

What is the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint?

BACKGROUND

In 1972 the Clean Water Act was passed by Congress to clean up America's rivers.

Since then, lots of work has been done to clean up the Bay, but it hasn't been enough. Dead zones still appear and habitat and fisheries are weak. See cbf.org/StateOfTheBay

So in 2010, the federal government created the Blueprint.



WHAT IS THE BLUEPRINT?

It instructs **EACH STATE** in the watershed to significantly reduce their nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment pollution into the Bay by 2025.

It sets **GOALS** on how much pollution states can let flow into waterways. Goals are called "Total Maximum Daily Loads" or TMDLs.

It tells states to create **PLANS** for how they will reduce pollution. These plans are called "Watershed Implementation Plans" or WIPs.

It has a **TIMELINE** for reducing pollution. Every two years until 2025 there are check-ins to see if states are meeting their goals.

The Blueprint is like building a house:

A house has **GOALS** for building the foundation, walls, and roof; **PLANS** for how to put them together; and a **TIMELINE** to make sure it all goes up correctly.

Except the Bay faces a challenge that houses never do, which is that the Bay is affected by people across six different states and DC.

The only way for the Blueprint to succeed is if each state, each county, and each of us **WORK TOGETHER**.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Take action in our daily lives to conserve water and reduce pollution, like turning off water or picking up litter.

Start action projects like tree plantings and installing rain barrels which filter or reduce runoff pollution.

Spread the word about the Blueprint and its process, and stay involved to hear whether states are meeting goals.

Action projects and ideas at cbf.org/studentwave



**CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION**

Saving a National Treasure

WATCH OUR 3-MINUTE VIDEO ABOUT THE BLUEPRINT: <http://bit.ly/1E6sr04> (links to YouTube)

Created by the ECO Sherwood environmental club at Sherwood High School, along with CBF Student Leadership.