

Chesapeake Beach Green Team

Draft Action Plan

Start Date: June 2020

End Date: June 2023

Green Team Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Chesapeake Beach Sustainable Maryland Certified Green Team is to review and evaluate sustainable initiatives and make recommendations as needed to the Mayor and Council regarding the feasibility of implementing these initiatives with the goal of creating a "greener," more sustainable community that meets the present needs of its citizens, fosters stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay, and enhances quality of life without compromising the ability to provide for future generations.

Green Team Vision Statement:

Chesapeake Beach is one of only two Maryland municipalities located directly on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Due to the Town's close proximity to the Bay, the wellbeing of our community is intimately related to that of the Bay itself therefore the vision of our Town over the next decade includes:

- To promote stewardship and understanding of the Chesapeake Bay natural environment by reducing storm water runoff, providing educational opportunities, and expanding programs like the Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society and the Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail.
- To reduce the amount of waste impacting our local environment.
- To reduce the number of septic systems and promote connection of homes to the Water Reclamation Treatment Plant.
- To promote education of Green practices such as energy conservation, smart gardening, water conservation, recycling, and Buy Local initiatives.
- To promote Smart Growth within the Town of Chesapeake Beach.
- To promote meaningful community participation and consultation to encourage open and responsible decision making. Support environmentally responsible economic opportunities and encourage healthy living by embracing sports, recreation, and the arts.
- To support and promote local businesses, local business opportunities, and local jobs.

Green Team Three Year Goals:

- Maintain certification under Sustainable Maryland Certified.
- Improve stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay by:

- 1) Reducing stormwater runoff and debris
- Continue to provide education and raise awareness of the history and fragility of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and its sensitivity to human impact.
- Improve local government sustainability by initiating Green practices and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Continue to develop, expand, and improve programs already in place like the Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society, Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail, Bayfront Park Cleanup, and Fishing Creek Cleanup.

Summary of Action Plan:

Year One:

1. Engage new volunteers
2. Encourage town citizens in critical areas to create buffer gardens
3. Encourage businesses to voluntarily reduce single use plastics
4. Promote property inventories and certifications such as BayWise
5. Promote the Green Team in our community through educational outreach

Year Two:

1. Engage businesses to offer waste free or reduced waste to go items
2. Create transportation options to lessen carbon footprint (ie electric charge stations)
3. Promote local food systems - farmer's markets and local farm product producers
4. Partner with wellness companies for community outreach

Year Three:

1. Create Chesapeake Beach Green business directory
2. Promote information about septic grant programs for the critical areas
3. Hold a Green Fair
4. Implement Community Gardens and educational opportunities for "do it yourself" gardens