Lebanon County, Pennsylvania

Current Conditions
Lebanon County is one of the higher loading counties in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Current loading rates are 5.40 M lbs of nitrogen and 255K lbs of phosphorus annually. By 2025 Lebanon County needs to reduce 2.17M lbs of nitrogen and 100K lbs of phosphorus.

Pollutant Reduction Progress
By 2025, Lebanon County needs to reduce 2.17M lbs of nitrogen and 100K lbs of phosphorus. Lebanon County has developed a plan to reduce 1.90M lbs of nitrogen, which is 88% of the goal and 102K lbs of phosphorus, which is over 100% of the goal. There is no planning target for sediment, but Lebanon County’s plan reduced 76.71M lbs (41%) of the current load.

Sector Progress
Lebanon County has identified 2 sectors: agriculture and urban. Agriculture has identified practices that result in a reduction of 2.00 M lbs of nitrogen. The urban sector has identified practices that reduce 17K lbs of nitrogen. Projected land use and population changes causes an increase of 115K lbs of nitrogen by 2025. This results in a net reduction of 1.90M lbs of nitrogen.

*The summation of individual sectors will be different than the total reduction of all initiatives modeled together.
Information About the Watersheds

Lebanon County contains 8 major watersheds: Clark Creek, Stony Creek, Swatara Creek, Little Swatara Creek, Quitapahilla Creek, Conewago Creek, Chiques Creek, and Conestoga Creek. Watersheds in Lebanon County have elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Of the 572 total stream miles in Lebanon County, approximately 55% have degraded aquatic communities due to causes such as disturbance, siltation (excessive sediment), metals, nutrient pollution, and others.

County Land Use:
Lebanon County has a total acreage of 197,310 acres in the Bay watershed. Agricultural land represents 38% of the total land with 75,442 total acres. Developed land represents another 22% of the total land in Lebanon County. Natural land, which is made up of forests, stream, and wetlands, represents the remaining 40% of the land in Lebanon County. Cropland makes up a majority of the Agriculture sector with 47,380 acres. The developed sector is mostly Non-Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (60%) 25,459 acres and a smaller portion of MS4s (40%) 16,843 acres.

Local Benefits:
Storm events are the number one way for nutrients and sediment to enter waterways. Increased runoff impacts: flooding, water quality, habitat, etc. Pollutants enter the waterways by two methods: overland runoff or leaching into groundwater.

Learn more and Get Involved
To get involved with the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) please visit: https://bit.ly/2RE7Dzb