
Snapshot of Stormwater Regulations and Plans

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST)

First established in 1988 supports communities through capital funding for water quality improvement projects (sewer and potable water supply) including stormwater management and non-point source pollution prevention.

Federal Level: Clean Water Act (CWA) - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Clean Water Act, established in 1972, is a federal mandate that regulates discharges of pollutants into US waters and quality standards for surface waters. In 1987, the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was added as a permit program that regulates discharge from non-point sources, like stormwater.

State Level: Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)

The Pennsylvania DEP's WIP is a plan meant to meet the goals of reduced nutrient and sediment pollution in the regions of the state that are part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The goals are to reduce nitrogen by 34 million pounds per year, reduce phosphorus by 0.7 million pounds per year, and reduce sediment by 531 million pounds per year in these regions of the state. (See *York/Lancaster County CAP Snapshot*)

County Level: York/Lancaster Countywide Action Plan (CAP)

In order to implement the state's Phase III WIP, several counties have developed a Countywide Action Plan. This plan outlines goals for each county in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to improve water quality. York and Lancaster County's CAPs highlight the nutrient and sediment reduction goals as of 2025, including target areas and methods of reducing pollution.

Local Level: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) and Pollution Reduction Plans (PRPs)

York and Lancaster County are divided into local municipalities, and in York some of these elected to be a part of York County's Regional Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan. MS4 municipalities obtain an NPDES permit from the DEP which allows them to discharge stormwater into waterways because their storm sewers are not connected to other wastewater treatment systems. PRPs are plans which describe how action is taken to reduce water pollution within each municipality.