



Pennsylvania is working with neighboring states to clean up our shared waters that run to the Chesapeake Bay. This effort is the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase 3 WIP). The state believes that the path to success starts locally with landowners and local stakeholders. The Local Area Goals Workgroup was asked to develop a plan to support countywide partnerships in their efforts to meet nutrient reduction goals. This document summarizes the results of their efforts.

Local Plans, Local Solutions

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

The workgroup 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 transition it from one large document, into a set of concise resources with planning and reporting templates:

- 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

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) will guide local leaders in the planning effort. If you want to be a leader or learn more about getting involved, please provide us with your contact information using this simple online form: <http://bit.ly/wip3-cap>

Phase 3 WIP County Clean Water Planning

Full implementation of the Phase 3 WIP will require significant staff and financial resources. Recognizing this, the Local Area Goals Workgroup recommends the state divide county planning outreach into two phases spread over 18 months.

Phase 1 (Begins July 2019 and lasts 6 to 8 months)

Efforts in this phase are focused on the eight Tier 1 & 2 counties that make up 54% of PA's nutrient load.

Actions include:

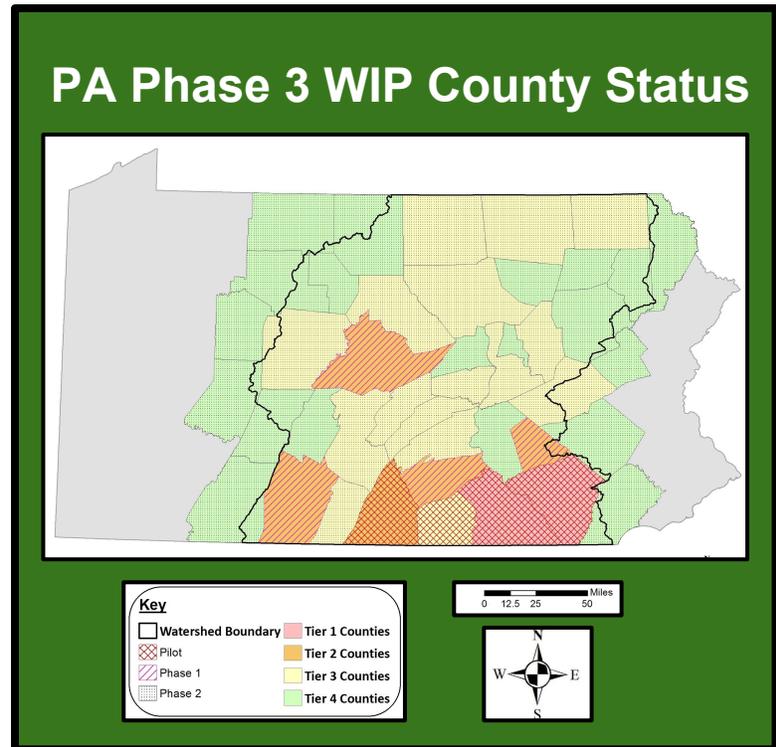
- Assist Pilot Counties with transition to Countywide Action Plan implementation.
- Work with remaining Tier 2 counties develop and implement Countywide Action Plans.
- Begin outreach to Tier 3 and 4 counties.

Phase 2 (Begins February 2020 and lasts 6 to 8 months)

Efforts in this phase are focused on the thirty-five Tier 3 & 4 counties that make up 46% of PA's nutrient load.

Actions include:

- Assist Pilot and Tier 2 counties with Countywide Action Plan implementation.
- Break Tier 3 and 4 counties in to regional groupings based on existing partnerships.
- Work with regional groups to help Tier 3 and 4 counties to develop and implement Countywide Action Plans.



Resource Needs

To reach these goals, the state, local partners, and community members will need additional support. The Phase 3 WIP Local Area Goals Workgroup offers the following recommendations for how to do that:

Resources for Phase 1 would need to be in place by July 2019. Those resource include:

- 8 full time, permanent contracted external coordinator positions (1 external coordinator per county), \$800,000 (\$100,000 per external coordinator)
- 3 full time, permanent internal coordinator positions at DEP, \$300,000 (\$100,000 per internal coordinator)
- 2 full time, contracted technical coordinator positions (ex. SRBC), \$180,000 (\$90,000 per technical coordinator)
- 1 full time, contracted facilitation coordinator, \$100,000

Resources for Phase 2 would need to be in place by February 2020. Those resource include:

- 13 full time, permanent contracted external coordinator positions (1 external coordinator per regionalized county planning effort), \$1,300,000 (\$100,000 per external coordinator)
- 7 full time, permanent internal coordinator positions at DEP, \$700,000 (\$100,000 per internal coordinator)
- 8 full time, contracted technical coordinator positions (ex. SRBC), \$720,000 (\$90,000 per technical coordinator)

Total resources needed for Phase 1 & 2:

- 21 full time, permanent contracted external coordinator positions (1 external coordinator per regionalized county planning effort), \$2,100,000 (\$100,000 per external coordinator)
- 10 full time internal coordinator positions at DEP, \$1,000,000 (\$100,000 per internal coordinator)
- 10 full time, contracted technical coordinator positions (ex. SRBC), \$900,000 (\$90,000 per technical coordinator)
- 1 full time, contracted facilitation coordinator, \$100,000

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 PA 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 PA DEP using a standard reporting template.