



Lycoming County Clean Water Action Plan Summary

What is the CAP

The Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP 3) is Pennsylvania’s roadmap for meeting its obligations under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2010. It specifies the steps Pennsylvania will take through 2025 to meet local water pollution reduction goals in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Using a “Bottom Up” approach, the Commonwealth is working with each county to develop Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) for local clean water.

The PA counties that participated in the previous two WIP phases were not voluntary. **This voluntary CAP is not regulatory, an unfunded mandate, or a plan to increase taxes.** While this WIP phase is technically voluntary, there are risks to not participating:

- Additional regulations and government oversight
- Higher costs for compliance
- EPA withholding or redirecting funding
- Missing opportunities to access funding/technical assistance to address local needs

DEP awarded Lycoming County \$50,000 for the first year of planning with no match required.

Additional money for implementation is expected to be available in upcoming years.

How we engaged with stakeholders

Dozens of phone/email conversations and meetings took place over the course of the last nine months to develop the CAP. Lycoming County Planning & Community Development Department (PCD) staff and



Conservation District staff were part of our “Core Team” of planners who met at least weekly. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Conservation District board members, and local farmers were deeply involved in the planning process as well.

The projects, programs, and initiatives in the CAP came from input of over 150 individual stakeholders, including Federal, State, and local governments, non-profit groups, colleges, and other

environmental/conservation entities. Stakeholders were then broken into smaller “Peer Groups” for planning meetings.

Our projects

Projects were selected by the stakeholder group based on their potential for reducing nutrient loads – either directly or indirectly. A full list of projects can be found here: <https://www.lyco.org/CWAP>.

Priority Initiative 1: Achieve Pollution Reduction Goals *(these projects work directly toward TMDL reductions).*

Priority Initiative 2: Coordination, Education, Outreach, and Training *(these projects re-enforce projects that directly reduce TMDL’s).*

Priority Initiative 3: Reporting and Tracking *(these projects help improve reporting systems and cross-sector efficiency).*

Priority Initiative 4: Programmatic, Policy, and Regulatory Changes *(these projects include high-level policy changes that systematically help reduce TMDL’s).*

Nutrient reductions

Lycoming County’s nutrient load target is to reduce nitrogen by **1.2 million lbs/yr**, and to reduce phosphorus by **76,000 lbs/yr by 2025**. After meeting with stakeholders and determining what Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be realistic for our county to implement, **our CAP would reduce nitrogen loads by 46% and phosphorus loads by 39%**. Many of our clean water goals are anticipated to be completed or nearly completed by 2025, but we will continue our efforts well beyond 2025.

Next steps

Lycoming County’s CAP implementation phase begins October 2021 and will continue until 2025. Additional grant funding will be distributed for projects and programs related to the CAP.

We expect that this plan will result in positive outcomes for everyone in Lycoming County, as the ultimate **goal of the plan is to reduce nutrient pollution in our local waterways through multi-agency collaboration and coordination.** The benefits of this goal are numerous, and include:

- Improving local water quality
- Reducing flooding
- Enriching partnerships
- Supporting farmers
- Bolstering the local and regional economy
- Leveraging funding opportunities
- Avoiding regulations and higher costs for compliance



All projects and planning materials, meeting information, newsletters, and stakeholder resources can be found on our web page here: <https://www.lyco.org/CWAP>. For questions, contact Eve Adrian by email at eadrian@lyco.org or by phone at 570-329-4761.