



Supporting Local Clean Water Planning in PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania is working alongside neighboring states to clean up our local waters that flow to the Chesapeake Bay. This effort is Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase 3 WIP). The path to success for Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 WIP starts locally, and Pennsylvania has developed a plan to support local, county-based partnerships in their efforts to achieve their goals for reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to local streams and rivers throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This document summarizes the results of Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 WIP local clean water planning efforts.

Local Plans, Local Solutions

The Phase 3 WIP focuses on local solutions for nutrient pollution reduction to local waterways. There are 43 counties in Pennsylvania whose waters run to the Chesapeake Bay. Pennsylvania has identified Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) as a way for local partners and stakeholders in those counties to decide how they will meet state nutrient pollution reduction goals and identify actions that address local issues, too. By creating a CAP, county participants can develop a strategy for cleaning up local waters, lowering flood risks, and improving the quality of life in their community.

Pennsylvania started by creating a Toolbox with guidance and resources for counties to use during the planning process. The Toolbox was tested in four pilot counties (Lancaster, York, Adams and Franklin). Feedback from each of the counties was used to improve the Toolbox and the overall planning process. The Toolbox evolved from one large document into a set of concise, easier-to-use resources with planning and reporting tools that include:

- Community Clean Water Guide (background and planning resources)
- Community Clean Water Technical Toolbox (county-specific data and technical resources)
- Planning and Progress Template
- Programmatic Recommendations Template
- Community Clean Water Action Plan Narrative Template

Pennsylvania has categorized counties into four tiers based on the load reductions needed to meet the 2025 planning goal. Each of the tiers represents 25% of Pennsylvania's total nutrient load reduction. The number behind each county corresponds with proposed county groupings located on the map on the second page. Each county will submit an individual CAP, and is encouraged to leverage existing regional partnerships where possible, during the planning effort.

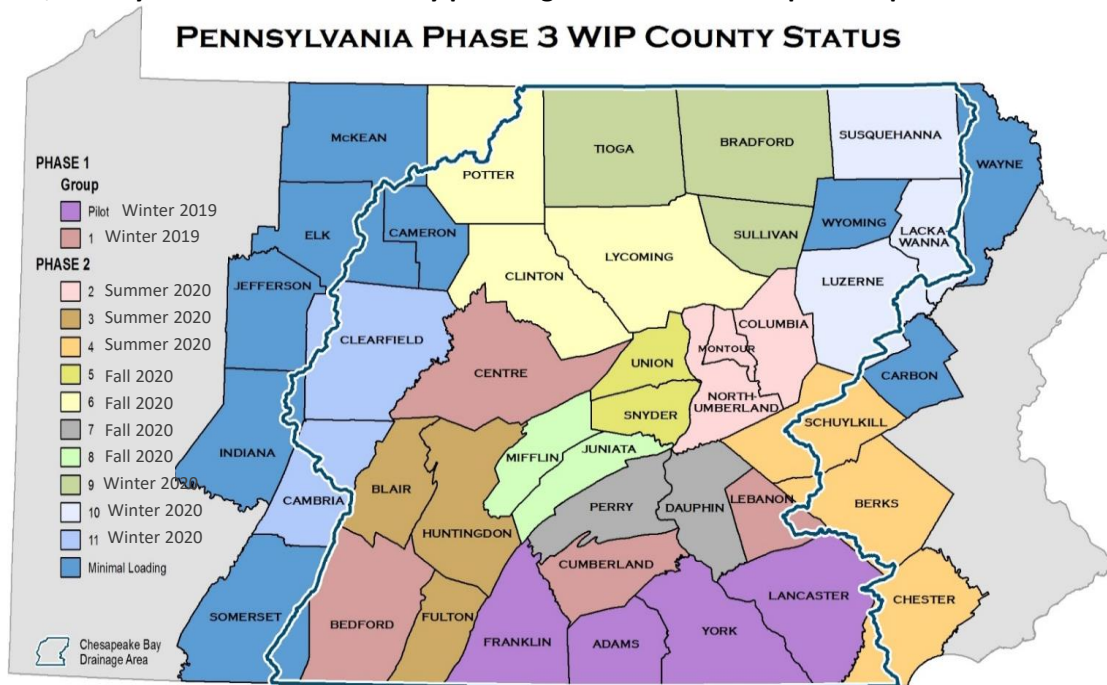


| Tier 1 - First 25% of Reductions | Tier 2 - Second 25% of Reductions | Tier 3 - Third 25% of Reductions | | Tier 4 - Final 25% of Reductions | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Lancaster -- Pilot York – Pilot | Franklin -- Pilot Lebanon (1) Cumberland (1) Centre (1) Bedford (1) | Adams – Pilot Northumberland (2) Perry (7) Snyder (5) Huntingdon (3) Columbia (2) Mifflin (8) Lycoming (6) | Schuylkill (4) Bradford (9) Juniata (8) Clinton (6) Tioga (9) Susquehanna (10) Clearfield (11) Fulton (3) | Union (5) Chester (4) Dauphin (7) Berks (4) Blair (3) Lackawanna (10) Luzerne (10) Montour (2) Cambria (11) Sullivan (9) | Potter (6) Somerset (min) Wyoming (min) Elk (min) Indiana (min) Cameron (min) Wayne (min) McKean (min) Jefferson (min) Carbon (min) |

*above table corresponds with the map and timing of Countywide Action Plan development on the next page

Phase 3 WIP Local Clean Water Planning

Full implementation of Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 WIP will require significant staff and financial resources. To accomplish this, Pennsylvania will divide county planning outreach into two phases spread over 18 months.



Phase 1 (begins Winter 2019 and lasts 6 to 8 months)

Focused on the eight Tier 1 & 2 counties that make up 54% of Pennsylvania’s remaining nitrogen pollution load.

Actions include:

- Assist Pilot counties with transition from planning to CAP implementation.
- Begin planning process with remaining Tier 2 counties (6 to 8 months to build countywide coalitions and develop CAPs). Tier 2 counties begin the implementation phase immediately after plan development.
- Begin outreach to Tier 3 and 4 counties.

Phase 2 (begins Summer 2020 and lasts 12 months)

Focused on the thirty-five Tier 3 & 4 counties that make up 46% of Pennsylvania’s remaining nitrogen pollution load.

Actions include:

- Continue to assist Pilot and Tier 2 counties with ongoing CAP implementation.
- Divide Tier 3 and 4 counties into regional groupings based on existing partnerships. Work with regional groups to assist Tier 3 and 4 counties with developing and implementing their individual CAPs.

Resource Needs

To reach these goals, the state, local partners, and community members will need additional support.

- 1. Internal Coordinators:** DEP Chesapeake Bay Office
 - a. Total: 10 – Internal Coordinators (\$1,000,000);
 - i. Phase 1 – 2 Internal Coordinators (\$200,000)
 - ii. Phase 2 – 6 Internal Coordinators (\$600,000)
- 2. External Coordinators:** County Staff
 - a. Total: 18 – External Coordinators (\$1,800,000);
 - i. Phase 1 – 8 External Coordinators (\$800,000)
 - ii. Phase 2 – 10 External Coordinators (\$1,000,000)
- 3. Technical Coordinators:** Technical Contractor
 - a. Total: 9 – Technical Coordinators (\$900,000);
 - i. Phase 1 – 2 Technical Coordinators (\$180,000)
 - ii. Phase 2 – 7 Technical Coordinators (\$720,000)



Support Team

To reach these goals, the state, local partners, and community members will need additional support.

County planning teams will be provided with support and resources as they complete the planning process.

The support team will be comprised of:

- **DEP Internal Coordinators:** Located in the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office. Serve as the point of contact for the technical support team and the county planning team. The Coordinators are responsible for facilitating state resources for local planning and implementation; assisting with the permitting and grant process for external coordinators; helping to coordinate the verification process; and overseeing annual reporting and 2-year milestone tracking.
- **Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators:** Located in the counties. Serve as the point of contact to assigned counties and are funded through an agreement between DEP and the lead agency of the county planning team. Provide regular progress updates to DEP's Internal Coordinators and support county efforts to develop and implement CAPs by facilitating planning team efforts and coordinating regular meetings; seeking financial resources to support county efforts (grants, partnerships, etc.); helping counties with permitting of plan-related projects; developing and updating CAPs and progress; submitting annual reports; and coordinating verification process within their designated counties.
- **Technical Coordinators:** Either a member of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office or contracted by DEP to provide technical support to county planning teams. These coordinators report to the DEP Internal Coordinator and are responsible for providing information and facilitation of planning tools through the planning and implementation process; assisting with reporting and tracking of milestones and annual progress; and assisting with model runs for plan development and during annual milestone updates.

Action Steps

Pennsylvania will take the following action steps to support local planning efforts:

- **Communication and Outreach.**
 - Develop communications and outreach strategy for staged approach to WIP planning and implementation in all counties.
 - Conduct outreach via webinars and one-on-one meetings to provide overview of WIP, define the expectations, and discuss next steps to prepare counties for the WIP planning process.
 - Begin implementation of WIP plans completed by four pilot counties.
 - Seek staffing to support this large-scale coordination and support effort.
 - **Funding and Resources**
 - Seek staff resources: utilize Staged Approach as an incremental approach to scaling of resources and coordination of planning efforts. The Staged Approach rolls out in two phases over 18 months. Phase 1 uses the additional time to focus efforts on the eight higher loading Tier 1 & 2 counties (54% of Pennsylvania's nitrogen and 42% of Pennsylvania's phosphorus loads). This approach allows for additional outreach to Tier 3 and 4 counties before their planning process begins.
 - **Reporting and Tracking Progress**
 - Track and report progress in Phase 3 WIP planning and implementation in all counties.
 - Update reductions in the County Planning Progress template upon completion of each Countywide Action Plan.
 - Track and report progress to continue implementation of the Phase 3 WIP state numeric commitments described in the Section 4, State Actions, in the counties with minimal reductions.
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Developing Your Countywide Action Plan

Developing a Countywide Action Plan is a collaborative process. In each county, local stakeholders will convene a planning team and, with support from DEP, work together to create a plan that meets local clean water goals.

Assemble a Diverse Planning Team and Select Leaders

Key Resource: Community Clean Water Planning Guide

Participants are expected to come prepared to roll up their sleeves and get to work, so it's important to ensure all the key players are at the table. Planning team members should include local residents, business owners, county and municipal staff, and representatives from relevant local, regional and state organizations. Team leaders should be committed, credible, open to new ideas, and skilled at leading groups and achieving consensus.

Set Meeting Schedule and Planning Strategy

Key Resource: Community Clean Water Planning Guide

Once the planning team is assembled, work together to set a regular meeting schedule and planning strategy. It can take up to 8 months to create a Countywide Action Plan, so setting a strategy for getting it done will keep the plan on track and use the team's time efficiently. Include plan outreach and inclusion efforts from the beginning to ensure transparency in the group's decisions and garner community support for the completed plan.

Identify Countywide Goals and Steps to Reach Them

Key Resource: Community Clean Water Technical Toolbox

The Countywide Action Plan will help each planning team identify actions that address local issues AND meet DEP goals. By creating a Countywide Action Plan, counties can develop a strategy for: cleaning up local waters, lowering flood risks, and improving the quality of life in their community.

Assess Resource Needs and Opportunities

Key Resource: Community Clean Water Technical Toolbox

Once countywide goals are set, it's time to figure out what resources are needed to reach them. Take the time to review existing plans and projects to see how they may overlap or compliment the Countywide Action Plan goals (e.g. county comprehensive plan, capital improvement projects, pollutant reduction plans, and watershed projects). Also, use this step to identify groups and organizations that could contribute to countywide efforts.

Finalize the Countywide Action Plan

Key Resources: Community Clean Water Planning Guide & Community Clean Water Technical Toolbox

Now that countywide goals are set and resource needs have been identified, it's time to finalize the plan. Convene the planning team to review goals, action steps, and resources, invite community feedback and work together to finalize the plan. Be sure to include a plan for implementation and identify the implementation team members.

Implement the Countywide Action Plan

Key Resources: Community Clean Water Planning Guide & Community Clean Water Technical Toolbox

With planning complete, now it's time for implementation. The implementation team should set up a regular meeting schedule, divide plan responsibilities, and work with partners to make progress towards Countywide Action Plan goals.

Track and Report Progress Towards Goals

Key Resources: Community Clean Water Planning Guide & Community Clean Water Technical Toolbox

Now that plan implementation is underway, it's time to identify how progress towards countywide goals will be tracked and who will do it. Internal progress reporting should be part of Implementation Team meetings and community outreach. Each county will submit annual progress reports to the DEP using a standard reporting template.

For more information or to get involved in local planning efforts, please visit www.dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3.

Produced and distributed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay grant.