



### What is Polluted Runoff?

As water flows off of our streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, it picks up pet waste, sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, and automotive fluids—it is called stormwater or polluted runoff. **This untreated runoff flowing through gutters and storm drains pollutes our rivers and streams and threatens our drinking water. It also causes local flooding of streets and homes, beach closures, fish advisories, and sewage system overflows.**

### Why is Polluted Runoff Such a Stormy Issue in Maryland?

**Our cities and suburbs have the most impervious surfaces in the whole Chesapeake Bay Watershed. That results in a long list of rivers and streams that are officially “impaired” or polluted.** They are in every county. These urban and suburban areas are also closer to the Bay than communities in Pennsylvania and Virginia. That means Maryland has the biggest job to fix polluted runoff and that is why the Maryland Legislature passed the Stormwater Utility Fee bill in 2012.

Clean Water,  
Healthy Families

[www.CleanWaterHealthyFamilies.org](http://www.CleanWaterHealthyFamilies.org)

# A local solution to a local problem: **Runoff Pollution**

Fees are used **ONLY** in the county or city that collects them. Does not go into a state fund.

Each county or city sets its own fee to address its local runoff pollution issues.

Funds are used to replace aging infrastructure and create buffers and green space to filter runoff.

Controlling runoff will generate thousands of jobs and clean up our waterways.

### Key Provisions of State Law:

- Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s counties and Baltimore City—the 10 largest jurisdictions—to set their stormwater fees by July 2013.
- Accountability and transparency including tracking by each jurisdiction’s auditors.
- Scientific monitoring verifying that the projects are effective.
- Credits or discounts will be offered if a property owner reduces polluted runoff. Also, provisions for those with financial hardship and an appeal process.

## Polluted Runoff: Inaction vs. Action



*A Baltimore schoolyard transformed from asphalt to grasses.*



*A beautiful rain garden enhanced a church lawn.*



*A streetscape upgraded by tree wells expanded and planted.*



*Streetscape examples: costly floods vs. runoff controls.*

## Why Taking Action Now Is So Important

### Impacts Are Far Reaching

Polluted runoff from urban and suburban areas is the **only source of pollution that is increasing**. It is responsible for beach closures and fish consumption advisories, as well as local flooding and property damage.

### Solutions Are Readily Available

We know how to fix it: the fee funds projects to reduce this pollution by **replacing aging or dysfunctional infrastructure, restoring or enhancing stormwater management systems, and creating buffers and green space to filter runoff.**

### Nearby Regions Have Stormwater Fees

Recognizing the damage of runoff pollution, stormwater fees have been implemented in 1,400 communities across **39 states and the District of Columbia**. Including:

- Newport News, VA (\$65.40/yr)
- Norfolk, VA (\$96.96/yr)
- Portsmouth, VA (\$99/yr)
- Philadelphia, PA (\$161.76/yr)
- Mount Lebanon, PA (\$96/yr)

### Investments Maryland Has Made

The State of Maryland has spent millions on polluted runoff control in cooperation with counties and municipalities. Through FY 13, The Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund has provided over \$107 million in funding for state and local stormwater quality improvement projects. In FY 14, another \$25 M has been specifically budgeted for targeted watershed restoration projects.

### Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

UMD Environmental Finance Center's study of Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Lynchburg, VA showed that investment in clean water infrastructure will have a multiplier effect on the economy. **Widespread implementation of stormwater pollution control will generate thousands of jobs across the State**, in addition to cleaning up our streams, rivers, reservoirs, and the Bay.