

**2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Revisions**  
**PSC Suggestions: Version 1**  
Goals and Outcomes

The Chesapeake Executive Council's [Charge to the Principals' Staff Committee: Charting a Course Beyond 2025](#) tasks the PSC with making revisions to the [2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) by the end of 2025. The PSC will evaluate the *Agreement's* explanatory statement about Goals and Outcomes and determine what changes may be necessary to update the section according to the direction of the Executive Council, which has indicated that any changes should reflect:

- A renewed and greater emphasis on engaging all communities of the watershed as active stewards of a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay and its watershed;
- Our mandate to address water quality and living resources throughout the Bay and watershed;
- Elevating conservation as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership;
- A grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues that have emerged since the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014;
- Goals and outcomes that are measurable and time bound. Time frames should be sufficient to accomplish the outcomes as quickly as possible. In particular, our regulated nutrient and sediment load reductions, especially those within non-point sources;
- Acknowledgement that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that our efforts need to constantly adapt accordingly; and
- The fact that while each partner shares a common goal, we are all approaching this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities.

On the following page is the *2014 Agreement's* explanatory section on Goals and Outcomes - original text is shown in black. **There are no initially suggested revisions to this section.**

**GOALS & OUTCOMES:**

The commitments contained in this section are the Goals and Outcomes that the signatories will work on collectively to advance restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and its watershed. The Goals articulate the desired high-level aspects of the partners' Vision. The Outcomes related to each Goal are specific, time-bound, measurable targets that directly contribute to achieving that Goal.

The Management Strategies further described in the next section of this agreement articulate the actions necessary to achieve the Goals and Outcomes. This work will require effort from many, including all levels of government, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, watershed groups, businesses and individuals. Local government will continue to play a unique and critical role in helping the Partnership realize this shared Vision for the Chesapeake Bay. Signatories will participate in achieving the Outcomes of this Agreement in the manner described in the "Management Strategies Development and Implementation" section.

While the Goals and Outcomes are described by separate topic areas, the signatories recognize that they are interrelated. Improvements in habitat and water quality lead to healthier living resources. Environmentally literate people are more engaged stewards of the Chesapeake Bay's healthy watersheds. Better water quality means swimmable, fishable waters for Bay residents and visitors. Increased public access to the Bay inspires people to care for critical landscapes and honor the region's heritage and culture. Healthy fish and shellfish populations support a vibrant economy for a spectrum of fishing-related industries. The signatories recognize that all aspects of the ecosystem are connected and that these Goals and Outcomes support the health and the protection of the entire Bay watershed.

As the signatories identify new opportunities and concerns, Goals or Outcomes may be adopted or modified. Any changes or additions to Goals will be approved by the Executive Council. The Principals' Staff Committee will approve changes or additions to Outcomes, although significant changes or additions will be raised to the Executive Council for approval. Proposed changes to Goals and Outcomes or the addition of new ones will be open for public input before being finalized. Final changes or additions will be available on the Chesapeake Bay Program's website.