Chesapeake Bay Program

Climate Change Directive—Workplan Draft

May 26, 2022

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Introduction

In October 2021, the Chesapeake Executive Council signed *Directive No. 21-1 Collective Action for Climate Change*. The Directive acknowledges the consequences of climate change on Chesapeake Bay ecosystems and communities and commits the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and partners to take concerted steps to address the impacts of climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The Directive includes four primary objectives:

- Address the threats of climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed
- Prioritize communities and habitats most vulnerable to ever-increasing risks
- Apply the best scientific, modeling, monitoring, and planning capabilities of the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Connect Chesapeake Bay restoration goals with emerging opportunities in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

Upon the direction of the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC), in December 2021 the Management Board (MB) discussed a partnership response to the Directive and established a planning team composed of partner representatives to lead development of a workplan for implementing the Directive's objectives, to be completed by Summer 2022.

This first draft of the workplan represents the collective effort of the planning team and the contributions of CBP staff and experts. The first section proposes a set of partnership level actions that, if pursued collaboratively with strong engagement from partners and CBP programs, would accelerate progress in meeting the Directive's objectives, address critical areas of need, and help lay the necessary groundwork for future action and growth in climate readiness and resiliency in the Chesapeake Bay region. In drafting these actions, the planning team closely considered current partner and CBP efforts supporting progress on the Directive (Section B) and where CBP, as a collaborative body, could complement these efforts and address urgent needs that require cooperative attention. The planning team recommends that a subset (3-5) of these actions be completed by the partnership by 2024, when it should reassess progress and establish new targets.

Section A: Proposed 2022-2023 Partnership Actions

1. **Refine and prioritize climate science needs and develop a resource plan.** Climate science needs for each outcome of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement have been identified through the Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF). Completing and addressing the climate science needs for all the outcomes will require a stronger engagement and collaboration from our partners to evolve their work to match CBP needs. CBP will host focused meetings with support from STAR to 1) improve understanding of each outcome's climate science needs, 2)

update the status of engaged resources addressing those needs, 3) identify and quantify required additional resources for remaining gaps to address the needs, 4) identify how partner programs, expertise and resources could be further leveraged to address priority climate science needs and 5) improve understanding of jurisdiction/partner science and research efforts.

2. **A Climate Directive Pilot Project:** The Management Board jurisdictions commit to launching a tangible, on-the-ground project that meets the intent of the Climate Directive. Projects could be located in underserved and/or climate vulnerable communities and tied to additional Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding coming through CBP to the jurisdictions.

3. **Advance conservation finance/carbon market priorities:** The Management Board directs the Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT6) and the Budget and Finance Workgroup to work with jurisdictions and GITs to showcase lessons learned from the Finance and Investment Forum held in March 2020 (including the expert consultations), spotlight new jurisdictional innovations in conservation financing and carbon markets, and develop additional recommendations to advance these priorities.

4. **Improve coordination on infrastructure funding for climate:** CBP will host a focused meeting with funders to improve coordination, collaborative planning, and priority-setting around IIJA funding for climate-related objectives, such as climate adaptation, resilience, monitoring, and science. The meeting objective would be to exchange lessons, improve understanding of challenges and strategies for accessing infrastructure funding for climate change investments, and to agree on a mechanism for continued coordination. A meeting of funders could also be used to identify opportunities for improving targeting and impact of funding on climate vulnerable communities in the Chesapeake Bay region and for improving awareness of the needs, threats, and challenges facing these communities.

5. **Establish a learning and capacity building network**: Building on the efforts of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup, support learning and improve awareness and institutional capacity to address climate change in all the partnership's work by identifying and expanding opportunities to participate in comprehensive training and in-depth topical discussions and symposia.

6. **Next steps for implementing the PSC Monitoring Report.** This action includes three subtasks:

    o   Identify recommendations in the PSC Monitoring Assessment Report that support ongoing climate change monitoring programs.

    o   Create a forum for identifying action-oriented endpoints on investment and partnering to address climate monitoring needs. Consider funding opportunities provided by the infrastructure bill.

    o   The Monitoring Review Team will update the partnership annually on the monitoring investment and implementation progress along with insight on new networks designs, status of development, and gaps in addressing monitoring needs.

7. **Create Bay-wide plan for tidal wetland restoration, marsh migration, and coastal resiliency:** There is a need to identify consensus site selection criteria for tidal restoration projects, potential restoration areas based on criteria, and partners that could implement projects to build into a

comprehensive tidal restoration plan. The Management Board will identify funding to develop coastal wetland siting criteria and create a Bay-wide comprehensive plan to guide coordinated implementation of tidal wetland restoration projects that manage marsh migration, improve coastal resiliency, and enable access to national funding programs.

8. **Complete climate change-related activities crosswalk and establish a mechanism for reporting future climate work**. This action includes two subtasks:

   o Finalize catalogue/crosswalk of partner and partnership climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience activities and present to Executive Council. (Management Board)

   o Determine approach for tracking Chesapeake Bay climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience activities and reporting on these efforts to the partnership. (GIT 6, Climate Resiliency Workgroup)

Section B: Current and Planned Efforts to Advance the Executive Council Climate Directive

Objective 1: Address the threats of climate change in all aspects of the partnership's work to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Strategy 1: Integrate climate science and adaptation to climate change throughout the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program; ensure the partnership's organizational structure effectively advances this integration.

>**Delaware** Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Division of Coastal, Climate and Energy (DNREC-DCCE) is initiating an effort to assess the feasibility and need for climate projections using the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP 6), resulting in updated rainfall and heat indicators for use in resiliency work. Sea level rise scenarios will also be updated as part of this effort.

>The **District of Columbia** completed a vulnerability assessment in 2016 that references climate science and projections for the District of Columbia.

>**Maryland** Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) advises the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change. Four working groups (1. Adaptation and Resiliency, 2. Education, Communication and Outreach, 3. Mitigation, 4. Scientific and Technical) and the Climate Justice Advisory Committee inform the MCCC workplan. States agencies are required to report annually to the MCCC on the status of programs that support the state's greenhouse gas reduction efforts or address climate change.

>**New York**'s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) was signed into law in 2019. New York State's Climate Act is among the most ambitious climate laws in the country and requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels. The law creates a Climate Action Council charged with developing a scoping plan of recommendations to meet these targets and place New York on a path toward carbon neutrality.

>**The Climate Resiliency Workgroup** is working on a climate change indicator framework that identifies cross-workgroup pathways that connect climate-related physical changes with ecological and community impacts to inform adaptation strategies for the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* Outcomes.

> **USGS is working with the CBP Office, USEPA, NOAA, and the Chesapeake Conservancy** to provide science-based information, including about climate resiliency and adaptation, that can be considered by agencies and organizations for a more strategic approach to targeting resources to achieve multiple goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/targeting/

Strategy 2: Direct the Management Board to incorporate climate risks into the appropriate management strategies of the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* outcomes.

>**Maryland** established an Office of Resilience in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management in 2022 (SB630) which will have authority to coordinate/integrate resilience measures across all state agencies. As a supporting measure, the State's Climate Change Academy provides climate adaptation, mitigation, and risk assessment training to local and state governments and decision makers.

>The **District of Columbia** incorporates climate risks into strategies put forth in various plans including the 2016 Climate Ready DC, 2017 Sustainable DC 2.0, 2018 Clean Energy DC, 2019 Resilient DC, and forthcoming 2022 Keep Cool DC and 2022 Carbon Free DC.

>**Delaware** will begin a Climate Leadership Academy in Spring 2022. This program is designed to help participants build competencies to effectively integrate climate change into their decision-making and professional activities, as well as advance entrepreneurship and leadership skills.

>As part of the Strategy Review System, **CBP Goal Implementation Teams and workgroups** are asked to describe how the impacts of climate change affect their progress or may influence their work to achieve Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Outcomes. Answers are recorded in the Narrative Analysis section of the SRS tracking tool, Chesapeake Decisions.

Strategy 3: Work partnership-wide to ensure the science, restoration and programs equitably address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, including indigenous people, historically underrepresented communities, those of lower economic status and people of color, considering existing social, economic and health disparities.

>**Delaware's** Coastal Programs Section of DNREC manages a Resilient Community Partnership that assists communities throughout Delaware that are threatened by the results of climate change, including inland flooding, coastal storms, sea level rise, and changing climate conditions. The Partnership leverages federal funding provided by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA**) to help Delaware communities improve their planning and preparation capabilities.

>The **District of Columbia's** forthcoming Keep Cool DC includes an extreme heat exposure-sensitivity index that combines not only measurements of urban heat island

effect but also demographic indicators like age, race, etc. to help identify areas that are most vulnerable to negative impacts of high heat. Actions included in the Keep Cool DC plan then prioritize implementation in the most vulnerable area.

>The **District of Columbia's** climate plans include strategies to equitably address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. District Government has engaged with an Equity Advisory Group and similar community committees around the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations since 2017.

>Launched in 2021, the **District of Columbia** Council Office of Racial Equity conducts Racial Equity Impact Assessments on almost every piece of legislation the Council proposes. To address existing inequities, the District's Office of Racial Equity develops racial equity tools and collaborates with agencies to embed racial equity in all government operations and practices.

>**Maryland**'s Commission on Climate Change formed a Climate Justice Advisory Committee to ensure integration of climate justice into the Commission's approach, activities, and deliverables.

>Under the **New York** Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the Climate Justice Workgroup Group is tasked with establishing criteria for identifying disadvantaged communities. The Act requires a minimum of 35% of projects or investments to occur in disadvantaged communities.

>The **Local Leadership Advisory Committee** will host climate justice sessions and develop climate justice recommendations at its 2022 Local Government Forum.

>The **Forestry Workgroup** is initiating an effort to conduct a bay-wide assessment of forests and tree canopy using the new land use/land cover data that will include overlays with environmental justice and equity layers to better understand who is benefiting from forests and tree canopy in the watershed

Strategy 4: Continuously improve our knowledge of and response to the threats of climate change and report on implementation of this Directive and new challenges at Chesapeake Executive Council annual meetings.

>The **District of Columbia** reports annually on the implementation of Climate Ready DC and Resilient DC which both address the current and future threats of climate change.

>**Delaware** is taking steps to develop a dashboard to track metrics for implementation of the DE Climate Action Plan Tracking and reporting are necessary to evaluate progress on emissions reduction and resilience actions. To evaluate progress over time, a suite of key metrics to track climate action will be identified and tracked.

>**Maryland's** Coastal Adaptation Report Card provides a snapshot of the current adaptation status in Maryland's coastal counties and establishes a framework for measuring future progress. The report card scores adaptation progress across Maryland's coastal counties through 15 indicators divided in four categories—ecosystem, flooding, planning, and socioeconomic.

>**New York's** Clean Energy Dashboard is an online resource that provides a snapshot of the utilities and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's progress towards meeting the State's clean energy and climate agenda.

>A **STAC** Workshop "Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures—Ecological Implications and Management Responses STAC Workshop" was hosted in March. A Report and recommendations will be published later this year (2022).

>The **Climate Resiliency Workgroup** is developing climate change indicators on Chesapeake Progress and working with the **Status and Trends Workgroup** to update the Average Air Temperature and Total Annual Precipitation Indicators.

Objective 2: Prioritize communities and habitats most vulnerable to ever-increasing risks.

Strategy 5: Prioritize achieving our outcomes to conserve and restore wetlands, forest buffers and urban tree canopies for both increased resilience to climate impacts and to assist in meeting national goals for achieving 30% of lands and waters conserved by 2030.

>**New York's** 2020 New York State Forest Action Plan has goals to keep forests as forests, keep forests healthy, increase forest benefits for humans and all living creatures, and appreciate, support, and protect NY's forests. Each goal includes an assessment and strategy including understanding the negative effects of climate change on forests and supporting forest management as a climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy. The Chesapeake Bay watershed was identified in the plan as a multistate priority area.

>**Maryland's** Coastal Resiliency Easement initiative prioritizes wetland adaptation and community resiliency benefits as eligibility criteria for enrollment. The easement program requires the adoption of a Coastal Resiliency Management Plan that includes the delineation of a wetland adaptation buffer, prescribes marsh migration management practices, and must be updated every 10 years to address changing environmental conditions and emerging science related to climate change.

>**Delaware's** 2020 State Forest Action Plan acknowledges the long-term effects of climate change with strategies to enhance public benefits from trees and forests. The Delaware Forest Service will work with DNREC to enhance the opportunity for forest management and urban forestry carbon credits through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). In addition, DNREC and partners are developing a Riparian Forest Buffer strategy to accelerate forested buffer implementation in both rural and urban areas of the watershed.

>The **District of Columbia's** Wetland Conservation Plan Goal is to achieve no net loss of District wetlands, and an eventual net gain of wetland acreage and function. In addition, the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan includes a goal to plant and maintain an additional one hundred fifty (150) acres of wetlands in targeted conservation opportunity areas, and to reduce threats to seventy-five (75) aquatic species of greatest conservation need. Sustainable DC 2.0 also includes a goal of 40% urban tree canopy.

>The **Forestry Workgroup** is convening a Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable in late 2022 for local and state decisionmakers which will focus on tree canopy as a strategy for equity and climate resilience. The workgroup coordinated the April 2022 Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Leadership Workshop, which focused on accelerating riparian forest buffer implementation and refining state strategies for expanding forest buffers.

>The **Climate Resiliency Workgroup's** project, "Partnership-Building and Identification of Collaborative Tidal Marsh Adaptation Project" is set to kick off in June 2022 with support from FY21 GIT-funding. This project will identify and compile existing resilience metrics, geographic priorities, and organizational restoration goals from research and restoration partners and identify large-scale tidal restoration projects in MD and VA for which partners can collaboratively seek funding.

>The **Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team** is incorporating climate metrics and vulnerability into their Healthy Watersheds Assessment.

Strategy 6: Build climate science and solutions into environmental literacy programs for students, the public and decision-makers, with a focus on inclusion of material on the most vulnerable habitats, people, communities, and industries.

>**Delaware's** University of Delaware Cooperative Extension has purchased a climate change curriculum for youth through the National 4-H organization. This curriculum highlights educational modules about climate change and will be tested this summer, with students who will receive guidance from adult mentors to complete hands-on projects.

>**New York's** 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) required a Disadvantaged Communities Barriers and Opportunities Report that analyzed why some communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change and air pollution and have unequal access to clean energy. The report recommends actions for NYS agencies to design climate protection and clean energy programs through a lens of justice.

>The **District of Columbia's** [Environmental Literacy Plan](#) and programming includes climate science and solutions and lays out strategies for achieving environmental literacy goals.

Maryland's Project Green Classrooms is integrating Climate Change Science as an element of outdoor learning environmental literacy efforts. This intersects with strategies for equitable access to natural spaces and development of environmental literacy programs in school districts lacking robust programs.

>**STAR** is planning to incorporate climate change factors into CNP Tributary Summaries to help explain water quality trends.

>The **Climate Resiliency Workgroup and Local Leadership Workgroup** identified climate resiliency communication and engagement needs into the Local Engagement Needs and Resources database. The project "Planning for Clean Water: Local Government Workshops" will engage local government planners to expand understanding of these needs and discuss mutual goals and best practices for incorporating climate resilience considerations into planning decisions.

Objective 3: Apply the best scientific, modeling, monitoring and planning capabilities of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Strategy 7: Emphasize the continued need to update best management practice design standards to account for the impacts of climate change, using leading predictive models and tools, to ensure investments made today continue to yield benefits even as the climate changes.

>**Maryland's** State Interagency Coast Smart Council establishes Coast Smart Siting and Design Guidelines (Guidelines) that apply to state and local construction or reconstruction of certain capital projects over $500,000, that fall water-ward of the Coast Smart Climate Ready Action Boundary (CS-CRAB) and receive at least 50% state funds. The CS-CRAB establishes a resilience boundary that addresses sea level rise inundation and coastal flood impacts.

>The **District of Columbia's** [Resilient Design Guidelines](#) include best management practices for buildings and landscapes that account for the impacts of climate change and include predictive models and tools for designers to ensure projects yield benefits even as the climate changes.

>**Delaware** will prioritize natural and green infrastructure solutions to enhance and protect natural resources and urban environments. Efforts will be undertaken to use "climate-smart" principles in BMP design to reduce the impact of sea level rise, coastal storms, increased temperature, and extreme precipitation events on BMP performance over time. Tools such as the Flood Planning Tool and Flood Risk Adaptation Map are used to make informed decisions about flood risk and impacts of climate change. Flexibility and adaptability will also be built into decision making by allowing for changes in BMP selection as climate and ecosystem science, research, or data become available and understanding of the impact of climatic and weather conditions on the performance of watershed restoration practices improves.

>The **Urban Stormwater Workgroup** reviewed the memo "Recommendations on Next Steps to Advance Efforts to Maintain Resilience of Stormwater BMPs" and developed a proposed resource plan for each of the priority initiatives.

>**Virginia Tech and the Chesapeake Research Consortium,** with support from CBP, completed the technical report, "A Systematic Review of Chesapeake Bay Climate Change Impacts and Uncertainty: Watershed Processes, Pollutant Delivery, and BMP Performance. **The Climate Resiliency Workgroup** will help host cross-workgroup meetings and discuss findings from this paper and other research to develop a research agenda framework for climate-adapted BMPs.

Strategy 8: Determine capacity needed to monitor the impacts of climate change on our natural resources within the existing Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's science programs and evaluate the opportunity to fill those needs with ongoing climate change monitoring programs.

>The **District of Columbia's** Urban Forestry Division, with the Department of Transportation, completed a vulnerability assessment of tree species to climate change impacts ([WashingtonDC_TreeSpeciesVulnerability.pdf (forestadaptation.org)](#)) and continuously monitors the health of the District's urban forest ([Forest Health | DDOT Urban Forestry (dc.gov)](#)).

>**Delaware's** National Estuarine Research Reserve has a NOAA-approved Sentinel Site. The Sentinel Site Program is a system-wide effort to understand the effects of changing water levels and tidal dynamics on the composition and distribution of marsh plant communities. Delaware's NERR collects long-term data at two sites in the state, to assess coastal habitat response to change water levels.

>**Maryland's** Resiliency through Restoration Initiative supports design and implementation of nature-based practices that enhance community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Monitoring is being conducted to evaluate project performance and identify adaptive management opportunities in design and permitting.

>**CBP** included recommendations in the PSC Monitoring Assessment Report to invest in actions that support ongoing climate change monitoring programs (i.e., SAV, Shallow water monitoring, Ocean Acidification, Temperature).

Strategy 9: Improve the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool cost calculator to account for climate change so that the partnership can ensure investments in water quality consider the impacts of delayed action

> **CBP CAST Team and the Water Quality GIT** are taking steps to build on existing efforts to quantify the carbon sequestration and ecosystem service benefits of BMPs to incorporate co-benefits information into CBP tools, including CAST. New functionality which will quantify ecosystem health outcomes by the amount of CAST water quality BMP implemented and draw connections with Chesapeake Bay Agreement outcomes is planned for the CAST toolbox.

>The **Urban Stormwater Workgroup** will work with the CAST team on developing a strategy to quantify cost of delayed action.

Objective 4: Connect Chesapeake Bay restoration goals with emerging opportunities in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

Strategy 10: Recognize, and where feasible, assess and adopt the water quality practices that sequester greenhouse gases, and the climate mitigation practices that reduce nitrogen pollution to watersheds.

>**New York** State DEC has multiple competitive grant programs for implementing water quality practices that sequester greenhouse gases and provide climate mitigation and nutrient pollution reduction. The Water Quality Improvement Project Program funds projects that reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality, and restore habitat. The Urban and Community Forestry Program Cost Share Grants aids communities comprehensive planning, management, and education to create healthy urban and community forests. The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program provides funding for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and planning and assessment projects.

>**Maryland's** Targeted Resiliency Assessment identifies specific geographies to conduct place-based assessments and develop Comprehensive Water Quality and Climate Resilience project portfolios to implement nature-based restoration and conservation actions for risk reduction to vulnerable communities and habitats. Projects are scoped to

complement each other to generate area-wide resilience benefits and leverage greenhouse gas mitigation, water quality improvements and habitat co-benefits.

>**The District of Columbia** Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) stream and wetland restoration considers carbon sequestration and nitrogen pollution reduction. https://doee.dc.gov/service/stream-habitat-restoration

Delaware's Climate Action Plan and Chesapeake Bay WIP have multiple linkages for practices that improve water quality and sequester greenhouse gases. Each report identifies best management practices that also offer climate benefits through carbon sequestration, reduced emissions, and enhanced resiliency to climate change. BMP selection is maximized when co-benefits are recognized like climate or coastal resiliency, soil health, flood attenuation, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, or socioeconomic and quality-of-life benefits.

Strategy 11: Prioritize the adoption of farming and forestry best management practices to maximize the co-benefits of improved water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, resilience, carbon sequestration and soil health.

>**New York** State Department of Agriculture and Markets launched the Climate Resilience Farming Program in 2015 to reduce the impact of agriculture on climate change and increase resiliency of NYS farms. The program has funded implementation of best management practices systems that reduce greenhouse gases, increase carbon storage in soils, and improve the health and resiliency of farms, ecosystems, and communities. Projects funded included manure storage cover and flare systems, water management projects, and soil health management practice systems.

>**Delaware's** Natural and Working Lands Policy describes the climate benefits (carbon sequestration, reduced emissions, resilience) provided by Delaware's forests, wetlands, and urban greenspaces. Practices planned for implementation, in the Agricultural Sector that benefit climate change, include non-urban stream restoration, forest buffers, tree planting, and forest harvesting practices.

>**Maryland's** Healthy Soils Program recognizes the importance of soil health and seeks to improve health, yield, and profitability of soils, increase biological activity and carbon sequestration in agricultural soils and promote further education and adoption of healthy soil practices.

Strategy 12: Promote greenhouse gas mitigation through restoring coastal ecosystems and enhancing green infrastructure throughout the watershed.

>**Delaware** Launched the Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative as part of Delaware's comprehensive plan to respond to climate change with the goal of planting at least one tree for every Delawarean. This initiative is seeking to increase the carbon sequestration value of natural and working lands. State funding is provided for this program and is leveraged, by partners, using federal dollars.

>**New York** State Environmental Facilities Corporation administers state and federal grants and interest-free and low-cost financing for communities to implement water infrastructure projects. The Green Innovation Grant Program funds green stormwater

infrastructure, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and environmental innovation projects across New York that mitigate the effects of climate change and improve water quality.

>**Maryland's** BUILD (Beneficial Use: Identifying Locations for Dredge) tool enables the spatial identification of beneficial use of dredged material opportunities to allows project planners to proactively identify sources of dredged material to place in restoration projects, or vice versa, to enhance the sustainability of coastal ecosystems and generate blue carbon benefits.

Strategy 13: Utilize conservation finance where appropriate to leverage public and increase private investments, including emerging carbon markets, in Chesapeake Bay restoration.

>The **District of Columbia's** Green Bank accelerates energy efficiency improvements and the deployment of clean energy technology by leveraging private investment, removing upfront costs, and increasing the efficiency of public dollars. The Green Bank is capitalized with limited public funds to attract private capital investment, which are then used to offer loans, credit enhancements, and other financing services to close funding gaps for energy focused retrofits, clean energy installation, clean transportation, green infrastructure, and sustainable development projects.

>**Maryland's** 2022 Conservation Finance Act (SB348) expands the ways private financing can benefit state climate, water quality, and conservation goals. The bill makes green infrastructure, natural infrastructure and a focus on social equity a bigger part of a diversity of Maryland environmental programs.

> **CBP** partner organizations (UMD, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, The Commons) are developing a Farm Conservation Certification program which would provide a site specific, scientifically rigorous, and trustworthy assessment of the greenhouse gas reducing and carbon sequestration benefits of farm conservation practices and expand market driven incentives for conservation.