## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **CONOWINGO WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (WIP)**

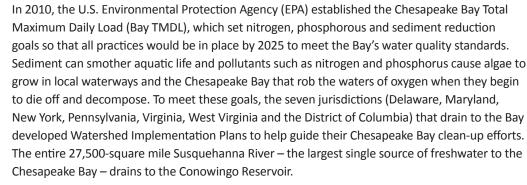


The Chesapeake Bay Watershed



## Why Do We Need To Reduce Pollution In The Chesapeake Bay?

The Chesapeake Bay is in poor health due to pollution from a variety of sources, including stormwater runoff, air emissions, wastewater, agriculture, development and more. For many years, pollution that flowed into the streams and rivers of the Chesapeake Bay was not managed to meet water quality standards. At the same time, the population in the 64,000-square mile watershed increased significantly – rising 43% between 1980 and 2017, from 12.7 million people to 18.2 million people. All of this has harmed water quality in the watershed.



The Conowingo Dam and reservoir were built in 1928 and are owned and operated by Exelon Corporation. The Conowingo Dam and other dams in the Lower Susquehanna have historically trapped and stored sediment. A 2015 study by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment concluded the reservoir has reached approximately 92% capacity, no longer trapping sediment and associated nutrients. In December 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Program agreed to a separate Conowingo Planning Target and to collectively develop a separate Conowingo WIP. All Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) jurisdictional members agreed to pool resources and to identify a process to fund and implement the Conowingo WIP.



Chesapeake Bay Program Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Since 1983, the Chesapeake Bay Program has led and directed the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Bay Program partners include federal and state agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations and academic institutions. Staff members work at our offices in Annapolis, Maryland, and at partner organizations throughout the watershed.