2017 & 2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs)

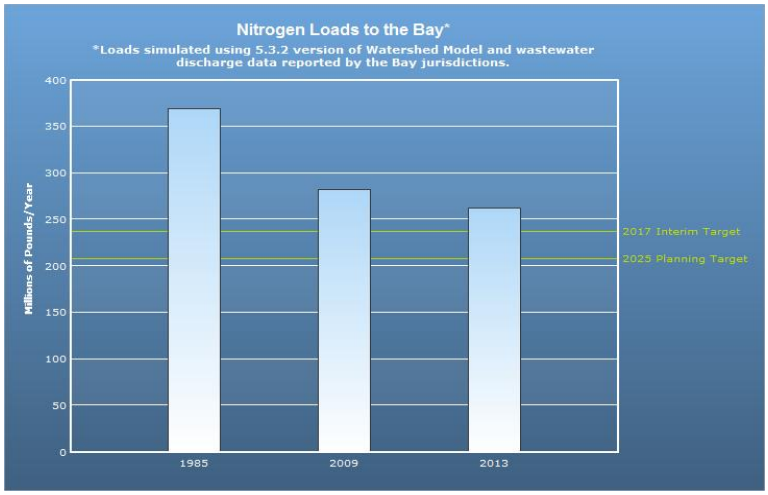
OUTCOME

2017 WIP Outcome: *Have practices in place by 2017 that are expected to achieve 60 percent of the load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.*

2025 WIP Outcome: *Have all controls installed by 2025 to achieve the jurisdictions' water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), and chlorophyll-a in the tidal portions of the Bay as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).*

Why is this outcome important?

WIPs are instrumental in the restoration of tidal water quality and are central to bringing back a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The water quality standards are supportive of other Bay Program goal areas including habitat and fisheries. The standards also provide benefits for protection of human health.



Current Conditions:

As of 2013, practices are in place to achieve 27 percent of the nitrogen reductions, 43 percent of the phosphorus reductions and 37 percent of the sediment reductions compared to 2009 that are necessary to attain water quality standards in the Bay.

How was the outcome derived?

Who came up with it?

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) will measure this outcome annually by running implementation data collected from the jurisdictions through the Partnership's modeling tools. It will require no further data collection or analysis other than what is done annually for the Bay Barometer and other purposes.

In 2009, the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council established the goal that all practices for a clean Bay be in place by 2025. The Chesapeake Bay TMDL established the interim goal that practices be in place by 2017 to achieve 60 percent of the necessary reductions compared to 2009.

What was the basis or baseline?

The baseline for these reductions is based on the 2009 progress run, which was the last year for which pollution reduction progress was assessed prior to EPA establishing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL in 2010.

For More:

http://stat.chesapeakebay.net/
http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/track/restoration

Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring

OUTCOME

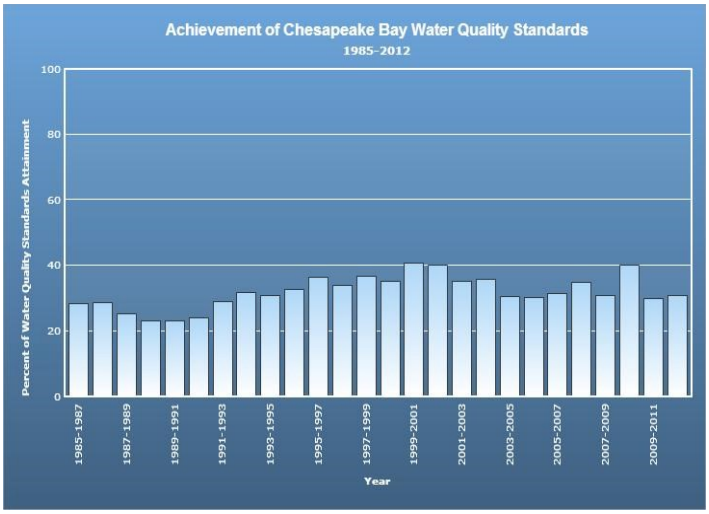
Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

Why is this outcome important?

Adding a new "attainment" outcome will provide information on water-quality conditions needed to assess the portion of the goal to "achieve water quality necessary to support aquatic living resources". This outcome focuses on monitoring information to assess progress towards achieving standards in Bay and tidal water restoration.

Current Conditions:

- Through 2012, 31 percent of the Bay and its tidal rivers met overall conditions for healthy waters
- 70 percent of the sites through 2012 are showing long-term improvements in nitrogen and phosphorus
- From 2003-2012, nitrogen conditions improved at about one half of sites, while phosphorus concentrations show little or no change at more than one half of sites
- Improvement for sediment concentrations is less than that for nutrients, with 28 percent of sites showing long-term improvement (since 1985) and 10 percent of sites from 2003-2012



See how water quality is doing at chesapeakebay.net

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

In 2012, the Bay Program endorsed having a more integrated approach to assess progress toward the Bay nutrient and sediment TMDL and attaining water-quality standards. Bay Program partners have monitoring networks and efforts in place to conduct annual reporting of standards attainment and nutrient and sediment trends in the watershed.

What was the basis or baseline?

There are 92 segments in the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters and each segment can have up to 5 designated uses. The methodology takes into consideration all designated uses for all segments to meet water quality standards in the tidal Chesapeake Bay. As of the 2012 baseline, 90 of 291 designated use segments meet water quality standards.

For More:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/achievement_of_chesapeake_bay_water_quality_standards

http://cbrim.er.usgs.gov/