



LAND USE DECISION SUPPORT OUTCOME HEALTHY WATERSHEDS GIT + LAND USE WORKGROUP

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Develop and disseminate relevant and actionable landscape information to organizations involved in local and regional land use planning on past, present, and future landscape conditions and the potential environmental consequences of landscape change.

EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

By the end of 2017, with the direct involvement of local governments or their representatives, evaluate policy options, incentives and planning tools that could assist them in continually improving their capacity to reduce the rate of conversion of agricultural lands, forests and wetlands as well as the rate of changing landscapes from more natural lands that soak up pollutants to those that are paved over, hardscaped or otherwise impervious. Strategies should be developed for supporting local governments' and others' efforts in reducing these rates by 2025 and beyond.

PROPOSED TARGET	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
By 2040, continually increase the number, variety, and/or geographic scope of use cases (e.g., watershed protection, aquatic connectivity, stormwater, tree canopy, redevelopment) for landscape information.	New Target	December 2025

*Detailed activities will be included in an updated work plan

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language:

This revised outcome leverages and adds value to the CBP Partners' substantial investment in high-resolution landscape information by making the data relevant and actionable for local and regional scale decisions. Landscape information includes past, present, and future land use/land cover, hyper-resolution hydrography, and 1-meter resolution topography data. These data are informing the development of the Phase 7 Watershed Model and are already in use by some local and regional organizations with GIS resources to inform stormwater management, urban redevelopment, tree planting strategies, and other decisions. Most jurisdictions and organizations in the Bay watershed, however, lack the resources to make use of these data without assistance.

This outcome addresses the need for sound land use planning articulated by the CBP Partners in every Bay Agreement since 1987. The need is further supported by the continued growth of the Bay watershed population that has increased by ~ 1 million persons per decade since 1950 and is expected to continue to grow at this rate through 2050. While land use decisions are mostly made at local levels of government, land use change affects most outcomes in the Bay Agreement and information about the environmental effects of change can inform planning decisions to minimize adverse impacts. Land conservation and land use planning remain the principal means for accommodating growth while minimizing rates of land conversion and maintaining the ecosystem and social services provided by natural landscapes and open space.

Methodology for data collection and tracking of each Target:

Applications of the data will be voluntarily tracked and documented through the websites used to access them. With permission, these use cases will be actively shared with organizations engaged in land use planning activities, and lessons learned from the use cases will inform the development of tools to facilitate replication of the use cases by organizations lacking resources to use the data independently. Feedback from users will inform future refinements of the data and may inform the development of applications that simultaneously address CBP and local objectives (e.g., identifying opportunities for urban redevelopment to reduce the rate of land conversion while also addressing the need for affordable housing).

Additional recommendations associated with this outcome:

- Reconstitute the Land Use Workgroup as a community of practice for land use planning including expertise in economic and real estate development, land use planning, transportation, soil and water conservation, and other planning-related organizations.
- Form a Land Use Technical Advisory Committee under the Modeling Workgroup for each update cycle of the land use/land cover data to review and vet recommended changes to the data.
- Implement the new [CBP Land Use Strategy](#) to produce and communicate science, data, and information use cases relevant to local land use planning and conservation decisions.
- Develop and disseminate actionable land use and ecosystem service information and solicit feedback on related issues important to local and regional planners and decisionmakers. This information will include trends and patterns in impervious surfaces, tree canopy, and riparian areas.
- Formally integrate land use mapping, monitoring, and derived metrics into the management strategies of relevant outcomes.

Additional topics/challenges for Management Board guidance:

- The proposed Land Use Decisions Support (LUDS) Outcome is related to updates to the Protected Lands and Stream Health outcomes. Together, these three outcomes address the original intent of the formerly proposed Watershed Health outcome by addressing the land use planning, land conservation, and watershed science aspects of watershed health separately but in coordination with each other. These three outcomes nest logically under the proposed revised Watershed Health Goal language.

EXISTING HEALTHY WATERSHEDS GOAL LANGUAGE:

Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value.

PROPOSED WATERSHED HEALTH GOAL LANGUAGE:

Protect and sustain waters and watersheds to achieve and maintain high ecological value.

- The proposed Watershed Health Goal seeks to enhance watershed health through a coordinated and holistic approach, driven by the outputs under the Stream Health, Protected Lands, and Land Use Decision outcomes, as well as their respective workgroups. Recognizing the interconnectedness of these groups and their distinct areas of focus, we recommend that the Management Board support the continued work of these groups and the finalization of the proposed goal language.