-profit and private sector conservation partners.



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Strategies for Success Example - Workforce Development

- Recommendation 6 – Conduct a gap assessment of engineering providers to determine areas of improvement
- Recommendation 8 – Analyze environmental workforce
- Recommendation 9 – Analyze environmental job advertisements
- Recommendation 10 – Analyze hiring practices at the organizational level
- Recommendation 12 – Survey counties to find what kind of regional staff would be most helpful
- Recommendation 19 – Create new regionalized county conservation staff positions
- Recommendation 23 – Expand network of engineers capable of working in the field of conservation and agricultural engineering



Human observer classifies entire field as “>60% crop residue cover”



Satellite observer classifies field with finer spatial resolution

Digital and Standardized Tools - Remote Sensing of BMPs

On April 17, 2025, PA DEP received approval from the Chesapeake Bay Program for a new remote sensing methodology to verify conservation tillage BMPs, opening previously closed doors for PA and other Bay jurisdictions. Benefits of this project include:

- Creates time and cost efficiency for the historically resource-intensive process of verifying conservation tillage BMPs through roadside surveys.
- Yields greater spatial and temporal accuracy for tracking conservation tillage BMPs over time, which are responsible for **almost three-quarters of total sediment reductions** within Pennsylvania’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- Enhances Pennsylvania’s progress with consistency and coverage over the state’s entire portion of watershed.
- Provides guidance for all jurisdictions of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed seeking to establish remote sensing verification procedures.



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Summary

- Pennsylvania DEP has refreshed its mission, vision, values, and strategic goals.
- Modernization of our permitting processes is one of many examples we are taking to meet the expectations of our residents, businesses, farmers, local governments, and non-governmental organizations.
- Complementing the permitting processes specifically within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are our enhanced centralized data management and geodatabase, “Strategies for Success,” and Clean Water Action Teams.
- We continue to collaborate with partners, think creatively, and take action to streamline, simplify, and effectively implement our environmental protection obligations.



Get In Touch

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