



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

www.chesapeakebay.net

Press Release

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Four Virginia Local Governments Recognized for Efforts to Protect Local Waters and the Chesapeake Bay

Annapolis, Md. (January 26, 2006) – Federal and state Bay restoration leaders recognized sixteen local governments today for their dedication to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Virginia municipalities selected for integrating Bay-friendly management measures include Arlington and Clarke Counties and the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria.

“Local governments play a critical role in our ongoing work to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay,” said Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources L. Preston Bryant, Jr. “Their efforts serve as a model for how partnerships among local, state and federal governments are working together to meet the tough pollution prevention goals needed to help improve our local waters.”

Communities are evaluated on their completion of a set of programs, activities or benchmarks that protect and restore their part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Selection is based on the municipality's population and the percentage of benchmarks met in four categories: improving water quality, promoting sound land use, protecting and restoring living resources and habitat, and engaging the community.

In addition to Virginia municipalities honored, several local governments in Maryland and Pennsylvania were recognized as well. In Maryland, the Cities of Rockville, Greenbelt and Aberdeen and Montgomery and Carroll Counties earned gold status, while the Town of Hampstead was recognized as a silver level partner. In Pennsylvania, Plymouth, College and South Middleton Townships and the City of Lancaster earned gold status, while Chester County and the Borough of Lewisburg were recognized as silver level partners. Gold level partners have met a higher percentage of benchmarks than silver partners.

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Local Governments Awarded for Helping the Bay 2-2-2-2

The Bay Partner Community Awards are sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program and its Local Government Advisory Committee. The Committee was created in 1988 in recognition of the critical role that the more than 1,650 local governments in the watershed play in the partnership's ability to achieve its goals. The Local Government Advisory Committee is coordinated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Currently, 73 local governments are Bay Partner Communities.

Since 1997, the Bay Partner Community program has recognized local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for their commitment to protecting and restoring the Bay and its rivers. For more information about Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities, visit the website Bay LOGIN at www.baylogin.org. Information on the most innovative programs and practices are highlighted on the site under "Local Government Innovations."

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