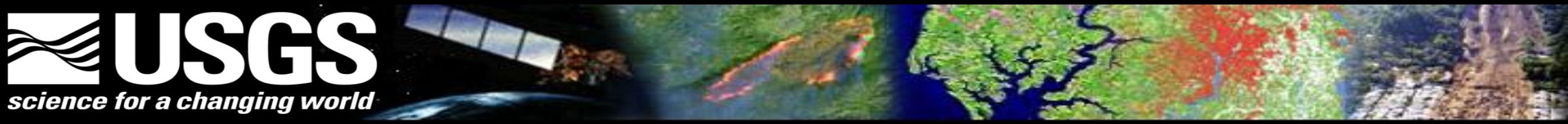

Beyond 2025: crafting a new land use strategy for the Chesapeake Bay Partnership

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Historic CBP concerns about the effects of growth and development

"Goal: Plan and manage the adverse environmental effects of human population growth and land development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" ~ 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement

Six-point vision for managing growth. ~ "Population Growth and Development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to the Year 2020" (1988)

"reduce the rate of harmful sprawl by 30%", ~ 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement

Warnings about the loss of forests and farmlands if current development trends continue ~ Chesapeake Futures (2003)

Jurisdictions must "account for growth" in the development of Watershed Implementation Plans. ~ Chesapeake Bay TMDL (2010)

Monitor and develop tools and information to reduce the rate of land conversion to development. ~ 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement

Selected Accomplishments

- Reports (e.g., 2003 Tax Policy Study and state-specific derivative reports)
- Workshops (e.g., Mason-Dixon Summit, Alternative Futures to Account for Growth)
- Models (Valuing land conservation through alternative future land use scenarios)
- Tools (Conservation Land Use Policy Toolkit, Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment)
- Demonstration Projects (Healthy Watersheds Forest Retention Project)
- Data (Chesapeake Bay Land Cover Data Series, High-resolution Land Use/Land Cover)
- Legislation (Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act (S. 1816), MD Forest Conservation Act, 2023)

Why a new strategy?

- Former strategies have included objectives outside the control and authority of most CBP state and federal partners.
- Past efforts to address growth and development have lacked resources and commitment to follow up and implement report and workshop recommendations.
- Past efforts have lacked local relevance and effective communication to local planners and decisionmakers.

What activities need to continue?

- Commitment to mapping and monitoring land use change at high spatial, temporal, and categorical resolution.
- Quantification of the impacts of past, present, and future changes in land use on water quality, watershed health, and communities.
- Active engagement from state and local governments in the review and application of data and information.

What needs to change?

- Relevance to local government and community needs and decisions.
- Effective communication through focused messaging and timely delivery of relevant information to decisionmakers from trusted sources.
- Engagement of more diverse groups and organizations.
- Coordination across outcomes to address CBP and locally-relevant needs.

What might a new strategy include?

1. Monitor land use/land cover change at high spatial, temporal, and categorical resolution.

2. Communicate land-use characteristics and change as they relate to environmental metrics and other CBP outcomes (e.g., ecosystem services, healthy watersheds, DEIJ, urban heat island, climate resiliency, public access)
   - Consider relevance to additional issues: carbon sequestration and renewable energy production

3. Update and maintain land change forecasts and alternative future scenarios to quantify and value the benefits of infill and redevelopment, land conservation, and growth management and to inform state and federal policymakers and the public;

4. Package and communicate land-use characteristics and change to local governments and communities as actionable information (e.g., Tree Cover Status and Change Fact Sheets);

5. Utilize local and state organizations, and NGO's as designated translators and trusted sources to communicate information to decisionmakers at the right time and in the right format;

6. Solicit public participation to improve the accuracy and local relevance of the data and increase awareness and interest in local land use issues.