



Local Government Advisory Committee

to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Draft

STRATEGIC PLAN

2021-2025

INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) was created by the Chesapeake Executive Council (Executive Council) through the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The purpose of LGAC is to advise the Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of the local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay Agreement.

MISSION

To share the views and insights of local elected officials with state and federal decision-makers and to enhance the flow of information among local governments about the health and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

GOALS

- Goal: Promote ongoing communication and engagement between local governments and the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP).
- Goal: Promote local government implementation of local water quality, water quantity and land use initiatives that support a healthy Bay watershed.
- Goal: Strengthen LGAC internal operations to better involve members and empower them to fulfill the Mission.

PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

1. Communicate regularly with members of the Executive Council, state and federal agencies and other organizations involved in Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts.
 - a. Participate in meetings of regional and state-based organizations that represent local governments to better engage them in LGAC issues and ensure communications on Bay watershed issues, goals and policies.
 - b. Provide annual recommendations for action to the Executive Council that support a vision of healthy local watersheds and have the added benefit of improving the health of the Bay.
 - c. Seek opportunities for ongoing communication of LGAC members with their

governor and senior staff, and Congressional elected officials.

2. Create opportunities to educate local governments on Chesapeake Bay issues by focusing on local streams, sharing case studies and providing other information.
 - a. Seek opportunities for LGAC Members to engage with officials in their regions to share their local priorities and provide guidance on local watershed restoration efforts.
 - b. Support the CBP local engagement strategy as a road map to engage with local government leaders.
 - c. Develop and maintain online distribution platforms to communicate local government resources and LGAC priorities.
 - d. Guide CBP Local Leadership Workgroup efforts to increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials.
3. Maximize the effectiveness and impact of LGAC Quarterly Meetings
 - a. Utilize the strategic plan to prioritize the agenda for LGAC Quarterly Meetings and include time for strategic dialogue at each Annual meeting.
 - b. Provide opportunities for CBP priorities to be discussed and for CBP staff to receive feedback from LGAC Members on restoration efforts from a local perspective.
 - c. Create opportunities around LGAC Quarterly Meetings to experience local projects and priorities.
 - d. Allocate time for jurisdiction-specific topics to be discussed between delegation Members and jurisdiction representatives.
 - e. Annually conduct a deep-dive, problem-solving session with LGAC Members and subject-matter experts on a topic that is impacting local governments with the purpose of developing recommendations for Bay Program leadership to consider.
4. Increase effectiveness by seeking out additional funding sources and building partnerships to help LGAC accomplish its priorities.
 - a. Ensure LGAC has the ability to provide input toward LGAC support contracted by the EPA.
 - b. Identify priorities for LGAC project funding and potential funding sources.
 - c. Engage with technical service providers and funders and seek opportunities to connect them with local governments.
 - d. Support National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and EPA to sustain the success of the annual Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund.
 - e. Promote funding for successful efforts that provide direct technical assistance to local governments implementing projects to improve water quality.