

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE CITIES & SUSTAINABLE URBAN WATERSHEDS THROUGHOUT THE BAY

*A Proposal for the Principals'
Staff Committee & Executive
Council from the DC Chair*

*Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
March 7, 2013*

BAY
VISION
QUALITY
LOCAL
PEOPLE
JOBS JOBS
LOCAL
BAY
ECONOMY
RESTORE
SUSTAINABILITY
REVITALIZE
WATERSHED
VISION
INNOVATE
CHESAPEAKE
WATERSHED PEOPLE
INNOVATE
PEOPLE
JOBS
LOCAL
VISION
QUALITY
LOCAL
INNOVATE
BAY



The Challenge

- The pace of progress in reducing & preventing pollution from the urban sector presents a challenge to the Bay Partnership in meeting its 2017 & 2025 goals.
- Urban loadings continue to grow, despite 30+ years of effort; threatens to undermine progress in other sectors.
- high cost of urban retrofits and limited financing tools are a challenge to local governments, and slowed pace of permitting.



Challenges

- More sustainable, innovative management practices for wet weather pollution have been pioneered in select Bay watershed cities & counties.

Challenges

- More sustainable practices for wet weather pollution have been pioneered in select areas; let's take advantage of lessons learned in these cities and counties.
- Increased development across the Bay has made stormwater runoff the fastest growing source of pollution to the Bay and its rivers.
- According to the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Finance Panel Report of 2004, state & local strategies to address all stormwater pollution would cost approx \$15 billion to implement.
 - Approx 60% of the cost estimate (or \$9 billion), was for retrofitting SW management facilities in already-developed areas.



Examples of Innovative Leadership Actions throughout the Bay Watershed

- ‘RiverSmart Homes’ Program in Washington, DC
- Green Streets legislation in Prince George’s County, MD
- Green Streets/Green Towns/Green Jobs Effort of the Bay Trust & EPA Region 3
- Lancaster, PA’s green infrastructure plan linked to the CSO controls strategies; and Green Design Competitions, DC, Annapolis, MD
- Greening Capitols (Richmond, VA)





The opportunity exists to ramp these up on a larger scale using the leadership of the Executive Council.

The Vision: sustainable cities & counties driving sustainable urban watersheds

- Chair, Mayor Gray, DC, seeks to engage his colleagues in an initiative for Urban Sector Sustainability; and it ties in nicely with Mayor Gray's recently issued 'Sustainable DC Plan.'
- Towns, cities, municipalities need to engage and meet the challenge (affordably) of the various Watershed Implementation Plans and the TMDL, which benefits those very local communities and waters.



Innovative Practices

RiverSmart Homes & LID efforts in Washington DC



Single Family row house Dupont Circle



Department of Interior, first of a six wing plan



American Society of Landscape Architects



Pepco Utility Building near Whitehurst Frwy

Trading Maximizes Sustainability

Problem of imperviousness is opportunity for trading to:

- Maximize cost savings & flexibility for regulated sites.
- Increase retention and accelerate restoration of waterbodies.
- Increase socioeconomic benefits, with more LID (health, aesthetics, environmental justice, green jobs).
- District may be able to take advantage of private market efficiencies to achieve other water quality requirements & goals.

Specific Goals

- Meet our urban sector pollution reduction commitments.
- Identify & support more affordable & sustainable techniques; esp for urban SW management
- Assist cities & towns w/alternative financing tools – in a way that supports local needs & values.
- Create local benefits tied to Bay restoration: leading to creation of new jobs, improve local waters, provide multiple community benefits, combat the urban heat island effect.



Specific Actions: Sustainable Urban Watershed Approach

- Convene a Bay urban mayors/local leadership roundtable(s)
 - Goal – sign up more willing participants in Sustainable Cities & Urban Watershed Pilots to demonstrate innovative solutions addressing water quality, other city needs.
- Convene a local leaders/innovators roundtable to document the local benefits of applying green infrastructure to designs to meet community goals and urban SW management.
- Share the lessons learned across the Bay watershed.





RiverSmart
Homes
around town
in DC



Specific Actions – Sustainable Urban Watershed Approach

- Document DC and other locales as models for urban retrofit trading and offsets & incentives; in DC's example, to help ensure the most cost effective applications of greener stormwater controls through DC's model MS4 Permit.
 - actively promote the transfer of knowledge from DC to other urban areas in the bay watershed on these market based tools to reduce site costs
- Advance better, cheaper, greener technologies – develop performance-based design standards to drive higher performing technologies for urban areas.
- Share alternative financing tools – including full exploration of public private partnership solutions. Engage the Finance Center at UMD and others
 - Form a coalition of leaders of municipal leaders in the watershed to seek out more affordable, higher performing solutions.
 - States should review their BMP manual with a goal of reducing impediments to innovation.

BAY PARTNERSHIP PROCESS STEPS:

**DDOE briefing
briefing for the
PSC and
Management
Board on the
vision and general
outline for this
effort – March
2013.**

**Specific Action
Elements refined
based upon input;
ensure they are on
the ground actions
supported by the
partners in the Bay
Partnership – end
of April 2013**

**Seek LGAC and
CAC and STAC
input to the
scoping of this
effort.**

**Draft a PSC/EC
Action Item for
endorsement and
support – May/Jun
2013**

**Begin
implementation
upon endorsement
of the PSC/EC.**

Contact:

Dr. Hamid Karimi, Deputy Director
District Department of the Environment
1200 First Street, NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
202-535-2277
Hamid.karimi@dc.gov