



Increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.

Why is this outcome important?

The long-term success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort will depend on local leadership and action that comes from strong citizen stewardship. Support for activities that expand volunteerism, connect citizens to their local streams, create opportunities for local citizen action, and grow the capacity of grass roots partnerships will help ensure long term support for the Bay restoration effort.

Current Conditions:

Chesapeake Bay Program Partners support a variety of programs and projects that encourage citizen stewardship and local volunteerism through grants and partnership projects.



How was the outcome derived?

Who came up with it?

Stakeholder input to the Agreement clearly pointed out the importance of citizen stewardship. These partners along with signatory representatives developed the outcome. The Chesapeake Bay Program Partners are in the process of identifying a mechanism to measure the magnitude of citizen stewardship through the contributions of volunteers and local groups. A 'sound behavior index' that is based on a survey that measures specific, measurable, repetitive behaviors that affect water quality and aquatic health may be one approach that could be developed. By measuring long-term shifts in behaviors and practices across the Chesapeake region, the index gives policy makers a tool to set priorities for regional and local programs that effect change. Programs can then be targeted to support actions that foster additional volunteerism and local engagement.

What was the basis or baseline?

The outcome measure has not been developed; therefore currently there is no identified baseline. A behavior type index or other measure would fill a gap in our collective ability to measure change and evaluate the effectiveness of social strategies related to Chesapeake Bay restoration.

For More:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/takeaction>

<https://allianceforthebay.org/our-work/engaging-local-communities/>

"Developing Indices from Social Capital and Environmental Survey Data"

<https://www.box.com/s/9b34t0ijy04unm8v27rd>



Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.

Why is this outcome important?

One of the most important lessons learned from the past three decades is that while watershed-wide partnerships help to coordinate and catalyze, implementation happens locally. Local governments are key partners as are individual citizens, businesses, institutions, watershed associations and other non-governmental organizations. By working together to engage, empower and facilitate local government and others, we will leverage resources and ensure better outcomes.

Current Conditions:

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) was established in 1987 and has been advising the Executive Council about how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement. According to LGAC members and signatory representatives, the local officials' knowledge of watershed issues and capacity to implement watershed restoration and protection initiatives varies quite dramatically throughout the watershed.



How was the outcome derived?

Who came up with it?

Stakeholder input to the Agreement clearly pointed out the importance of better engaging local leaders. Each of the Management Strategies developed for the outcomes in the Agreement will describe, where applicable, how locals will be engaged, where actions, tools or technical support are needed and what steps should be taken to facilitate greater local participation. This outcome, however, is specifically focused on increasing the knowledge of local officials. The outcome was developed by signatory representatives with input by stakeholders, including members of the Local Government Advisory Committee.

What was the basis or baseline?

The outcome measure has not been developed; therefore currently there is no identified baseline.

For More:

[Local Government Advisory Committee](#)

Identify minority stakeholder groups who are not currently represented in the leadership, decision making and implementation of the current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage them in the Partnership.

Why is this outcome important?

The Chesapeake is a region of profound diversity, essential to the cultural and economic vitality of the nation. Chesapeake Bay history encompasses thousands of years of human settlement from indigenous peoples and early colonists to new immigrants. Increasing diversity in the restoration and protection efforts is critically important to the success of our Program in an increasingly diverse watershed.

Current Conditions:

The decision making involved in environmental policy and pollution source siting decisions continues to lack substantive input from diverse minority and low-income communities. Significant voluntary improvements in these communities are difficult to realize when these populations are not engaged. The existing partnership - the leadership making decisions and doing implementation - does not reflect the true diversity of our population in the watershed. This is what we recognize and seek to change.

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

Stakeholder input to the Agreement pointed out the importance of diversity. These partners along with signatory representatives developed the outcome. Chesapeake Bay Program partners are in the process of identifying mechanisms to identify and increase minority stakeholder groups who are not currently represented in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

What was the basis or baseline?

The outcome has not been developed; therefore currently there is not a baseline.

For More: