



Building the Future for the Bay

IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure

BUILDING THE FUTURE FOR THE BAY

Your support this past year fueled CBF's programs in the water and on the ground that are making a difference and creating change—now and for years to come.

A student who paddled a canoe down their local stream for the first time will become a passionate environmental advocate of tomorrow. A tree planted along a stream or oyster planted on a sanctuary reef will have positive effects on water quality for decades. The policies we advocated for will create systemic change that will reverberate well into the future.

Every action that was made possible through your support this past year is a critical building block that contributes to a future where a healthy, resilient Chesapeake Bay supports both nature and people. A future where ospreys soar overhead and blue crabs scuttle through healthy beds of underwater grasses. A future where fishermen reap the benefits of sustainable fisheries and children play in clean water.

We can only chart the course to that future through your generous support.

Thank you!



Hilary Harp Falk
President and CEO
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

This year, you helped make incredible progress toward our shared goal of clean water and a healthy environment in the Chesapeake Bay watershed:



4,930 volunteers donated 67,858 hours of time restoring the Bay.



261,312 trees distributed to partners for planting in Pennsylvania through the CBF-founded and led Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, which has grown to 316 partners.



1.7 billion oysters added to the Chesapeake Bay through the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance, a coalition of more than 113 partners that CBF founded and leads.



98 acres of streamside forests, which filter pollution and stabilize streambanks, planted on farmland in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.



92,019 pounds of trash removed from Virginia waterways during the 35th annual Clean the Bay Day.



23,691 students and teachers engaged in hands-on environmental education.



89,721 pounds of organic vegetables harvested at CBF's Clagett Farm, with nearly 25,000 pounds donated to local food banks.



26,225 advocacy actions taken by members and supporters on behalf of the Bay.



Filed a civil rights complaint with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stand up for residents in South Baltimore who are suffering from air pollution.

Restore

Rebuilding the Bay's natural filters to reduce pollution, improve water quality, support communities, and build resilience to climate change.

THIS YEAR, THANKS TO YOU, CBF'S RESTORATION TEAMS:

ADDED OVER 2.2 MILLION OYSTERS—

capable of filtering up to 110 million gallons of water per day—to sanctuary reefs in Maryland and Virginia waterways.

PLANTED 24,877 TREES

in urban, suburban, and rural areas across the watershed, where they will reduce pollution, cool nearby waters, and combat the effects of climate change.

RECYCLED 4,856 BUSHELS OF OYSTER SHELL

from restaurants and public drop-off locations in Maryland and Virginia, providing enough shell to grow over 4.3 million oysters and saving CBF over \$40,000.

ENGAGED 941 VOLUNTEERS IN OYSTER GARDENING

efforts to raise over one million oysters.

SUPPORTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 139 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES—

such as streambank fencing and rotational grazing—that build climate resiliency and improve water quality on farms in Pennsylvania.

ASSISTED IN CONVERTING 34 ACRES OF FARMLAND

to rotational grazing—a regenerative agriculture strategy that benefits water quality and improves soil health—through the Mountains-to-Bay Grazing Alliance, reducing 206 pounds of pollution from entering waterways.

GREW 20,000 NATIVE TREES, representing 44 varieties, at CBF's Clagett Farm tree nursery, which supplies trees for plantings throughout the region.



Portsmouth, Virginia
SUE MANGAN

CONSTRUCTED A 718-FOOT LIVING SHORELINE in Portsmouth, Virginia, with the help of 90 volunteers and several partners to combat erosion from sea-level rise with nature-based solutions.

“I was just one of many enthusiastic and motivated volunteers and was happy to work with so many local people with the same desire to see a healthy Bay.”

—Nicholas Bemish, volunteer at a CBF living shoreline project in Portsmouth, Virginia

HARVESTED 89,721 POUNDS OF ORGANIC VEGETABLES—

and donated nearly 25,000 pounds to local food banks—at CBF's Clagett Farm, where we demonstrate regenerative agriculture practices that improve soil health and water quality.



CBF's Clagett Farm in Upper Marlboro, Maryland
CAROLINE PHILLIPS

Educate

Connecting students and teachers with the wonders of the watershed to inspire a lifetime of environmental stewardship.

THIS YEAR, THANKS TO YOU, CBF'S EDUCATION TEAM:

ENSURED MORE THAN 25% OF PARTICIPANTS were from economically under-resourced schools by offering programs for free or reduced prices.

EQUIPPED 253 EDUCATORS with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to embed environmental literacy into their curriculums through Chesapeake Classrooms professional development courses.

EMPOWERED 87 BUDDING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS with the advocacy skills to take action for clean water in their communities through the Student Leadership Program.

CELEBRATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARYLAND OUTDOOR LEARNING PARTNERSHIP by Governor Wes Moore. CBF is a leader in this partnership, which brings together state agencies and nonprofits to strengthen Maryland's commitment to environmental literacy and expand access to nature for all students.

ENGAGED 60 STUDENTS from Maryland's Anne Arundel County in CBF's first climate change-focused field experience and kicked off a new student-centered climate literacy curriculum with Newport News Public Schools in Virginia.



Monocacy River, Maryland
JOCELYN TUTTLE / CBF STAFF

PROVIDED 23,691 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS with hands-on environmental education experiences through CBF's 14 field programs located throughout the watershed.



Catonsville, Maryland
CAROLINE PHILLIPS

“CBF expeditions are some of the best experiences I've ever had. They built my passion for the environment and allowed me to learn more about the importance of our natural world. They foster a passion for the environment in us, the next generation. We will inherit the world, so it is important for us to learn and develop this passion so we can help save the Bay and save the planet.”

—Emerson, CBF Student Leader in Landisville, Pennsylvania

Advocate

Empowering supporters to take action for clean water in their communities.

THIS YEAR, THANKS TO YOU, CBF'S ADVOCACY TEAM:

ENCOURAGED ADVOCATES TO TAKE 26,225 ACTIONS, such as writing letters, contacting their legislators, and signing petitions, on behalf of the Bay.

MOTIVATED ADVOCATES THROUGHOUT THE WATERSHED TO SEND 1,298 LETTERS to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in support of increased striped bass protections.

ENABLED MORE THAN 1,000 CBF MEMBERS in Maryland to speak up during critical public comment periods on water-quality protections at Conowingo Dam, the proposed cleanup of the Bear Creek Superfund Site near Baltimore, and updates to the state's industrial stormwater permit.

SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION in Maryland that requires stricter regulations for the storage of industrial sludge (leftovers from the rendering of protein, like poultry and seafood), protecting both local water quality and community health.

PROVIDED INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY TO 215 STUDENTS at six colleges and universities through CBF's Bay Advocacy Institute.

ENGAGED 160 ADVOCATES in in-person advocacy courses through CBF's Volunteers as Chesapeake Stewards (VoiCeS) program, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

“The class teaches you the magnitude of what organizations like CBF are protecting and what you're advocating for. It is like a personal conversation with the Bay that really opens your eyes to the bigger picture. The Bay is no longer just the water you swim in, it's something you want to protect.”

– Sonya Phillips, VoiCeS participant



Baltimore Harbor
JULIETA RODRIGO/CBF STAFF



Fort Chaplin Park, Washington, D.C.
ANNABELLE HARVEY/CBF STAFF

Litigate

Defending the laws that protect clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment to benefit all communities in the watershed.

THIS YEAR, THANKS TO YOU, CBF'S LITIGATION TEAM:

FILED A MOTION TO INTERVENE

as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) considers granting a preliminary permit to York Energy Storage LLC, to assess the feasibility of a hydroelectric facility at Cuff's Run, near the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. The project would flood 580 acres of land in York County that is treasured for its natural and recreational resources and displace 40 families from the area.

FILED A CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT

with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of residents in South Baltimore who are suffering from disproportionate health risks due to pollution from Maryland's largest trash incinerator. CBF and the Environmental Integrity Project are representing South Baltimore Community Land Trust in the complaint.



Cuff's Run, Pennsylvania
BRIAN GISH/CBF STAFF



Taylor Lilley, CBF's Environmental Justice Staff Attorney, in front of Baltimore's trash incinerator, Wheelabrator
CAROLINE PHILLIPS

APPEALED THE TALBOT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT'S

decision to uphold the Maryland Department of the Environment's wastewater discharge permit for the Lakeside at Trappe development on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The permit allows the use of spray irrigation to discharge 100,000 gallons of treated wastewater per day onto Talbot County farm fields, leading to increased nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in already-impaired nearby waterways.



Aerial of Lakeside at Trappe
MATT PLUTA

CONTINUING OUR COMMITMENT TO



DIVERSITY | EQUITY | INCLUSION | JUSTICE

Our watershed is shared by more than 18 million people and is vastly diverse. Everyone has the right to clean water and a saved Bay where they can live, work, and play safely. Unfortunately, not everyone experiences this right equally.

CBF is committed to addressing this inequality—not only for the benefit of the diverse communities that make up the Bay watershed, but for the benefit of our organization and the Bay restoration movement. Research shows that organizations that commit to diversity are more likely to make better and bolder decisions to innovate and contribute different perspectives to grow, improve, and impact change.

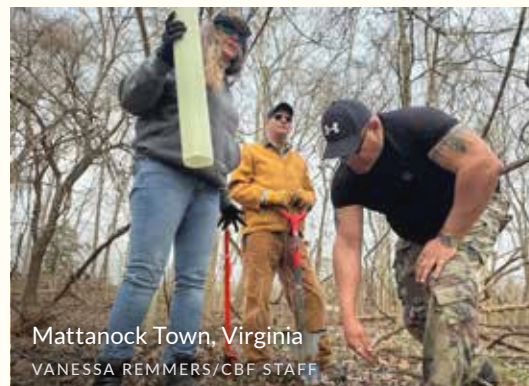
To learn more about CBF's commitment to DEIJ and its importance to saving the Bay, visit [cbf.org/DEIJ](https://www.cbf.org/DEIJ).

THIS PAST YEAR, CBF:



Juneteenth in Scotland, Maryland
DAVID TUCKER/CBF STAFF

SUPPORTED PARTNER GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE WATERSHED, such as the Nansemond Indian Nation in Virginia in its successful efforts to regain 71 acres of their riverfront ancestral land after centuries of displacement. CBF will continue to work with the Tribe on conservation projects to restore this sacred land.



Mattanock Town, Virginia
VANESSA REMMERS/CBF STAFF



Oak Grove, Richmond, Virginia
DAVID KLEIN

HELPED COMMUNITIES in conservation efforts, including in Southside Richmond. CBF hosted tree plantings to increase tree cover and cool temperatures in formerly redlined neighborhoods, which are still suffering from inequalities after decades of discriminatory housing practices.

On the heels of another successful year, we have never felt more confident that a healthy, resilient Chesapeake Bay is within reach.

This next chapter of Bay-saving is brimming with possibility, and we are invigorated by the progress that you made possible this past year.

Thank you for your support!

Greenbelt Lake, Greenbelt, Maryland
CYNTHIA CUMMINGS

CBF's work is grounded in transparency and accountability. We hold high ratings with the top charity rating organizations in the United States, including:



Candid.
Platinum Transparency



Charity Navigator
Four-Star Rating

CBF also meets all the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability.

“I've dedicated my career to improving the health of our watershed because of its direct and existential impact on the communities and wildlife it serves as home and habitat. For nearly six decades, I've proudly supported the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's efforts to protect our treasured Bay.”

—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (Maryland), receiving CBF's Clean Water Legacy Award for his lifelong dedication to a cleaner Chesapeake Bay.



**CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION**

Saving a National Treasure

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CBF.ORG

COVER: Teens with a Purpose during summer education program at CBF's Brock Environmental Center.

SUE C. MANGAN