

The Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission

This Commission was established by the Maryland General Assembly in the 2022 legislative session as part of the Conservation Finance Act ([SB0348/HB0653](#)). The definitions of Green Infrastructure (Page 11) and Blue Infrastructure (Page 8) can be found within the enacted legislation.

Overall goal:

To pursue thriving and more equitable communities throughout Maryland by investing in ecological restoration that enhances overall resilience, sustainability, and socioeconomic benefits now and for generations to come.

Goal Implementation:

To work simultaneously with current Commissions (i.e., the Carbon Markets and Trees Commission and Maryland Climate Change Commission) and build off of current agency investments (i.e., 5 Million Trees Plan, Watershed Implementation Plan, and GGRA Plan) to strengthen strategies that contribute to Chesapeake Bay Restoration and facilitate dialogue and action throughout the State to further realize the benefits of Blue and Green infrastructure, especially in local communities.

As its charge, the Commission shall advise:

The Secretary, The Baystat Subcabinet, And Local Government Officials On Ways To Facilitate And Accelerate The Scale And Pace Of Implementation Of Green And Blue Infrastructure Projects In The State, Including Projects Designed To:

- 1. Reduce Nutrient And Sediment Loads Entering The Chesapeake Bay;***
- 2. Sequester Nutrients Already In The Chesapeake Bay;***
- 3. Improve Climate Resilience;***
- 4. Sequester Carbon;***
- 5. Protect And Restore Important Terrestrial Or Aquatic Habitats;***
- 6. Restore Streams Or Wetlands;***
- 7. Build Living Shorelines;***
- 8. Augment Or Restore Shellfish Populations; Or***
- 9. Restore Forest Or Agricultural Lands.***

The Commission consists of the following members, appointed by the Secretary in consultation with the other members of the BayStat SubCabinet:

- 1. Four Representatives Of Local Government Who Represent Different Regions Of The State And Who Are Responsible For Implementing Ecological Restoration Projects, Of Whom Two Shall Represent County Governments And Two Shall Represent Municipal Governments***
- 2. Two Representatives Of Private Ecological Restoration Companies That Regularly Work In The State;***
- 3. Two Representatives Of Companies That Invest Private Capital In Ecological Restoration Projects;***
- 4. Two Representatives Of Nonprofit Organizations That Are Knowledgeable About Green Or Blue Infrastructure And Advocate On Behalf Of The Public's Interest In The State's Natural Resources;***
- 5. One Representative Of The University Of Maryland Environmental Finance Center;***

- 6. One Representative Of The Patuxent Environmental And Aquatic Research Laboratory, Morgan State University, Recommended By The Research Laboratory;**
- 7. Two Members Of The Public Who Have A Documented And Continuing Interest In Ecological Restoration; And**
- 8. Two Representatives Of State Agencies Who Are Responsible For Implementing Green Or Blue Infrastructure Projects.**

The Secretary of the Environment shall designate:

- 1. One Of The State Agency Representatives To Serve As Co-Chair; And**
- 2. One Of The Local Government Representatives To Serve As Co-Chair.**

The Department of the Environment shall provide staff for the Commission and the Commission shall meet at least three times a year.

On or before January 1st of each year, the Commission shall report its plan and recommendations to the Secretary, the Governor, and the General Assembly.