

Countywide Action Plans

What does implementation look like?



The Pennsylvania Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan focuses on finding local solutions to pollution in PA waterways. Counties are using Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) to organize that work and bring people and partners together for clean water projects. CAPs are connecting funding opportunities to projects that support collective efforts and make a difference. Read on to hear what others say about CAPs. For more detailed information about Countywide Action Plans, visit: www.dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3

Cleaner water and engagement opportunities in the watershed.

“Fish farms aren’t the first thing that comes to mind when you think of agriculture and the Bay, but we used a CAP grant to cut our effluent by about 95% and keep about eight tons of sediment and pollution out of Freeman Run each year. ...our neighbors don’t really understand the finer points of what we did and how we did it, but they do notice that the water downstream of our hatchery is noticeably clearer now.”

— **John Harmon,**
PFBC Cooperative Hatchery, Potter County



“The stream is a classroom! We had students walk the stream with us before, during, and after the [restoration] project. One of them even changed their major! If you’re a teacher and you want to do something like this, network with the conservation specialists and involve the kids. They are citizens and you want to show them how to use their resources for the future.”

— **Kerri Barnes,**
Greencastle-Antrim School District, Franklin County

“We anticipated that some farmers might not be receptive to our outreach, but that issue has rarely come up. When we make it clear that the only purpose of the inspection is to make sure their good work has been counted, we generally get a favorable response.”

— **Susan Richards,**
Capital RC&D, Franklin, Adams, and Cumberland County



CAP grants funding projects on public and private lands.

“The CAP grant got us going! Once we had the grant from DEP, we were able to use it to match about \$2 million in total grant funds for a Conewago Creek restoration... and that’s for a town of 5,200 people!”

**— Steven Letavic,
Township Manager, Londonberry PA**



“The farmers, Stroud Center, TeamAg and other partners started installing BMPs along [a] stream back in 2019 with PennVest, Growing Greener, and NFWF grants, but our costs skyrocketed during the pandemic. The CAP funds came along at just the right time to close the gap, and we are grateful that the Lancaster Clean Water Partners could mobilize the funds quickly.”

**— Lamonte Garber,
Stroud Water Research Center**

“We bought our farm from owners who didn’t have the time or means to address some serious flooding and erosion issues. I thought the Conservation District might be able to help, so I approached them regarding our issues. They explained that they had some Chesapeake Bay funding available, and we were able to come up with a plan to address some of the problems.”

**— Mitch Freeman,
Farmer, Homer Township Board of Supervisors Chairman**



“Municipal leaders should look to their county and state resources. We’ve wanted to do this project for a long time and our Conservation District alerted me to the opportunity to finally fund it and they did a lot of the [CAP] grant paperwork. DCNR helped us choose the trees. We couldn’t have done this without their help.”

**— Larry Barrick,
Township Manager, Dickinson PA**