



Each participating Bay jurisdiction should develop a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy for all students in the region that includes policies, practices and voluntary metrics that support environmental literacy Goals and Outcomes of this Agreement.

Why is this outcome important?

This position is supported by the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education, which stated in a 2003 report that "in the coming decades, the public will more frequently be called upon to understand complex environmental issues, assess risk, evaluate proposed environmental plans and understand how individual decisions affect the environment at local and global scales. Creating a scientifically informed citizenry requires a concerted, systematic approach to environmental education."



Current conditions:

The Chesapeake Bay Program is piloting a tool to support the collection of data toward shared environmental literacy metrics. The tool was developed by a professional evaluator in consultation with state departments of education.

How was the outcome derived? Who came up with it?

The Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy, released by the Education Workgroup in June 2012, outlined how the federal government should support state efforts to advance environmental literacy. The priorities identified in the strategy provide the basis for the goals and outcomes proposed for the new agreement and intentionally build on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) commitment.

What was the basis or baseline?

The Workgroup is in the process of piloting a new set of voluntary metrics to track progress toward the new goals and outcomes. A full baseline is expected for the 2014-15 school year, but because of the voluntary nature of the metrics, it will be limited to those local education agencies who respond.

For more:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/publications/title/mid-atlantic-elementary-and-secondary-environmental-literacy-strategy>

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/education>