Growing Greener Plus Grants Program

Watershed Restoration and Protection

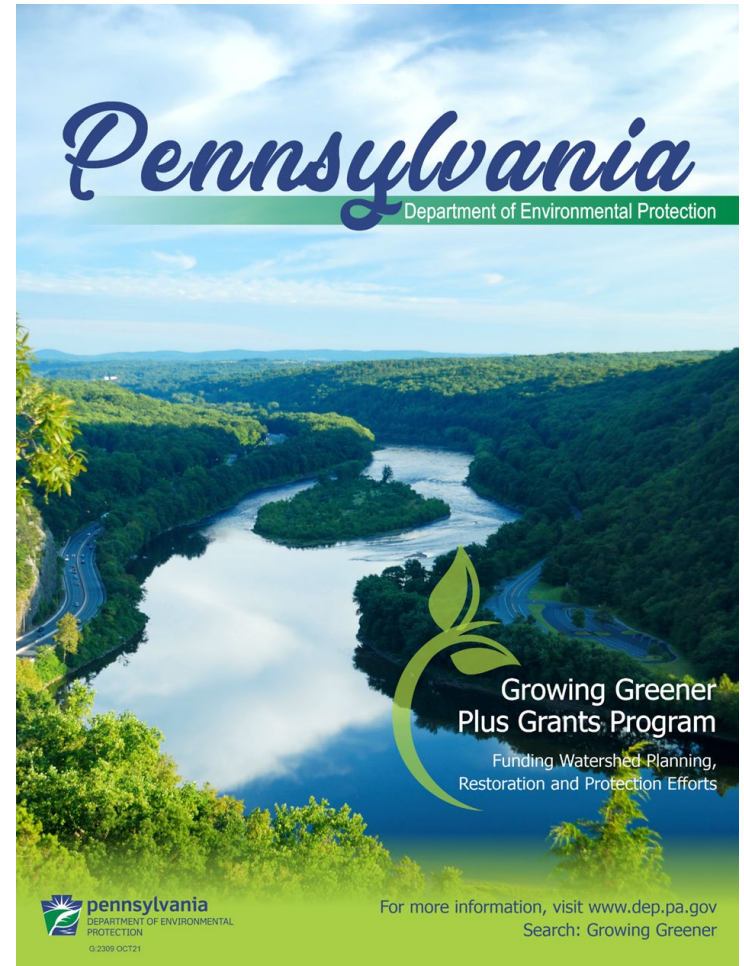Grant Applicant Presentation

April 22, 2022

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview
- What's New?
- Eligibility
- Funding
- Priorities
- Preparing a Proposal
- Successful Projects

Section 1: Overview and Purpose

Overview

- Introduction
  - Available on GG webpage
- Three grant programs
- Overview
  - Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Act
  - Watershed Restoration and Protection grants
- Purpose
  - Restore and protect from Nonpoint source pollution

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What is the Growing Greener?

- Largest single investment
- Provide grants to implement local watershed-based activities
- Current funding
- Tipping fees
- Act 13
- Amounts vary from year to year

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NPS Management Plan
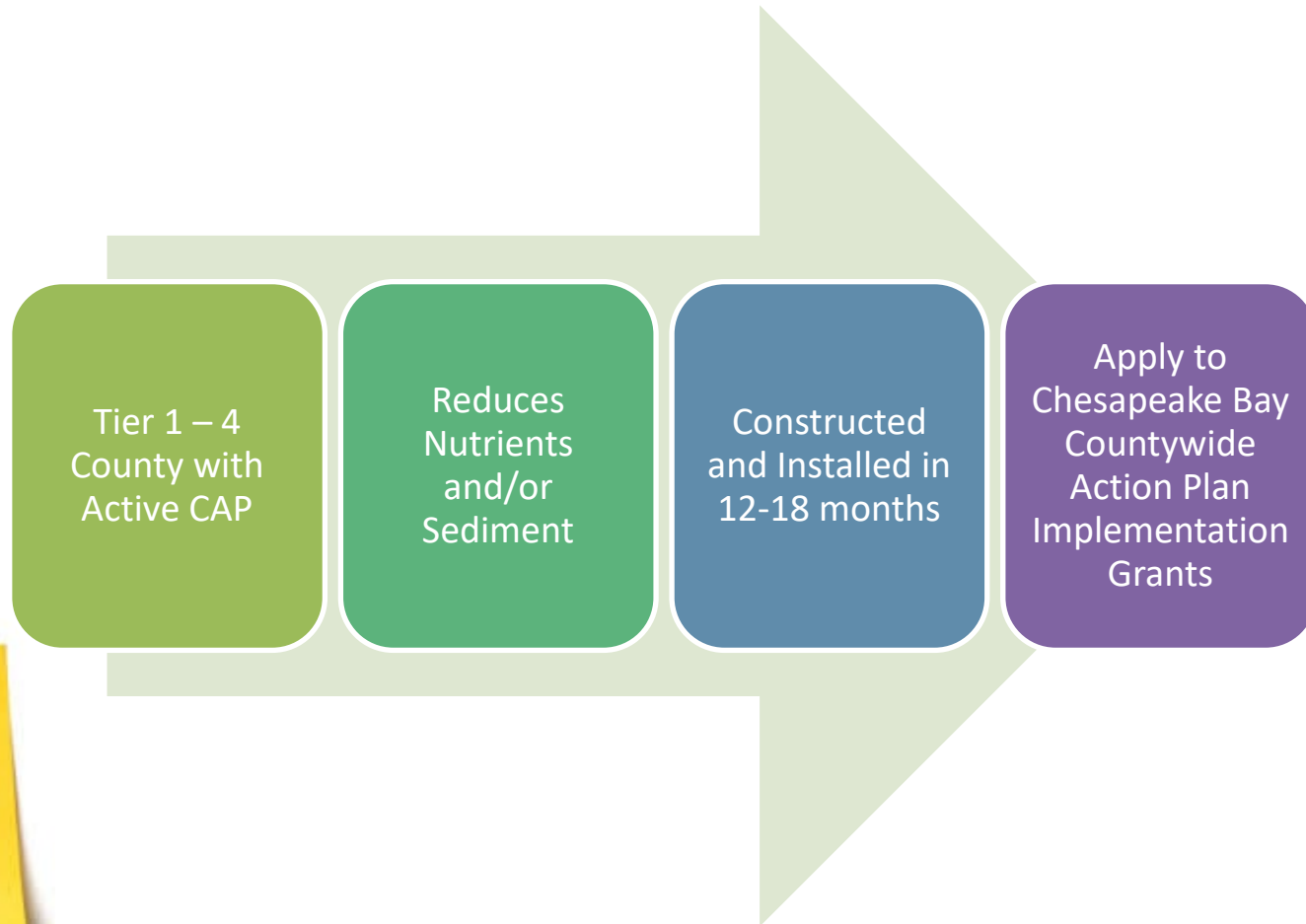
Improve and protect from:

- AMD and other energy resource extraction activities

- Agricultural activities

- Stormwater runoff, streambank and shoreline degradation

- Develop and update watershed plans leading to the improvement and protection

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What's New?

Section 2: What's New?

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Chesapeake Bay Implementation

Tier 1 – 4 County with Active CAP

Reduces Nutrients and/or Sediment

Constructed and Installed in 12-18 months

Apply to Chesapeake Bay Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grants

Helpful Tips
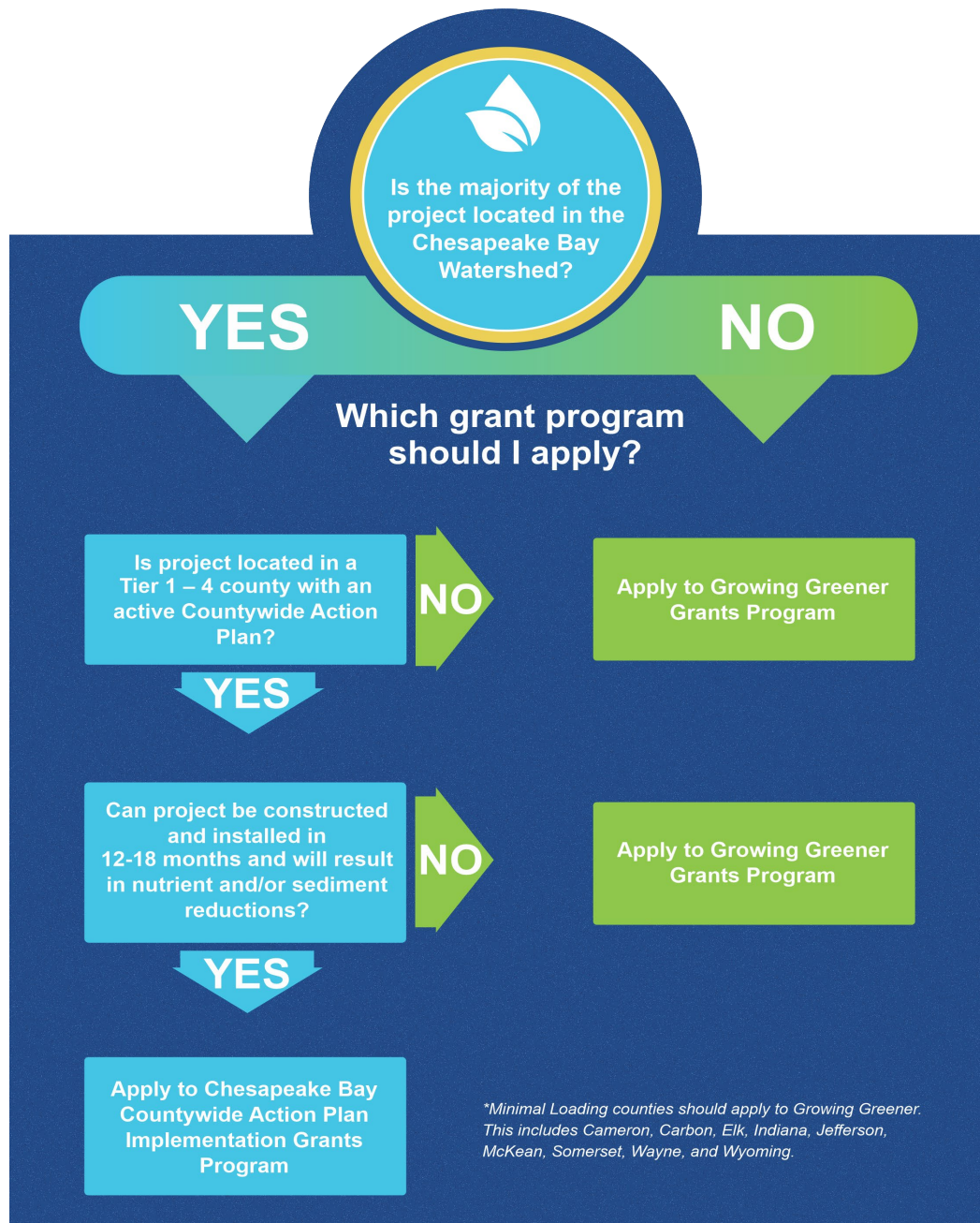
Check guidance for contacts

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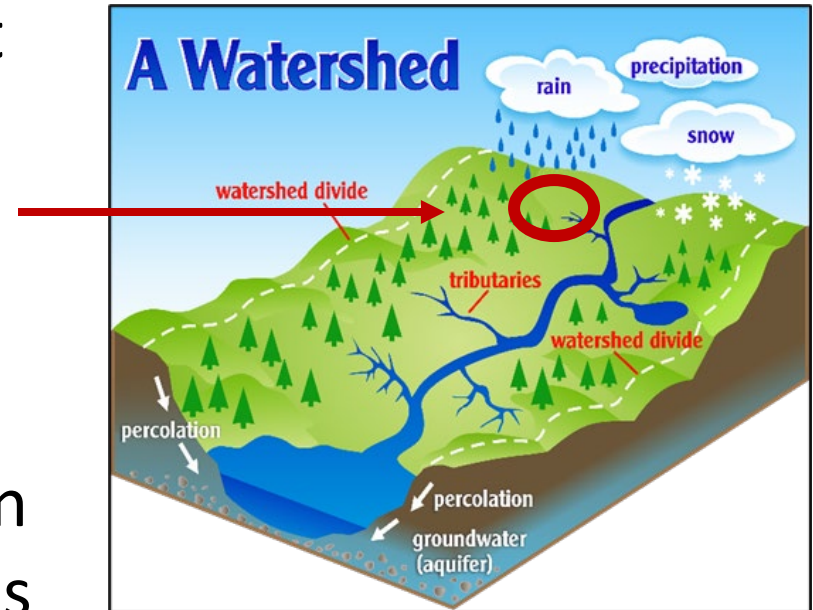
Growing Greener

Not sure? Use the flow chart.

Watershed Renaissance Initiative

- Reduce nutrient and sediment impairments in agriculturally-impaired waterways
  - 2022 Integrated Report

- Complete implementation of watershed restoration plans on selected small catchment areas
  - Approximately 25 or fewer land parcels
  - Centre, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Snyder and Union counties

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Watershed Renaissance Initiative

- Complete BMP implementation in 7 years

- Rapid delisting in 10 years

- Phase 1

  - Landowner education and outreach

  - Agricultural planning

    - Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control
    and/or Chapter 91 manure management requirements

  - Design/engineering

  - Permitting and Data Management

  - Structural BMPs meet NRCS standards and specifications

  - Maximum amount - $750,000

- Phase 2 - construction

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Catchment Example

- Air Hill Road (Headwaters to Chiques Creek)

Catchment Name	Acres	Square Miles	County Name	NHD Flowline COMID		Impairment Sources and Causes
Air Hill Road (formerly Headwaters to Chiques Creek)	294	0.46	Lancaster	57461907 57461891	57461889 57461893	AGRICULTURE - SILTATION

Air Hill Road Catchment

Helpful Tips

Check pages 14-21 of guidance

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Other New Features

- Priority to implement agricultural and stormwater BMPs, stream restoration, bank stabilization to assist in future flood prevention and climate resiliency in support of the Pennsylvania 2021 Climate Action Plan.
  - No-till farming, riparian forest buffers, green infrastructure, and other agricultural and stormwater BMPs

- Landowner Grantee Agreement
  - Submitted prior to BMP *construction* to add flexibility to install additional BMPs

- Worker Protection and Investment Certification Form

Section 3: Eligibility

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Eligible Applicants

- Incorporated watershed associations
- Counties, county planning commissions, or municipalities
- County conservation districts
- Council of governments
- Non-profit organizations
  - 501(c)(3)
  - Registered with Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations
- Educational institutions
- Municipal authorities

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Eligible Applications

- Complete and submitted by due date
- Submitted through eGrants
- Budget correct and meets requirements
- Applicants contacted by deadline
  - DEP
  - Countywide Action Team
  - Conservation District Watershed Specialist
- Good standing with Commonwealth
- Program specific criteria

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Ineligible Projects

- Negatively impacts public health or out of state

- Post-construction stormwater management BMPs caused by new or proposed construction activities

- No landowner commitment letters for projects on state-owned land

- AMDTreat report missing

- Landowner letters not included or not in the process of being obtained

- Preclude access to or use of forested land for sustainable forestry and commercial production of timber or other forest products

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Ineligible Expenses

- Outdoor recreation construction—gazebos, pavilions, decks, trails and bridges
- Dredging of streams, lakes, ponds or other waterways
- Administrative expenses more than five percent
- Registration fees for workshops
- Clothing or give-away materials
- Membership dues not directly related to project implementation

Helpful Tips

Check out the "Budget Primer"

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Section 4: Priorities

Priorities

1. Design and Construction Projects

- Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sedimentation

- Reduce iron, aluminum, acidity and sedimentation

- Implement stream restoration, bank stabilization and/or stormwater management projects

- Restore floodplains

- MS4 projects

- Ag. and stormwater BMPs to improve water quality, future flood prevention in support of PA 2021 Climate Action Plan

  – No-till, riparian forest buffers, green Infrastructure, ag. and stormwater BMPs

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2. Planning

- Plan development for agricultural erosion and sediment control or nutrient and manure management

- Watershed assessment and restoration plans

3. Healthy Waters and Watershed Renaissance Initiative

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4. Statewide and Regional Initiatives
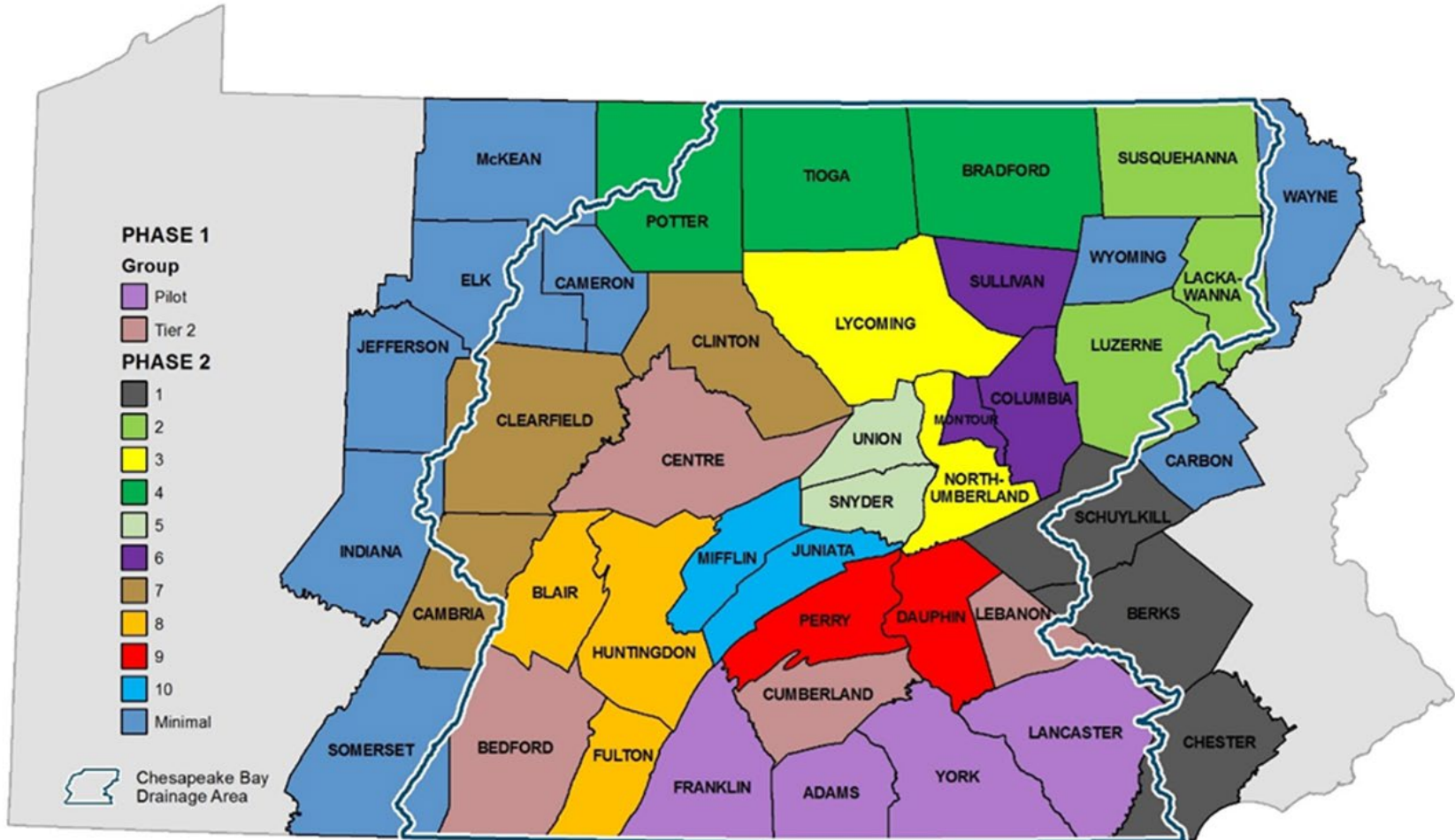
- Larger scale BMP implementation

5. Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 WIP

- Design and permitting

Priorities

5. Environmental Justice

6. Special Focus Areas

- Existing AMD treatment systems

- Harmful algal blooms

- Climate resiliency

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

- Restore floodplains

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Additional Considerations

- Preference provided to applicants submitting projects in counties with a DEP-approved Act 167 plan

- Encouraged to submit proposals that facilitate working with underserved populations to address local environmental and/or public health issues in Environmental Justice Communities

- Preference provided to applicants submitting projects in municipalities in compliance with Pa. Code Title 12, Chapter 113 and the Floodplain Management Act

- Co-benefits climate resiliency

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Section 5: Funding Information

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Funding

- No minimum or maximum request
  - Phase 1 Renaissance - $750,000
- Average award - $235,000
- Grant period of performance – 3 years
- New AMD treatment projects

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Funding

- BMP implementation and planning support for MS4 and agricultural areas

- Flooding restoration/prevention projects/plans

- Nutrient and sediment control BMPs

- Other priority projects

- Nutrient/sediment control BMPs statewide

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Section 6: Preparing the Proposal

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Project Categories

- Design and Construction

- Planning
  - Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plans
  - Ag E&S Control
  - Nutrient and Manure Management Plans

- Education and Outreach

- Operation, Maintence and Repair/Replacement

- Technical Assistance

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Common Projects

- **Design and Construction**
  - Most common category of projects
  - Agriculture BMP projects on priority areas
    - Barnyard improvements, stream fencing, buffers, crossings
  - Urban/residential stormwater reductions projects
    - To reduce the volume of runoff
    - Rain gardens, basin retrofits, MS4-related projects
    - Infiltration practices

Helpful Tips

Check out the examples on Growing Greener webpage

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Common GG projects

- Design and Construction
  - AMD remediation
    - Passive treatment
  - Stream Restoration
    - Work on publicly-owned properties
    - Encourage priority landowners to participate
- Evaluation, Assessment and Monitoring Tools
- Watershed Group Organization/Support

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- Education and Outreach
  - Demo of stormwater reduction practices
    - Field tours

  - Landowner outreach
    - Agriculture
      - Soil runoff reduction, herd health, private water well protection
    - Streambank restoration
      - Forested buffers, protect property, improving fishery
    - Urban/residential stormwater
      - MS4 obligations

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Types of Common GG projects

- Watershed Group Organization
  - Establish/maintain a group to carry out activities in priority watersheds
  - Public input on water quality issues
  - Provides leadership roles

- Healthy Waters Initiative
  - Stop problem before it gets too bad
  - Protect designated waterway

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Preparing a Proposal

- Break large projects up into stages
  - Stage 1 - Design and permit
  - Stage 2 - Construction

- Must discuss with DEP regional staff prior to submitting application (June 3rd)
  - Determine project eligibility and relevance
  - Provide guidance in the completion of the application

- Discuss with County Conservation District (June 3rd)

- Discuss/share with Chesapeake Bay Community Clean Water Coordinator (June 3rd)

- Must be willing to maintain the project

Helpful Tips

Start early. Don't wait until deadline to discuss project.

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- Detailed Project Description
  - Executive Project Summary
  - Environmental Need
  - Funding Justification
  - Environmental Justice
  - Match Requirement

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Parts of the Proposal

- Detailed Project Description
  - Scope of Work
  - Contractor Provisions
  - Project Data Submission
  - AMD Remediation Projects
  - Equipment
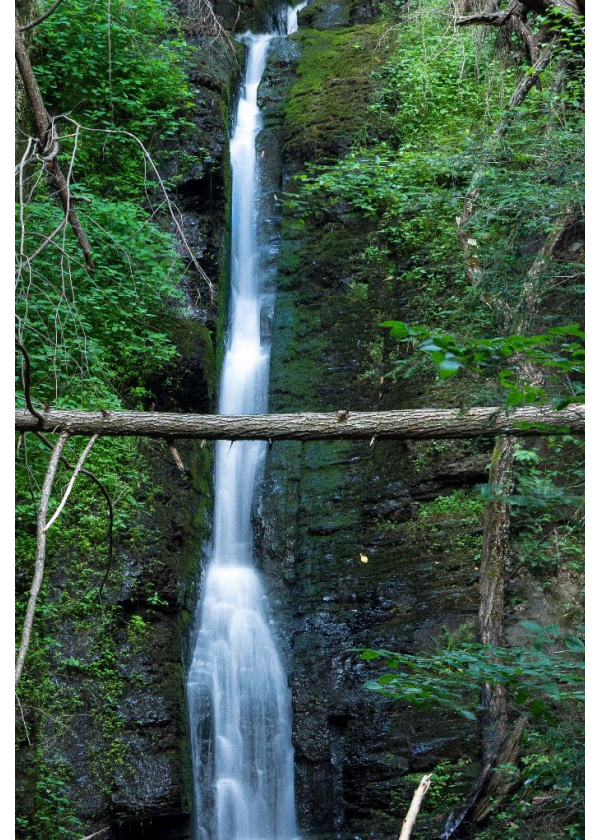- Attachments
  - Application Completeness Checklist

Model My Watershed is recommended model for nutrients/sediment load reductions

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Attachments

- Landowner Letters
  - Landowner Access Authorization
  - Landowner Letter of Commitment or Landowner-Grantee Agreement
- Project Location Map
- Project Site Map
- Project Site Photos
- Confirmation of Application Sharing within Chesapeake Bay Watershed

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Additional Attachments

- Chesapeake Bay CAP Project Category Form
- Task and Deliverables Budget Worksheet
  - Whole numbers only and no lump sums
- AMDTreat Report
- Checklist
- Land Use Planning Form or Letter
  - Multi-municipal planning forms
- Worker Protection/Investment Certification Form
- Letters of commitment for match
  - Optional

Helpful Tips

Chesapeake Bay CAP Project Category Form to verify project is eligible for GG, and not a CAP Implementation Grant.

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Application Deadlines

- April 22, 2022
  - Grant round opens

- June 3, 2022
  - Contact DEP staff, Community Clean Water Coordinators, County Conservation District

- June 24, 2022
  - Applications due before 5 p.m.
  - Commonwealth eGrants system (www.esa.dced.state.pa.us)

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eGrants

Commonwealth eGrants system (www.esa.dced.state.pa.us)

General Facts

- Create a New Keystone Login Account – Registration
  - Create a new Keystone Login account – Registration
    - Click Register and enter all of the information into the fields with a red asterisk (*) next to them.
      - You will be asked to create your profile, login information and security questions.
    - If you have already created an account with another agency whose application uses the Keystone Login Service, you do not need to register another account with us.
    - If you create a Keystone Login account with us, you will be able to use this account with other agencies that use Keystone Login.
      - Some additional information may be required for those agencies.
  - Account Migration - Migrate Account
    - If you would like to migrate your exiting PA Login account(s) to a new Keystone Login account, this must be done from the Keystone Login Website
      - If you have multiple PA Login accounts, and you wish to continue to use them, each account will need to be migrated to Keystone Login account.
  - Keystone Login Services
    - There are many account options that can be configured for your Keystone Login account. Please see the help documents provided by the Keystone Login Service

Applications are best applied for by using Internet Explorer or Google Chrome and have not been tested with other browsers.

Login

What's New?
For an overview of the changes in the new Single Application, please read Help.

Username: adevine

Password: ●●●●●●●●●

LOGIN

Powered by

PA KEYSTONE LOGIN

Registration
Forgot Password
Learn more about Keystone Login

Helpful Tips

Need help with eGrants? Customer Service 800-379-7448 or ra-dcedcs@pa.gov.

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Section 7: Successful Projects

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Successful Projects

- Successful projects announced through a press release/website

- Grantees notified

- Some awards may be for less than requested
  - Grantee may accept or reject

- Grant contracts are developed based on the award
  - Signed electronically

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Successful Projects

- DEP project advisors assigned to each project
  - Review invoices and progress reports
  - Verify practices installed
  - Provide guidance on implementation
  - Help with questions

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For more information visit DEP's website: www.dep.pa.gov

e-mail: RA-EPGrowingGreener@pa.gov

DEP Grants Center – 717-705-5400