

# Improving the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Rivers: Our Progress and Path Forward

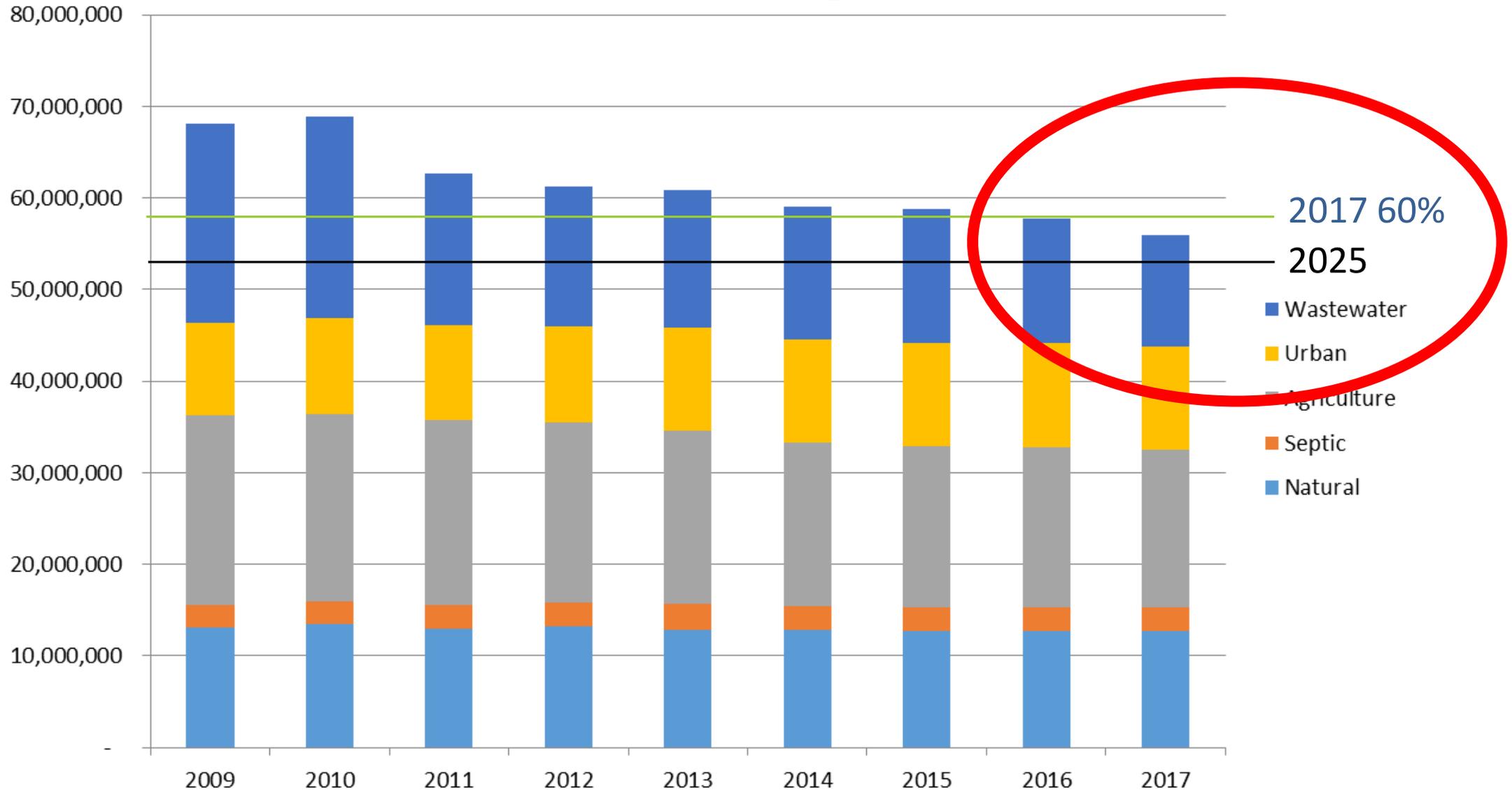
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*VIRGINIA'S PHASE III WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN*

# How healthy is your Chesapeake Bay?



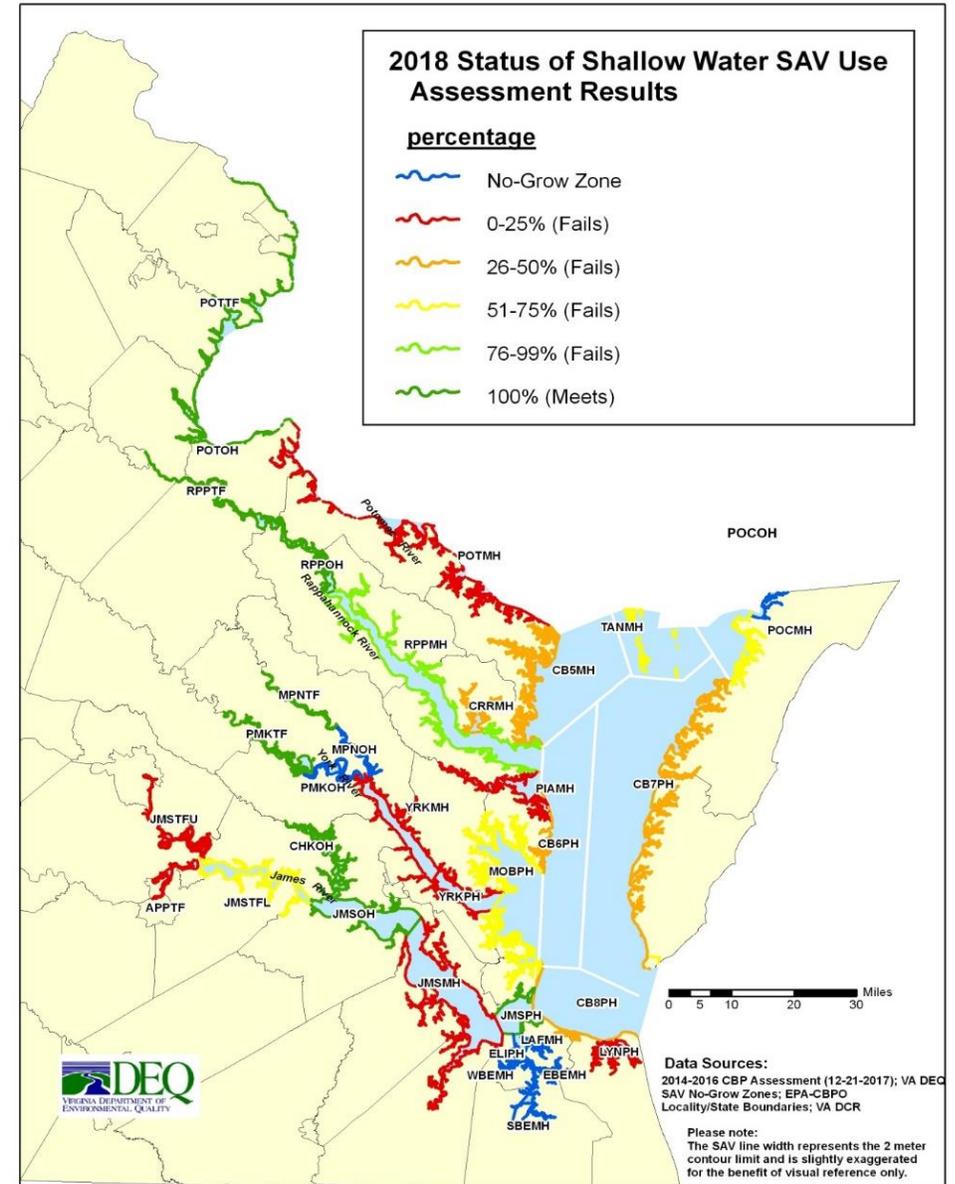
# Virginia Achieves Midpoint Clean Water Goals for Nitrogen





# Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries - Highlights

- The SAV restoration target is 77,463 acres.
- The 2018 IR will be the first time we can report over half (55%) of the overall sum of segment-specific SAV acreage goals was achieved.



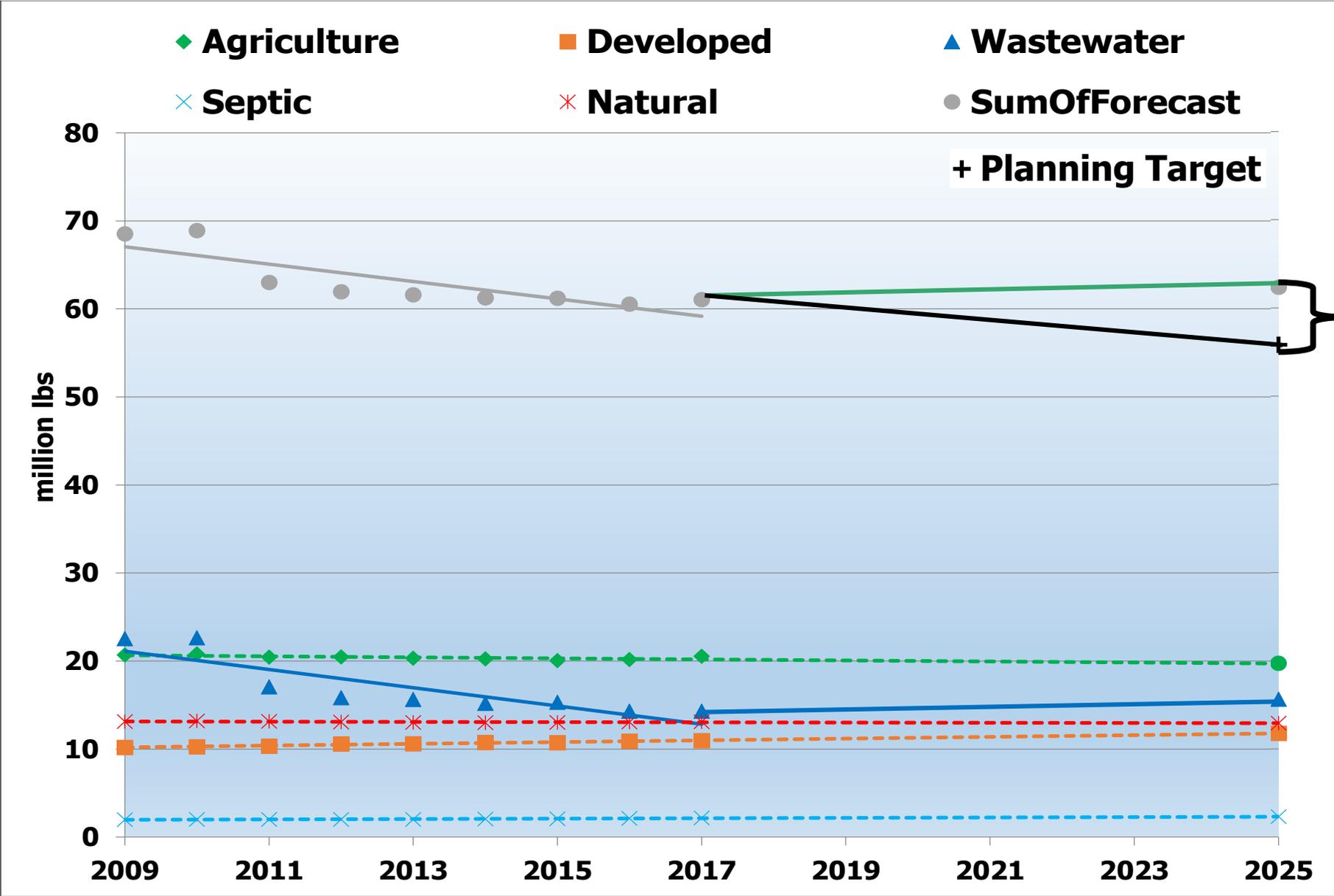
**Governor Ralph S. Northam**  
**April 4, 2018, Environment Virginia, VMI**

**“Our DEQ experts tell us that at our current Bay restoration pace, we will fall millions of pounds short of our goals to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus. So my Administration is committed to preparing a new cleanup plan that incorporates input from local decision makers, prioritizes nature-based solutions, and tackles the impact of climate change on our clean water goals.”**



**Our Rivers, Our Bay:**  
Virginia's Path to Clean Water

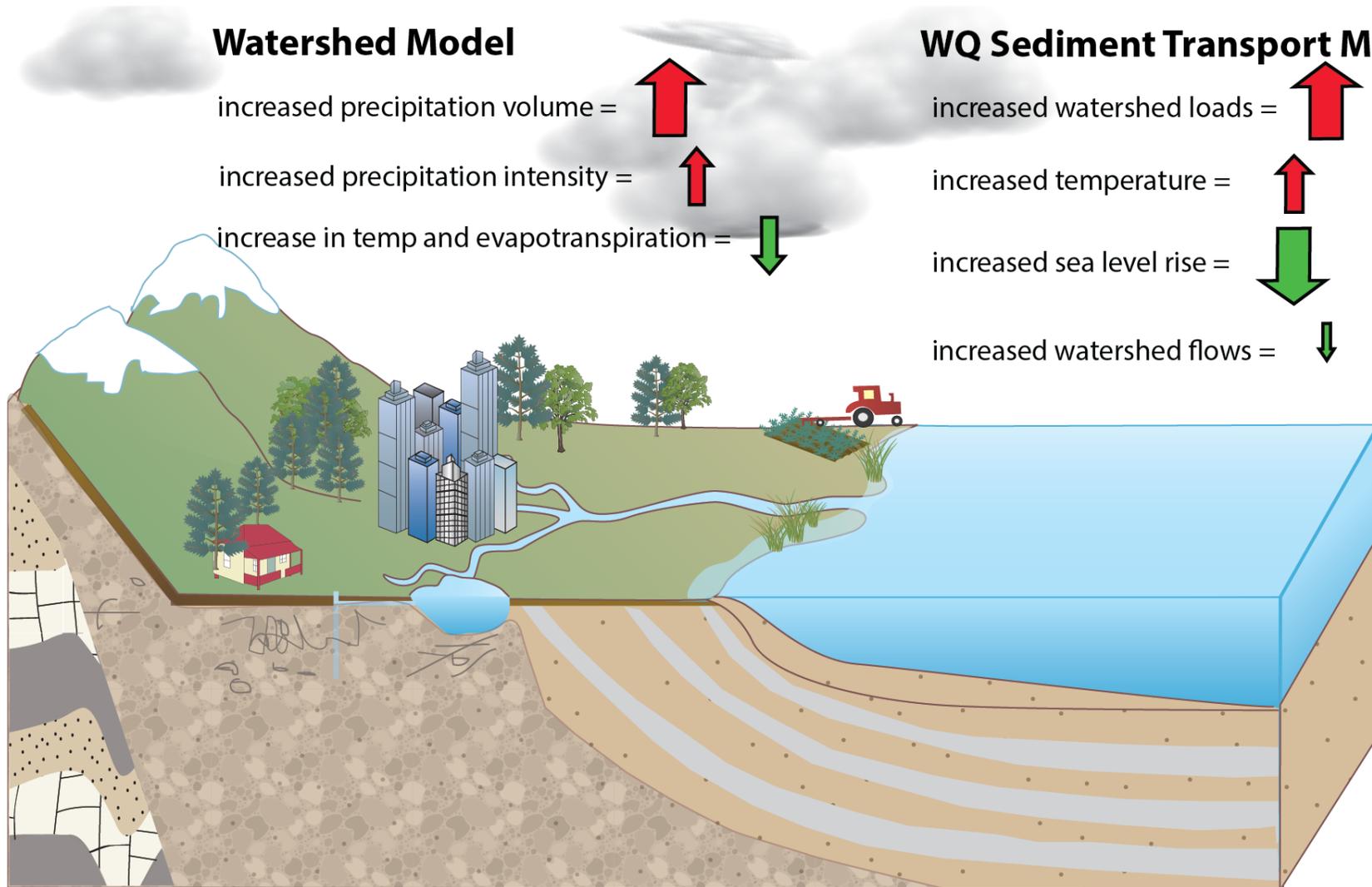
# Virginia Nitrogen Loads by Source



6.5 M  
Pounds

# Accounting for Changing Conditions

## Cumulative Assessment of Bay Low Dissolved Oxygen Impacts



# VIRGINIA'S PHASE III WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN GOALS

- ✓ **Restore the Chesapeake Bay.**
- ✓ **Achieve state basin planning targets for the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James Rivers and the Eastern Shore.**
- ✓ **Achieve our goals no later than December 31, 2025.**
- ✓ **Tackle additional pollution expected from growth.**
- ✓ **Tackle the impacts of climate change.**
- ✓ **Continue to engage partners, including local governments, planning district/regional commissions, and soil and water conservation districts.**
- ✓ **Develop a plan that is practical and cost effective.**
- ✓ **Maximize the potential for co-benefits.**
- ✓ **Meet the Environmental Protection Agency's expectations.**

# EPA Expectations for the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (June 20, 2018)

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- ❑ By 2025, implement best management practices to reach planning targets for nitrogen and phosphorus reductions
- ❑ Develop programmatic and numeric implementation commitments
- ❑ Engage local, regional and federal partners
- ❑ Incorporate co-benefits
- ❑ Establish local area planning goals

**Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources**

**Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders Advisory Group**

**Soil and Water Conservation  
District Areas:**  
1) Adjust template bmp input decks  
2) Identify funding and policy needs

**Planning District Commissions:**  
1) Adjust template bmp input decks  
2) Identify funding and policy needs  
3) Convene all sector stakeholders

**Virginia Interagency  
Chesapeake Bay TMDL Team**

# Key Recommendations for the Agriculture Sector

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- **Establish equine workgroup**
- **Increase participant caps**
- **Bundle practices**
- **Increase tax credits**
- **Additional cover crop flexibility**
- **Animal waste facility lifespans**
- **Stream protection - flexibility**
- **Forestry - flexibility**
- **Nutrient management - document**
- **Greatest agricultural BMP needs in Bay watershed:**
  - **Animal waste facilities**
  - **Grass and forested buffers**
  - **Cover crops**
  - **Nutrient management (all types)**
  - **Poultry litter transport**
  - **Livestock stream exclusion**
- **Move towards regionalized BMP priorities by fy2021**

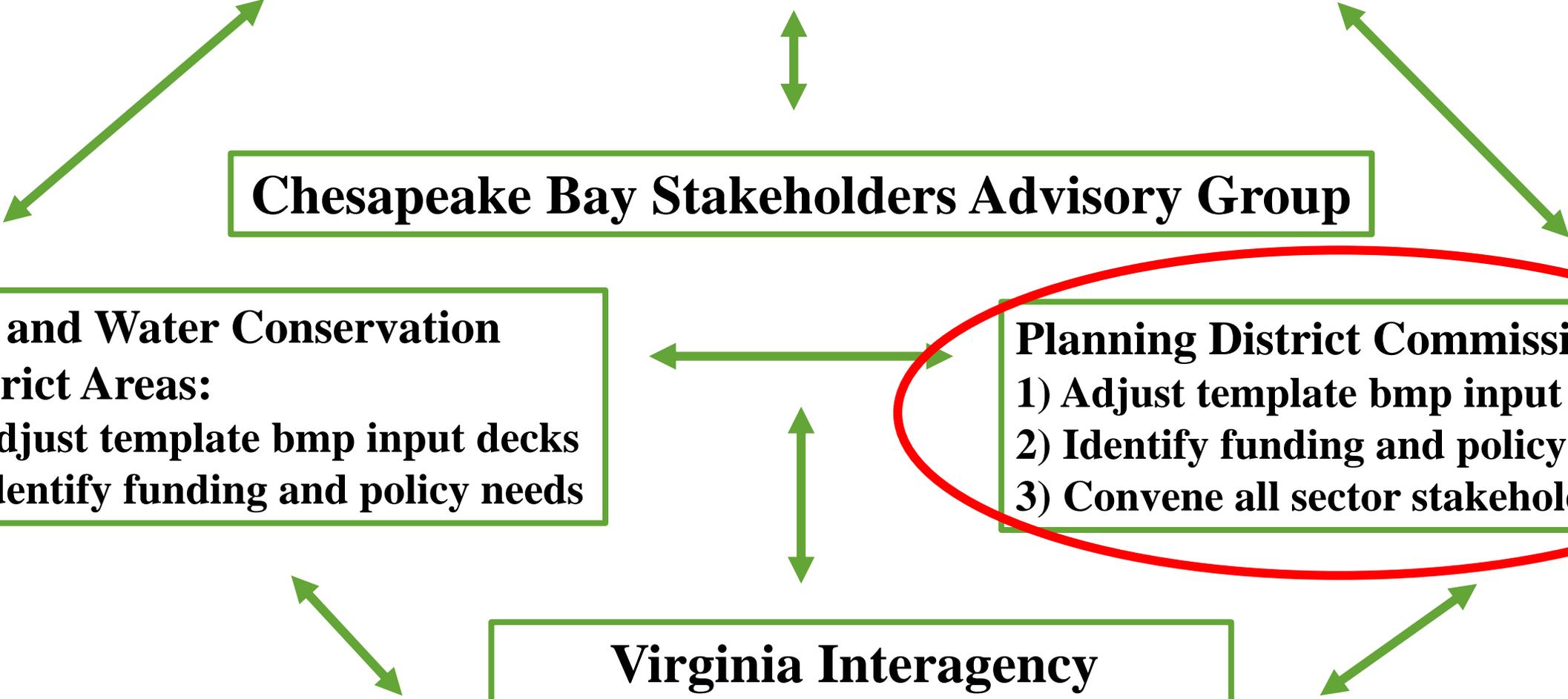
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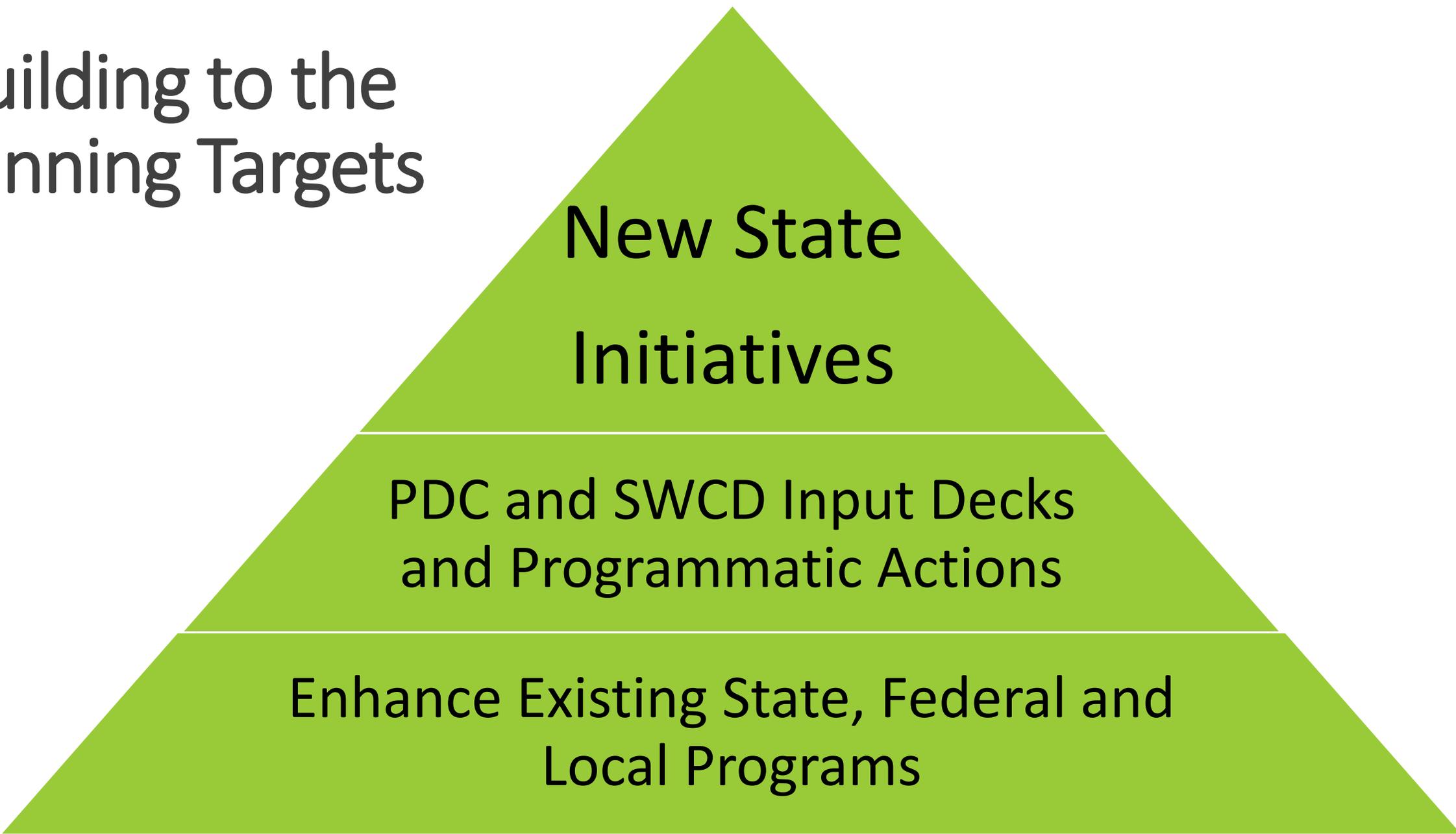
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# Building to the Planning Targets



New State  
Initiatives

PDC and SWCD Input Decks  
and Programmatic Actions

Enhance Existing State, Federal and  
Local Programs

# The Draft Phase III WIP – Overview of New State Initiatives

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**Agriculture**

**Wastewater**

**Developed Lands**

**Septic Systems**

**Multiple Sectors**

# The Draft Phase III WIP – Overview of New State Initiatives

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**Agriculture**

**Wastewater**

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**Septic Systems**

**Multiple Sectors**

- Update and Fully Fund the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program; Cost Share and Technical Assistance
- Enhance Funding Opportunities through the Agricultural BMP Loan Program and Tax Credits
- Develop Long-Term Marketing Plan for the Resource Management Plan Program;
- Enhance Coordination Among State and Federal Agencies Assisting Farmers
- Seek 85 % Implementation of NMPs on Cropland Through Cost Share, Improved Documentation and Reporting, and Increased NMP Certifications
- Seek Livestock Stream Exclusion on Perennial Streams
- Promote Adequate Land Area for Horses Consistent with VCE Recommendations and Provide Cost Share
- Increase Grass and Forest Buffers through CREP, VEE, and other sources

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- Achieve Additional Reductions from Significant Municipal WWTPs.

# The Draft Phase III WIP – Overview of New State Initiatives

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**Multiple Sectors**

- Request Reporting of Sewer Connections by Wastewater Utilities
- Establish Wastewater Infrastructure Work Group
- Pilot Shifting Oversight of Septic Maintenance from Local Governments to Virginia Department of Health
- Designate VDH as a State Certifying Authority and Provide State Tax Exemptions
- Extend Nitrogen Limits to Large Conventional Onsite Septic Systems

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- Enhance Reporting of BMP Implementation
- Fund VCAP; Fund SLAF; Define SLAF Needs
- Establish Long-Term Partnership with PDCs
- Expand Healthy Virginia Lawns Program
- Pilot Urban NMP for Virginia Youth
- Enhance the VDACS Certified Fertilizer Applicator Program
- Promote Proper Use of Lawn Fertilizer
- Enhance DOF Presence in Urban Centers with Focus on Canopy Goals, Riparian Plantings and Community Engagement

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**Multiple Sectors**

- Carbon Trading Regulations; Volkswagen Diesel Emission Mitigation Settlement
- Coastal Resilience Master Plan
- Develop a State Lands WIP
- Establish Work Group to Study Expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act
- Support AFID Grants for Native Plant Nurseries and Oyster Aquaculture
- Implement DOF/RRBC Healthy Watershed Initiative

# Drafting the Commonwealth's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan

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**Questions**

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# The Draft Phase III WIP – Public Comment Process

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- Posting to multiple web sites including DEQ and SNR.
- Comments accepted by email and USPS from April 5 through June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Two webinars -- May 13 (9 a.m. and 6 p.m.)
- Final Phase III WIP will be posted no later than August 9<sup>th</sup> on DEQ and SNR web sites.

