

Helping Others Understand the Public Value of Conservation Districts



NPDES Program

- ◆ Developers and landowners who participate in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Program have an increased awareness of compliance for permitting, reduce the potential for non point source pollution and lower compliance costs. The public benefits with improved water quality, lower water treatment costs and increased recreational opportunities.

Chapter 102 Program

- ◆ Developers and landowners who conduct regulated earth disturbance activities and install and maintain Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been shown to minimize erosion, remain in compliance with state and federal regulations and will help them to avoid non-compliance fines. The public benefits by improved water quality downstream and in local watershed, decreased water treatment costs, and decrease flood plain disturbance.

Stormwater Management

- ◆ Local municipal officials who participate in the Stormwater Management Program are educated in the importance of the use of best management practices and ordinances to reduce flood damage and costs and improved surface and ground water quality and quantity. The public benefits by reduction in operation and maintenance costs for infrastructure, increased water quality and quantity, reduction of flood damage costs and improved local recreation.

ACT Program

- ◆ The Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance Program educates landowners of the benefits of nutrient management, conservation planning, and best management practices to improve profitability. Public benefits include reduced water treatment costs, reduced costs for community services and increases in open space.

Dirt and Gravel Roads

- ◆ Townships and municipalities who participate in the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program learn how to maintain roads using environmentally sensitive practices to reduce erosion and build more stable roads for less cost. The public benefits from improved roads, less road maintenance, and reduced sediment in the streams, which results in better water quality and reduced water treatment costs.

Chesapeake Bay Program

- ◆ Farmers who participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program have increased productivity and profit by implementing proper management of cropland, animal use areas and the proper application of nutrients and pesticides. The public benefits through increased local water quality, decreased cost for municipal services, and a healthier Chesapeake Bay that increases local and regional tourism.

Nutrient Management

- ◆ Educating and providing assistance to local agricultural producers with the Nutrient Management Program has shown to increase manure and soil testing in order to balance nutrient needs. It provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural operations, increases profits and improves soil quality. The public benefits from improved consumptive and recreational water usage and decreases the overall cost of water treatment.

Chapter 105 Program

- ◆ Participants who conduct Chapter 105 activities in and around streams, wetlands and other bodies of water comply with regulations to protect these water ways. Chapter 105 investments reduces the likelihood of fines from state or federal agencies, and the public benefits from improved water quality and increased public safety.

Conservation Education

- ◆ Participants in public conservation education programs have an increased awareness of the interdependence of people and natural resources and are able to make informed consumer decisions. The public benefits from the good stewardship by others to conserve our natural resources.

Envirothon

- ◆ Youth that participate in the Envirothon program have an increased awareness of their environment and environmental issues. They learn teamwork and skills that prepare them for college. The public benefits from youth who are better educated decision makers when they become adults. Envirothon sponsors benefit from the community exposure and the economy benefits from participants patronizing local businesses.