



PressRelease

Environmentalists and Home Builders Create “Builders for the Bay” Program

Unique partnership to balance development and health of Chesapeake Bay

Washington, DC (December 3, 2001) – Before an audience that included Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, representatives from environmental groups and home builder associations today signed an agreement to create *Builders for the Bay* – a first-of-its-kind program aimed at reducing environmental impacts from residential and commercial construction within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Under the leadership of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Center for Watershed Protection and the National Association of Home Builders, *Builders for the Bay* will encourage the voluntary adoption of 22 site design principles that reduce the environmental effects of residential and commercial development. Over the next two years, the organizations plan to expand *Builders for the Bay* into at least twelve local jurisdictions in the Bay watershed.

"In certain areas, environmentalists and home builders agree that some of the current 'no growth' regulations are not in the best interest of environmental health or development," said Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Executive Director David Bancroft. "*Builders for the Bay* provides a mechanism for builders and environmentalists to jointly examine 'no growth' regulations that could carry costly infrastructure and environmental impacts and voluntarily request changes in local ordinances."

Developed by the Center for Watershed Protection, these innovative principles have been successfully promoted in Frederick County, Maryland and in Stafford County, Spotsylvania County and Fredericksburg, Virginia and aim to restore natural hydrology, retain rainwater onsite and prevent the erosion and scouring of natural stream beds in local waterways.

**Alliance for
the Chesapeake Bay**
6600 York Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
410-377-6270
www.AllianceChesBay.org

**Center for
Watershed Protection**
8391 Main Street
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-461-8323
www.cwp.org

**National Association
of Home Builders**
1201 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-266-8200
www.nahb.org

"The philosophy behind *Builders for the Bay* is that growth management opportunities and watershed protection can be developed hand-in-hand," said Center for Watershed Protection Director Thomas Schueler. "We hope that this new partnership will serve as a national model and will help similar programs develop nationwide within the next few years."

"The National Association of Home Builders has joined this partnership to do our part in restoring the Chesapeake Bay," said NAHB Area III National Vice President Earl Armiger. "As the population of the Bay watershed continues to grow over the next three decades, *Builders for the Bay* will allow home builders to develop land in an environmentally responsible manner and minimize our impact on the Bay."

For more information about *Builders for the Bay* and to view this historic agreement, visit our partner websites at www.alliancechesbay.org, www.cwp.org or www.nahb.org.

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For more information, contact:

David Bancroft, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, 410-377-6270

Hye Yeong Kwon, Center for Watershed Protection, 410-461-8323

Katie McHugh, National Association of Home Builders, 410-269-0109