

**January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025, Delaware Programmatic Two-Year Milestones**

Per the Principal Staff Committee’s Climate Change Directive, “Preliminary estimates for the climate impact through 2035 indicate a doubling of the 2025 load effect. The effect of climate change on our ability to meet the Bay’s water quality standards is a significant and increasing concern.” Delaware’s Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) established nutrient and sediment numeric reduction goals that more than accounted for climate reductions expected through 2025. In addition, through Governor Carney’s commitment to the U.S. Climate Alliance, Delaware has adopted a goal of reducing the state’s greenhouse gas emissions by 26% to 28% by 2025 from 2005 levels further supporting the implementation of best management practices in Delaware’s WIP efforts.

Target Date	Programmatic Milestone Commitment(s) / BMP Implementation Target(s) <sup>1</sup> [Reference WIP page and (to extent possible) number/type of BMPs in CAST scenario <sup>2</sup> if applicable]	Deliverable	Lead Agency	Comments/ Status Updates
<b>Agricultural Sector</b>				
2024-2025	Funding – Annual funding to support implementation of cover crops through cover crop cost share programs in-part funded through the CBIG grant. Additional cover crop implementation acres will be achieved through state cost share programs, special appropriations, Conservation District funding, and verification through transect surveys. *Cover crops are identified as a priority BMP according to Delaware’s WIP. [WIP Section 4.2 and 4.2.8].  This project contributes towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.	Funding	DNREC, DDA, NRCS, Conservation Districts	
2024-2025	Inspection – Conduct Cover Crop and Conservation Tillage Surveys to improve verification of annual BMP data. [WIP 4.2.1]	Inspection	DNREC	

<sup>1</sup> BMP implementation targets are 2-year numeric projections of specific BMPs that are key to achieving the 2025 Phase III Planning Targets. Providing these targets is an alternative to providing the numeric CAST scenario, as agreed to at the January 24, 2020 PSC meeting. See:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/40423/iv.b\\_numeric\\_milestones\\_wqgit\\_approved\\_january\\_2020\\_clean.pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40423/iv.b_numeric_milestones_wqgit_approved_january_2020_clean.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> As part of the adaptive management process for achieving water quality goals, jurisdictions may submit programmatic milestones that modify, are in place of, or are in addition to milestones listed in their WIPs so long as the jurisdiction can demonstrate that they will be as effective toward meeting water quality goals. To the extent possible, jurisdictions to indicate the number and type of BMPs in the milestone CAST scenario (if applicable) that correspond to programmatic milestones.

**Delaware Restore Clean Water Action Items**

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2024-2025	BMP - Cover Crop implementation goal is 142,508 acres annually. [WIP Section 4.2]	Numeric BMP- Cover Crops	DNREC, DDA, Conservation Districts	
2F024-2025	<p>Funding - Provide funding to assist in relocating a minimum of 4,500 tons of manure annually from areas of excess generation to areas outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and/or within the watershed where nutrients are needed for agronomic crop production needs [WIP Section 4.3.1.10].</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>	Funding	DNREC	
2024-2025	BMP - Manure Transport of 72,000 dry tons off farms annually. [WIP Section 4.3]	Numeric BMP – Manure Transport	DDA	.
2024-2025	<p>Permit/Project – In September 2023 Delaware’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) approved permits for the expansion of Bioenergy Devco, LLC’s Seaford Delaware facility to construct an anaerobic digestion system, a wastewater pre-treatment system and a biogas upgrading plant.</p> <p>The expansion of the anaerobic digestion systems will help to reduce poultry and litter waste pollution on the landscape and via pre-treatment of wastewater generated. [WIP Section 3.2.3 and Section 4.3]</p>	Permit/Project	DNREC/DDA	
2024-2025	BMP - Animal Waste Storage (livestock and poultry) of 884,176 animal units. [WIP Section 4.3]	Numeric BMP – Animal Waste Storage	DDA	

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2024-2025	<p>Project – Wetland Creation Project that will create 1 acre of wetland that is currently managed turf adjacent to Whitemarsh Tax Ditch, a tributary to the Nanticoke River. The project site is located 1.4 miles outside of Greenwood. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2024. The project will consist of the excavation of 1,058 cubic yards of material, the installation of a berm, the installation of 180 linear feet of 12” HDPE pipe to provide an inlet and outlet to the wetland feature, and the planting of native wetland shrubs and trees. [WIP Section 4.3.2.2]</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>	Project	DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Project – Wetland Creation Project – Creation of a 1.5-acre wetland feature that’s currently in agricultural production adjacent to the Nanticoke River Tax Ditch, located .2 miles east of Greenwood. Preliminary plans have been drafted and construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2024. The project will consist of the excavation of material, the creation of a berm, the installation of a water control structure, and the planting of native wetland shrubs and trees. The feature will accept drainage and treat approximately 16 acres of row crops. [WIP Section 4.3.2.1, 4.3.2.2, and 4.3.2.5]</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>	Project	DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Project - Stream Restoration – Restoration of approximately 1,900 linear feet of a channelized portion of the Cat Tail Branch Tax Ditch, a tributary to the Marshyhope River, located west of Farmington. It is anticipated that survey and design will begin in</p>	Project	DNREC	

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	<p>the spring of 2024 with an anticipated construction date in the fall of 2025. The project will restore stream sinuosity, create wetland benches, restore highly eroded banks, and eliminate the need for future dredging. [WIP Section 4.3.2.6]</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>			
2024-2025	<p>Project – Stream Restoration – Restoration of approximately 1,900 linear feet of a channelized portion of the Cart Branch Tax Ditch, a tributary to the Nanticoke River, located .6 miles southeast of Greenwood. It is anticipated that survey and design will begin in the spring of 2024 with an anticipated construction date in the fall of 2025. The project will restore stream sinuosity, create wetlands in the restored floodplain, reconnect the historic flood plain, restore highly eroded banks, and eliminate the need for future dredging. [WIP Section 4.3.2.6]</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>	Project	DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Project - Stream Restoration – Restoration of approximately 1,200 linear feet of a channelized portion of the Stafford Tax Ditch, a tributary to the Marshyhope River, located west of Greenwood. The project currently has 30% designs, construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2025. The project will restore stream sinuosity, create .25 acres of wetlands within the restored floodplain areas, and eliminate the need for future dredging. [WIP Section 4.3.2.2 and 4.3.2.6]</p>	Project	DNREC	

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	This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.			
2024-2025	BMP – Wetland Restoration – Restore and/or demonstrate through verification at least 1,380 acres of wetland restoration during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Wetland Restoration	DNREC, Conservation Districts, NRCS	
2024-2025	BMP – Wetland Enhancement and Rehabilitation - Install and/or demonstrate through verification at least 19,649 acres of wetland enhancement and/or rehabilitation during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Wetland Enhancement/Rehabilitation	DNREC, Conservation Districts, NRCS	
2024-2025	<p>Program – DNREC has received grant funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to create a Forest Buffer Incentive Program to assist with the implementation of Riparian Forest Buffers and Tree plantings to meet Delaware’s WIP goals. The provides funding for landowners to plant native tree species along waterways including but not limited to wetlands, tax ditches, and private ditches. The program also assists in the maintenance of plantings for 5 years after implementation and an incentive payment by quarter of acres fully planted at the rates appropriate to the corresponding BMPs.</p> <p>*Forest Buffers are identified as a Priority BMP according to Delaware’s WIP. [WIP 4.3.2.1]</p> <p>This program contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>	Program	DNREC	
2024-2025	Program – Delaware is currently working to expand its Buffer Incentive Program to also include Riparian Grass Buffers. Work to determine the details of the grass buffer portion of the	Program	DNREC	

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	<p>incentive program is set to take place in early 2024, and with approvals will begin to assist implementation of grass buffers by fall of 2024 through 2025.</p> <p>Delaware is currently lagging in its efforts to meet grass buffer goals outlined in the WIP by 2025. By including grass buffers in the incentive program this will help to meet those goals. As part of this effort, Delaware will be able to buffer more of its tax ditches from agricultural and urban run-off. *Grass Buffers are identified as a priority BMP according to Delaware’s WIP. [WIP 4.3.2.1]</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>			
2024-2025	<p>Project – Complete GIS analysis with updated land use data to identify and target landowner properties with more than ¼ acre of land adjoining qualified water bodies that would be eligible for the Buffer Incentive Program.</p> <p>Outreach- Target outreach and informational flyers to these areas and properties to begin engagement about implementing buffer BMP projects. [WIP 4.3.2.1]</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP milestone goals provided in this document.</p>	GIS Priority Targeting	DNREC	
	<p>Program - Delaware has over 1,500 miles of tax ditches within the Chesapeake Bay portion of the state. Many of the ditches are currently being maintained as an herbaceous grass buffer. To develop and implement more grass buffers, the Sussex</p>	Program	SCD	

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	<p>Conservation District will provide financial incentives of 50% of the cost or \$150 per mile to the tax ditch organization towards the implementation of the Weed Wiper Bar to maintain narrow grassy buffers to reduce runoff from agricultural fields and the uptake of excess nutrients, resulting in an improvement to the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. This will cover the tax ditch organizations’ costs. Data specifying acres of vegetative grassed buffer will be tracked and reported to DNREC each year. [WIP Section 4.3.2.1]</p> <p>This project is expected to contribute towards the numeric BMP goals for Grass Buffers provided in this document.</p>			
2024-2025	<p>Project – Delaware Department of Agriculture – Forest Service is projected to plant at least 30 acres of tree plantings/afforestation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Sites include a location near the town of Bridgeville and a site west of Harrington. Other locations may also be included.</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>	Project	DDA – Forest Service	
2024-2025	BMP – Forest Buffers – Install at least 30 acres of forest buffers through various Delaware tree initiative programs including CREP, Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative (TEDI), Delaware Forest Service Programs, and the Forest Buffer Incentive Program during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Forest Buffers	DNREC/DDA/ Conservation Districts	
2024-2025	BMP – Afforestation/Tree Planting – Install and/or demonstrate through verification at least 254 acres of tree plantings/afforestation during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Afforestation/Tree Planting.	DNREC	

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2024-2025	BMP – Grass Buffers - Install and/or demonstrate through verification at least 3,247 acres of grass buffers during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Grass Buffers	DNREC /Conservation Districts	
2024-2025	<p>Project – Vegetative Restoration Project for Hickman Farm, owned by Delaware Wild Lands Inc. The first phase of this project which has been completed worked to restore the hydrologic function of the landscape which is being converted from agricultural lands. The next phase which will take place primarily in 2024 will restore the vegetative landscape back to coastal plain upland forest, meadow, and emergent wetland on the site for wildlife habitat and water quality improvement.</p> <p>The project proposes to restore the 25 acres to native coastal plain upland forest (12.5 acres) and meadow (12.5 acres), including 0.3-0.5 acres of emergent wetlands. Land cover restoration will include planting 6,250 native trees on 12.5 acres along 0.3 riparian miles that are currently unbuffered agricultural fields. Additionally, 12.5 adjacent acres of agricultural fields will be restored to native meadow vegetation, buffering 0.1 riparian miles. [WIP Section 4.3.2]</p> <p>This project contributes towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>	Project	Delaware Wild Lands/DNREC	
2024-2025	Project – Completion and distribution of a best management practice guidebook for tax ditch officers to guide decisions for tax ditch management. Conservation drainage BMPs will be included in the guidebook. Initial design work was started in the 2022-2023 Milestones period.	Project	DNREC, NWA, NRCS	



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	This project contributes towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document. This effort is expected to contribute up to 600 acres towards BMP milestone goals for grass buffer and 10 acres of BMP wetland enhancement/creation goals along tax ditches during this milestone period. [WIP Section 4.3.2.1 and Section 4.3.2.2]			
2024-2025	Project – Continue to conduct Tax Ditch system assessments to identify opportunities for implementation of conservation drainage practices. [WIP Section 4.3.1.9]  This project contributes towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.	Project	NRCS	
2024-2025	Permits – Continue to try and bring the percentage of issued CAFO General Permit 2 to 50%. Process incoming NOIs and assist farmers with accurately completing them. Host workshops to provide information and assistance with the permitting process. [WIP Section 4.2.4]	Permits	DDA/DNREC	
2024-2025	Program - Inspect each permitted farm at least once every five years. With a goal to meet or exceed 20% of permitted facilities inspected annually. In addition, routine inspections will include new or problem facilities. This goal is dependent on the ability to access farms, which has been impacted by Avian Influenza restrictions. [WIP Section 4.2.4]	Inspections	DDA/DNREC	
2024-2025	Permit - CAFO General Permit 1 – get the next batch of permits through public notice procedures. [WIP Section 4.2.4]	Permit	DNREC/DDA	

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2024-2025	Outreach - The Sussex Conservation District will continue implementing promotional videos and TV advertising campaigns to increase the implementation of cover crops and other agriculture BMPS to improve water quality. [WIP Section 4.2.1]	Outreach	Sussex Conservation District	
2024-2025	Outreach - The Sussex Conservation District will continue to host Soil and Stormwater workshops and support the Delmarva Soil Summit in February 2024. These efforts are intended to educate farmers on soil health techniques such as no-till, crop rotations, and planting cover crops. [WIP Section 4.2.8]	Outreach	Sussex Conservation District	
2024-2025	Project - The Kent and New Castle Conservation Districts intend to partner to host at least one in-person Soil Health Workshop/Field Day in the milestone period to educate farmers on soil health techniques. [WIP Section 4.2.8]	Outreach	Kent Conservation District/New Castle Conservation District	
2024-2025	Program - The Delaware Department of Agriculture has a goal of capturing supplemental nutrient management practices in annual reporting from the State’s producers. DDA has worked with the 4R Alliance to develop a survey to include along with annual reports. This survey was approved by the Nutrient Management Commission. Subsequent regulatory compliance checks will include verification of this reporting. This supports Nutrient Management enhancement goals. [WIP Section 4.2.2]	Reporting and Outreach	DDA	
2024-2025	Reporting and Inspections - The Conservation Districts will continue to conduct BMP Inspections as part of BMP Verification Program. The districts will inspect expired BMPs and provide	Inspections	Conservation Districts	

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	<p>inspection reports annually. The intent is to ensure the proper and continued function of the agricultural BMPs. The districts will continue to utilize the mobile application Collector to track BMP implementation and compliance inspections. [WIP Section 4.4.4]</p> <p>This project may contribute towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>			
2024-2025	<p>Projects – Kent Conservation District expects to implement at least two drainage and/or ditch improvement project annually. Where possible, eligible BMPs may be implemented into those projects and reported. BMPs implemented as part of previous projects will be verified and reported annually. [WIP Section 4.2.7]</p> <p>This project may contribute towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>	Projects	Kent Conservation District	
2024-2025	<p>Project - The Sussex Conservation District will continue to advocate for whole-farm conservation plans rather than plans for only a portion of a farm. This approach would capture all existing BMPs on that farm (including BMPs that are not cost-shared). SCD has an ongoing incentive program that offers a \$250 cost-share for the first 100 whole-farm plans submitted. [WIP Section 4.4.3]</p> <p>This project may contribute towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>	Plans	Sussex Conservation District	

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Developed Sector				
2024-2025	<p>Program – DNREC has received grant funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for the implementation of programs and practices to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in the Chesapeake Bay. As part of that funding, DNREC developed and released a new program in May 2023 called the Delaware Community Conservation Assistance Program.</p> <p>The DNREC Delaware Community Conservation Assistance Program (DeCAP) will implement urban BMPs identified in the Chesapeake Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). This new conservation program will specifically be for landowners on non-agricultural properties. (WIP Section 3.2 and Section 3.4]</p> <p>This program is projected to contribute towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>	Program	DNREC	
2024-2025	BMP – Conservation Landscaping Practices – implement and/or verify at least 1,602 acres of Conservation Landscaping practices during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Conservation Landscaping Practices	DNREC	
2024-2025	BMP – Urban Tree Planting – implement and/or verify at least 177 acres of urban tree plantings during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Urban Tree Planting	DNREC	
2024-2025	BMP –Urban Stream Restoration – restore or verify 17,633 feet of urban streambanks during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Urban Stream Restoration	DNREC	
2024-2025	BMP – Runoff Reduction Performance Standard – implement and/or verify at least 1,025 acres treated through runoff reduction performance standard practices during the milestone period.	Numeric BMP – Runoff Reduction Performance Standard	DNREC	
2024-2025	BMP – Stormwater Treatment Performance Standard – implement and/or verify at least 5,560 acres treated through	Numeric BMP – Stormwater	DNREC	

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	stormwater treatment performance standard during the milestone period.	Treatment Performance Standard		
2024-2025	<p>Program – With funding support from the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant, Kent Conservation District and DNREC developed a Septic Pumping Cost-Share in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Kent County, Delaware. This program will aim to assist 300 homeowners from all socioeconomic backgrounds within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to obtain up to 50% grant funding assistance to pay for septic tank pump-outs. The program will also help to increase septic pumping data reporting.</p> <p>Delaware's Chesapeake Bay WIP identifies On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems (OWTDS) as an ongoing concern. [3.2.3]</p> <p>This program is projected to contribute towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>	Program	KCD	
2024-2025	<p>BMP – Septic Pumping – Verify septic pump-outs on at least 4,000 septic systems annually within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and report through NEIEN.</p>	Numeric BMP – Septic Pump-outs	DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Funding – Continue to provide funding support through DNREC’s Environmental Finance program to assist disadvantaged individuals or communities upgrade or repair failing septic systems. [WIP Section 3.3.2.7, Section 3.3.2.8, and Section 3.3.2.9].</p> <p>This project supports the implementation of the BMP – Septic Denitrification and/or BMP -BMP-Septic connections.</p>	Funding	DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>BMP – Street Sweeping – Verify annually street sweeping on 403 acres annually and report through NEIEN.</p>	Numeric BMP – Street Sweeping	DNREC	

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2024-2025	BMP – Urban Nutrient Management – Verify annually 23,556 acres are treated under urban nutrient management and report through NEIEN. [WIP Section 3.3.2.4]	Numeric BMP – Urban Nutrient Management	DNREC	
2024-2025	BMP - Erosion and Sediment Control – verify annually 529 acres of erosion and sediment control and report through NEIEN.	Numeric BMP – Erosion and Sediment Control	DNREC	
2024-2025	Permit – [Extended] Reissue Seaford NPDES permit by Q2 2024, which expired on 10/31/2020 but has been administratively extended. [WIP Section 3.3.2.10]	Permit	DNREC	
2024-2025	Funding - Between ARPA, state funding, the Clean Water Initiative, and potential funds from the federal infrastructure bill, DNREC has a list of priority projects to enhance and improve the surface waters of Delaware, including stream and waterway restoration, drainage projects, and tax ditch improvements. [WIP Section 3.3.2.5]	Funding	State Legislature, Federal Sources, DNREC	
2024-2025	Project – A revitalization project to add tree plantings, native pollinator plantings, runoff reduction practices, and green infrastructure in downtown Seaford. The project is still in early planning but would showcase a variety of urban BMPs. [WIP Section 3.3.1, Section 3.3.2.1, and Section 3.3.2.2]	Project	Nanticoke Watershed Alliance	
2024-2025	Project – Green parking lot design for church in Laurel, DE. The project will include permeable pavement, bioretention areas, and native plantings. In addition this project will serve a demonstration space for different urban BMPs. [WIP Section 3.3.1, Section 3.3.2.1, and Section 3.3.2.2]	Project	Nanticoke Watershed Alliance	
2024-2025	Project - The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance will host a minimum of 2 homeowner workshops targeting homeowners and HOAs. NWA will design and install two demonstration stormwater BMP	Outreach	Nanticoke Watershed Alliance	

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	<p>projects on religious organization campuses, civic association properties, or other organizations’ properties. [WIP Section 3.2]</p> <p>This project may contribute towards the numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>			
2024-2025	<p>Project - The Delaware Environmental Navigator (DEN) is a widely used in Delaware for tracking all permitted on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems (OWTDS). The DNREC Ground Water Discharges Section (GWDS) continues to work with Delaware Department of Technology and Information (DTI) personnel to upgrade the system for better management of our permitting and monitoring data. The upgrades include using EQIS (Environmental Quality Information System) to manage Large OWTDS operations and groundwater monitoring data and utilize business intelligence software (such as Power BI) to analyze data from DEN for permit tracking, compliance checking and enforcement. [Section 3.4.5]</p>	Data	DNREC & DTI	
2024-2025	<p>Program/Inspections – On-going review of available data records for large onsite wastewater systems, spray irrigation facilities, biosolids application sites and repaid infiltration basins (RIBS). Develop reporting and inspection criteria if needed. [WIP 3.3]</p>	Inspections	DNREC	
2025	<p>Outreach/Training - The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance will host a training program targeting landscapers to encourage native tree plantings. Certification program has been developed and the next session is scheduled for 2025. [WIP Section 3.4]</p> <p>This program supports Urban Nutrient Management implementation efforts.</p>	Outreach	Nanticoke Watershed Alliance	
2024	<p>Permit - Issue Delaware’s MS4 Phase II General Permits. The Phase II MS4 General Permits is currently working on technical responses associated with the public hearing that took place in 2023, and the permit is expected to be issued in summer 2024 [WIP Section 3.2.2.2]</p>	Permits	DNREC	

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2024-2025	Permit – [Extended] Reissue the Phase I MS4 permit for New Castle County. The permit is currently being redrafted to be consistent with the Phase II permits where applicable and public notice is expected for Spring 2024. [WIP section 3.2]	Permits	DNREC	
2024-2025	Permit - DNREC’s Surface Water Discharges Section will continue to work on issuing an Industrial Stormwater General Permit that more effectively addresses TMDL requirements and is consistent with EPA’s revised Multisector General Permit. [WIP Section 3.2.2]	Permits	DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Program – Sussex Conservation District will continue to work with communities and entities in Sussex County permitted through the MS4 program. Specifically, SCD expects to support planning efforts with Seaford and Laurel to implement MS4 permits once issued. SCD already addresses 3/6 elements through the Stormwater Program. In partnership with the impacted towns, SCD will address additional 3 elements.</p> <p>Currently waiting on issuance of MS4 permits. [WIP Section 3.2.2]</p>	Program	Sussex Conservation District	
2024-2025	<p>Program - DNREC’s Sediment and Stormwater Program will continue to evaluate, develop and offer online training programs to be available 365 days/year to enhance compliance assurance for Contractor Certification: Contractor Training (Responsible Person), Certified Construction Reviewer, Recertification, and/or Stormwater Design Engineers.</p> <p>The development of an on-line, on-demand Contractor Training Program certification was completed and launched in March 2021. The course is integrated into Delaware’s Learning Center platform and consists of interactive training modules and an exam. In 2022, in coordination with DelDot, the Program</p>	Program	DNREC	



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	<p>contracted with a third-party vendor to develop an online, on-demand CCR course for the regulated community. While the course was projected to be public facing by the end of 2022, delays from the contracted vendor have resulted in the Program looking for short-term alternatives. In 2023, the Program hosted all contractor training via a virtual format utilizing Microsoft Teams and the Delaware Learning Center. The Program is evaluating additional short-term alternatives with the goal to utilize the third-party vendor’s training program in the future. [WIP Section 3.2.2.1]</p>			
2024-2025	<p>Project – Planning - Working with USFWS and DelDOT on culvert pilot project in the Choptank Watershed. Replacing culverts and improving habitat for anadromous fish. Additional sites will be evaluated in 2024.</p>	Project	DelDOT and USFWS	
2024-2025	<p>Project – The University of Delaware Georgetown Campus Conservation Landscaping Demo Garden. This project will be designed to provide demonstrations on what is possible when using meadows in open spaces, rights of way, and in stormwater management areas. The project will include plots of different seed mixes and management styles to demonstrate what to expect with this type of conservation landscaping practice. Public workshops will be provided to train on meadow installation, maintenance, and ecological benefits. [WIP Section 3.3.2.1 and Section 3.4.3]</p> <p>This effort supports BMP – Conservation Landscaping goals listed in this document.</p>	Project	UD/DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Program – Livable Lawns - The Livable Lawns Program certifies lawn care companies that follow environmentally-friendly practices in fertilizer application while educating property owners. [WIP Section 6.1.4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work towards increasing the number of certified applicators in the state; and</li> </ul>	Program and Outreach	DNREC and Delaware Nursery and Landscaping Association	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to increase acreage enrolled in the Livable Lawns Program annually.</li> </ul> <p>This effort supports BMP – Urban Nutrient Management goals listed in this document.</p>			
2024-2025	<p>Program - The Delaware Department of Agriculture will continue to coordinate efforts for the development of a Turf Nutrient Management Plan for Delaware. Once the plan has been developed, efforts will focus on increasing enrollment in the certification program and verification of urban nutrient management compliance. [WIP Section 3.3.2.4]</p> <p>This effort supports BMP – Urban Nutrient Management goals listed in this document.</p>	Program	DDA, DNREC, UD	
<b>Natural Sector</b>				
2024-2025	<p>Program - DNREC will continue to host a restoration workgroup that focuses on finding opportunities for increased implementation of wetland restoration practices and grass buffers. This project supports efforts towards implementation of numeric BMP goals provided in this document. [WIP Section 4.3.2.2]</p>	Program	DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Program - DNREC will continue to explore opportunities to collect data for grass buffers that are installed and being maintained along tax ditches. [WIP Section 4.3.2.1]</p> <p>This project supports efforts towards implementation of numeric BMP goals provided in this document.</p>	Program	DNREC	
<b>General</b>				
2024-2025	<p>Program - Delaware will continue to incorporate diversity and environmental justice goals into the assessment of its projects,</p>	Program	DNREC	

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	programs, and when utilizing available grant funds. [WIP Section 3.4 and 4.4]			
2024-2025	Outreach – Continued improve coordination and collaboration for agriculture, drainage, and restoration projects in Kent County between conservation partners and watershed organizations working within the watershed by attending monthly and quarterly meetings to share updates and discuss potential projects and initiatives. [WIP Section 4.2.10]	Outreach	Kent Conservation District and DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Program – Delaware’s Climate Action Plan was completed in November 2021 and outlines strategies for addressing climate change that can be implemented through a variety of actions over time, as resources, data and partnerships develop. As our collective understanding of climate impacts, emissions reduction strategies and resilience and adaptation measures grow, actions to advance strategies can evolve and change.</p> <p>An important strategy identified in the Climate Action Plan includes offsetting carbon emissions through support of best management practices on agriculture lands, supporting conservation and restoration of forest lands, supporting local communities’ enhancement of urban greenspaces, and improving methods for measuring and tracking carbon sequestration. We will continue to track and support the implementation of this plan and document and report efforts as we work towards accounting for climate change goals in the Chesapeake Bay.</p> <p>Delaware’s Climate Action Plan can be found here:  <a href="https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-plan/">https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-plan/</a></p> <p>This project supports efforts towards implementation of numeric BMP goals provided in this document, including additional</p>	Program	DNREC	

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	implementation to account for additional load due to climate change.			
2024-2025	<p>Project - The Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative is a partnership that includes the Urban and Community Forestry (UFC) programs in the Department of Agriculture’s Delaware Forest Service, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy and other stakeholders that was initiated in November 2021. DNREC and the Delaware Department of Agriculture partnered to develop a new website where residents can access information on selecting, planting, and caring for their trees. In addition, residents, non-profit organizations, and municipalities can visit <a href="http://de.gov/tedi">http://de.gov/tedi</a> to enter information and photos of their tree plantings to help count the trees planted throughout the state.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor this effort and track progress during the milestone period. This effort supports the implementation of BMPs to account for climate change.</p>	Outreach	DDA, DNREC	
2024-2025	<p>Program – Toxic Contaminants – Collection and interpretation of up-to-date fish tissue data, including Characterization of current conditions; Characterization of changes since previous sampling; Understanding spatial patterns of contamination; Understanding partitioning behavior and bioavailability; Evaluating relationships between contaminant sources and in-stream response; Filling critical data gaps, including PFAS data from surface water and fish tissue; and Calibrating/validating water quality models. Creation of a priority list for sources that need clean-up and restoration. This effort supports implementation of Developed and Agriculture Sector BMPs [WIP Section 5.9].</p>	Data	DNREC	

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<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Program - Continue to provide support to the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance to implement the Creekwatcher Program. The NWA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train 35 Creekwatcher volunteers.</li> <li>• Support data collection at approximately 20 stations on the Nanticoke River in Delaware are monitored every two weeks from March through November by Creekwatcher volunteers.</li> <li>• Support monitoring data updated as received - <a href="https://cema.udel.edu/applications/waterquality/">https://cema.udel.edu/applications/waterquality/</a>;</li> <li>• Coordinate the annual Nanticoke Wade-In, press release, and report card.</li> </ul> <p>[WIP Sections 2 and 3.2]</p>	<p>Outreach</p>	<p>DNREC and Nanticoke Watershed Alliance</p>	
<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Program - DNREC will continue to update and expand Delaware’s BMP Tracking and Reporting Tool to improve and support annual reporting through NEIEN as well as tracking verification. [WIP Section 3.4.5 and 4.4.4]</p>	<p>Program/Reporting</p>	<p>DNREC</p>	
<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Program - Delaware is losing many acres of BMPs due to the requirements of the BMP Verification Program. The State will continue to work towards improving data tracking and reporting as well as verification inspection efforts with partners. Two new staff members were hired in the fall of 2023 for the Chesapeake Implementation Program. Part of their work plans include meeting with partners annually to try to improve data tracking and BMP verification efforts. [WIP Section 3.4.5 and 4.4.4]</p>	<p>Program/Reporting</p>	<p>DNREC</p>	