

Candace Lutzow-Felling
Director of Education
Blandy Experimental Farm, UVA
lutzow-felling@virginia.edu

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

What it is

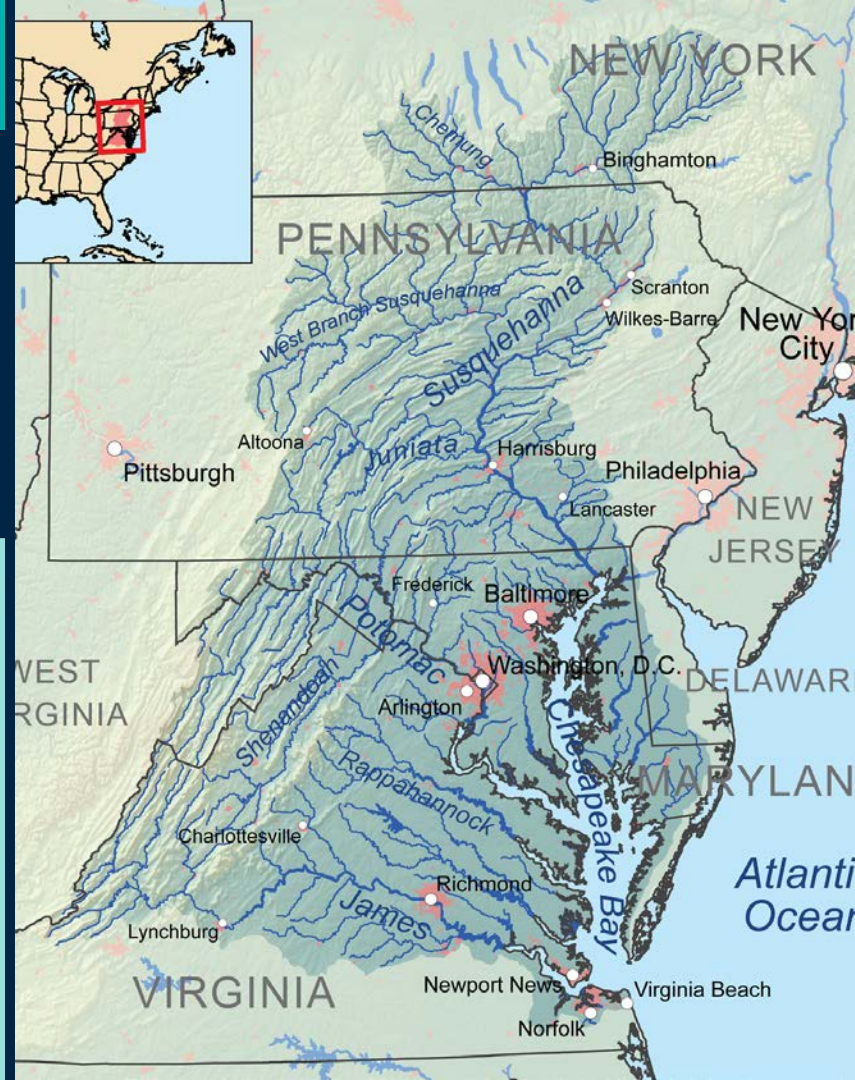
Virginia participation

FALL 2022 VSELA MEETING, November 3, 2022



Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- **Watershed size:** 64,000 square miles
 - Includes portions of NY, DE, PA, MD, WV, VA & DC
- **Bay size:** Approx 200 mi long & up to 30 miles wide
 - Largest estuary in the U.S.
- **Depth:** Average is 30 feet
- **Main tributaries in VA:** Potomac, Rappahannock, James & York Rivers





Chesapeake Bay Program



Who: A regional partnership of all 6 states & Washington, DC + EPA + numerous federal agency, national NGO & university partners

What: Guides the restoration & sustainable management of the Bay with goals & outcomes established through the C.B. Watershed Agreement, 2014

Education Goal: Enable students in the region to graduate with the knowledge & skills to act responsibly to protect & restore their local watershed

www.chesapeakebay.net

www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/watershed-agreement

C.B. Program Education Workgroup

What we do

- Create education action targets every 2 years to advance the Education Management Goals set by the CB Program Leadership Committee
- Develop strategies & resources to help advance the goals & targets
- Virginia education workgroup members develop outcomes tailored to our unique education needs

VA Members

Candace Lutzow-Felling,

Blandy Experimental Farm/UVA

Sarah McGuire,

C.B. National Estuarine Research
Reserve/VIMS

Christen Miller,

VA Dept of Conservation & Recreation

Bianca Myrick,

VA Assoc. for Environmental Education

Anne Petersen, VA Dept of Education

Ellen Powell, VA Dept of Forestry



EDUCATION WORKGROUP PRODUCTS & RESOURCES



**Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience:
MWEE concept & definition**



MWEE Educator's Guide



Bay Backpack website: www.baybackpack.com



MWEE 101 & 201 online training modules



Facilitator's Guide to MWEE Training




Elit Tool (survey of school division Elit/MWEE activity)



PLANNING ACTION PLAN

Outcome: Each participating Bay jurisdiction should **develop a comprehensive & systemic approach to environmental literacy for all students** in the region that includes policies, practices & voluntary metrics that support the environmental literacy Goals & Outcomes of this Agreement.



Management Approach 1: Support school district efforts to embed locally appropriate environmental practices, content, & learning opportunities into curriculum & operations.

Action 1.1: Offer trainings & technical assistance focused on using the school district toolkit, state developed environmental literacy plan templates, & standards frameworks to create a continuum of environmental literacy opportunities for students.

VA Performance Target: Conduct division/school & nonformal leader collaborative professional development on creating & implementing environmental literacy plans & MWEE instruction aligned to state standards.

VSELA Commitment: Provide training in outdoor education, MWEE instruction, & Environmental Literacy Plans to members.

STUDENT ACTION PLAN

Outcome: Continually increase students' age-appropriate understanding of the watershed through participation in teacher-supported MWEEs & rigorous, inquiry-based instruction, with a target of at least one MWEE in ES, MS, & HS depending on available resources.

Management Approach 1: Increase & improve resources for educators (preservice, teachers, & nonformal) to support the development & implementation of MWEEs for students.

Action 1.1: Develop & implement state-specific outreach strategies to disseminate the MWEE Guide, MWEE Facilitator's Guide, & other resources, including an increased focus on Bay Backpack as a place to access resources.

VA Performance Target: Disseminate information on how to access the new MWEE Guide. Ensure resources are posted on agency & organization web sites.

VSELA Commitment: Share resources & information on our web site.

STUDENT ACTION PLAN

Outcome: Continually increase students' age-appropriate understanding of the watershed through participation in teacher-supported, MWEEs & rigorous, inquiry-based instruction, with a target of at least one MWEE in ES, MS, & HS depending on available resources.

Management Approach 2: Support facilitators in developing effective MWEE professional development for educators (preservice, teachers, & nonformal).

Action 2.1: Provide training to increase the number of trained MWEE facilitators, including modeling how to ensure that MWEEs are multidisciplinary, and culturally and locally relevant.

VA Performance Target: Provide training to support implementation of MWEE professional development using the Facilitator's Guide that is tied to regional environmental issues.

VSELA Commitment: Provide training in designing & leading MWEE to members (using the MWEE Facilitator's Guide) to equip them to lead MWEE professional learning for teachers in their school divisions.

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS ACTION PLAN

Outcome: Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the impact of their buildings.

Management Approach 1: Strengthen & expand Mid-Atlantic sustainable schools.

Action 1.2: Share successes, best practices, & resources to strengthen programs & encourage alignment with high-quality, recognized criteria such as the U.S. Dept of Education Green Ribbon Schools program.

VA Performance Target: Communicate information & share winning application exemplars for VA Naturally & the USDOE Green Ribbon School & Sustainable Division programs.

VSELA Commitment: Share information, exemplars & resources on our website.

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS ACTION PLAN

Outcome: Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the impact of their buildings.

Management Approach 2: Disseminate sustainable schools information & resources to school districts & schools to support their sustainability efforts & better connect those efforts to curriculum & student outcomes.

Action 2.1: Create an easy-to-understand pathway for schools to engage in increasingly sophisticated sustainability efforts & programs that begin with learning in the outdoors & culminates in sustainable schools certifications.

VA Performance Target: Support VA Naturally Program through communicating information to schools & providing application support.

Action 2.2: Collect & communicate the benefits of sustainable schools, with an emphasis on physical & mental health, through case studies, best practices, & student outcomes for sustainable schools

VA Performance Target: Provide cohesive sites with information on sustainable schools, physical health, & sustainable schools to schools & divisions.

VSELA Commitments: Share information, exemplars & resources on our website.

Summary of VSELA Commitments



1. Share Elit/MWEE resources, information, exemplars on our website.
2. Provide training to members in outdoor education & MWEE and how to lead MWEE trainings.

