

# Chesapeake Bay and Stormwater Issues

A preview of what's next for Virginia's counties!



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Virginia House of Delegates  
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# Making Progress – Restoring the Chesapeake Bay

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- ▶ Are we meeting our 2025 restoration targets?
- ▶ Is it making a difference?
- ▶ What are the challenges ahead?





Cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams makes environmental and economic sense.

Economists say a saved Bay is worth nearly **\$130 billion**—an increase of

**\$22 Billion**  
per year  
for generations.

Our house will  
be worth more.

Clean waters  
will attract more  
recreation.

Our farms and  
waters will be more  
productive.



CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION

*Saving a National Treasure*

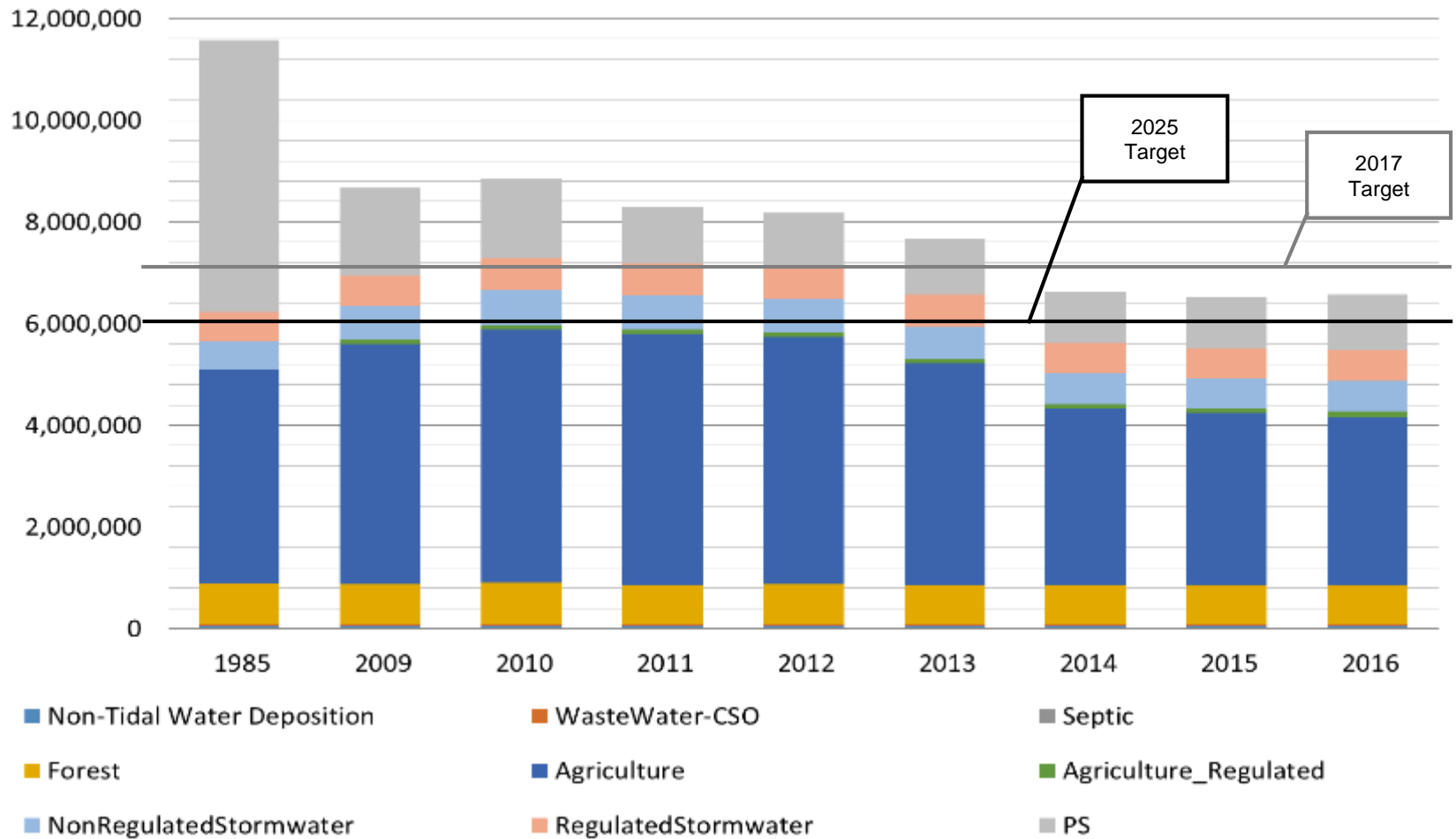
**It just makes cents.**

**Learn more at [cbf.org/economicbenefits](http://cbf.org/economicbenefits).**

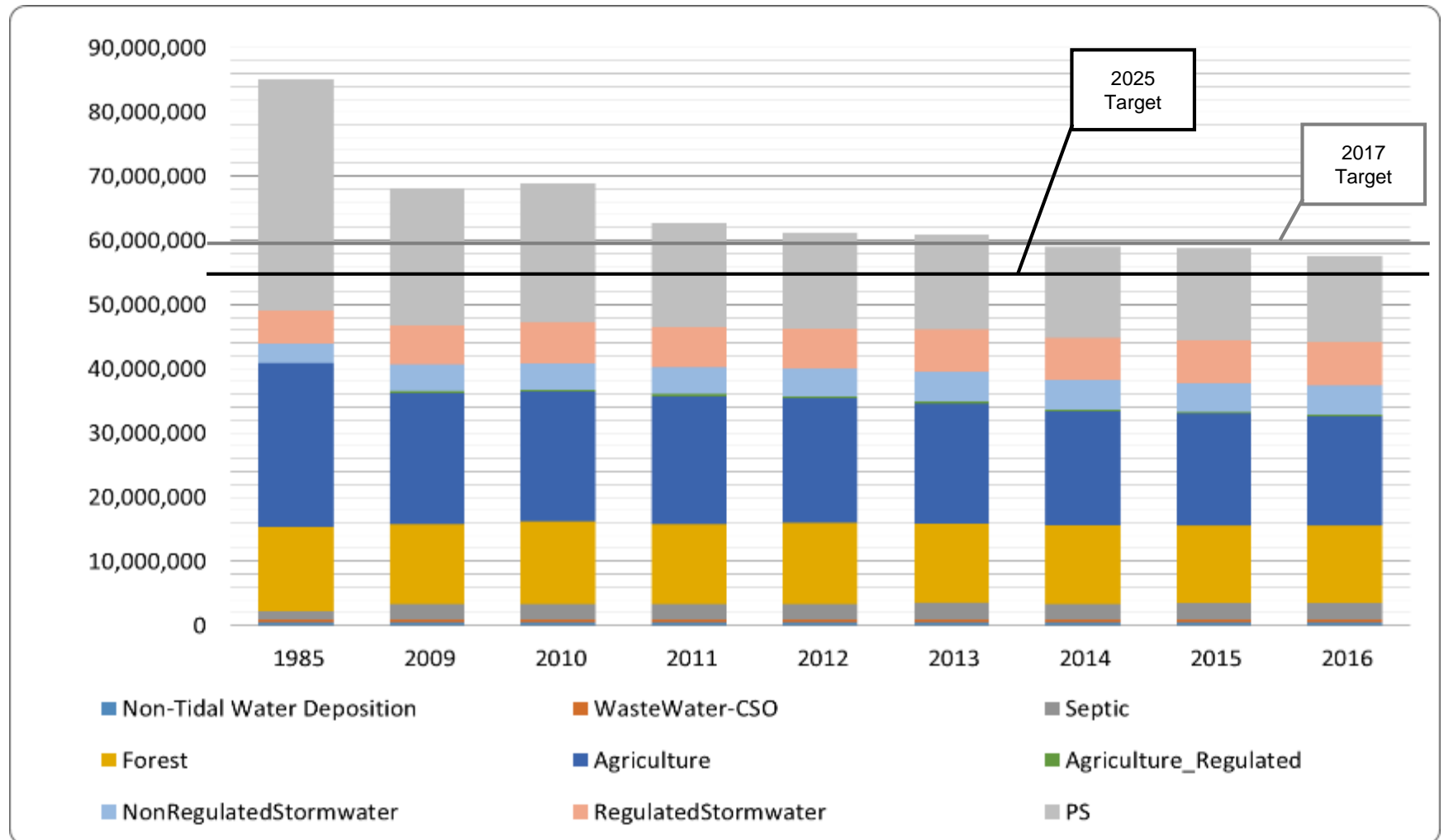
A clean  
Chesapeake  
Bay is worth  
\$22 billion per  
year more than  
it is worth  
today!

*How are we doing toward meeting our targets?*

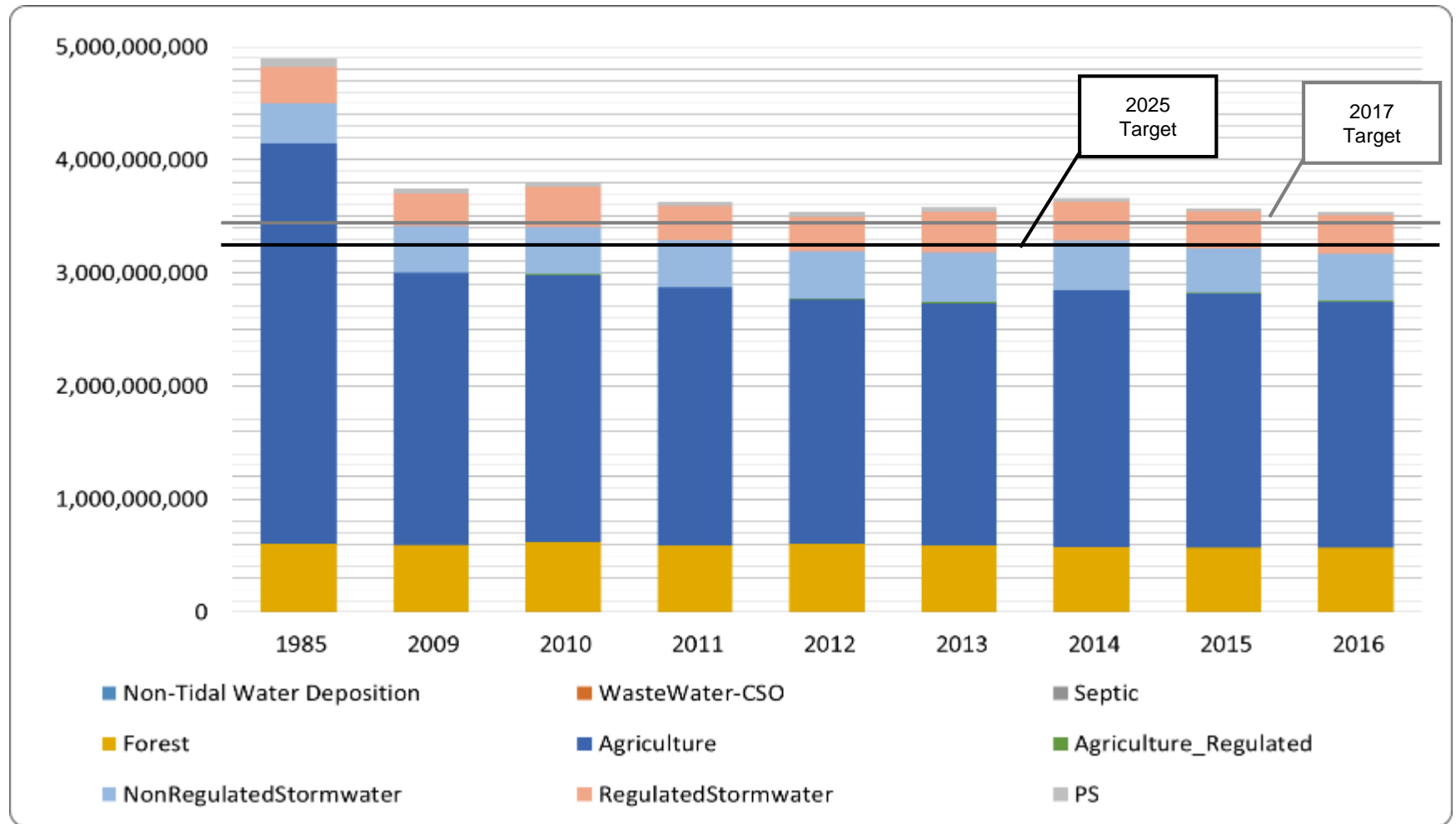
# Virginia Phosphorus Ahead of Target



# Virginia Nitrogen Ahead of Target

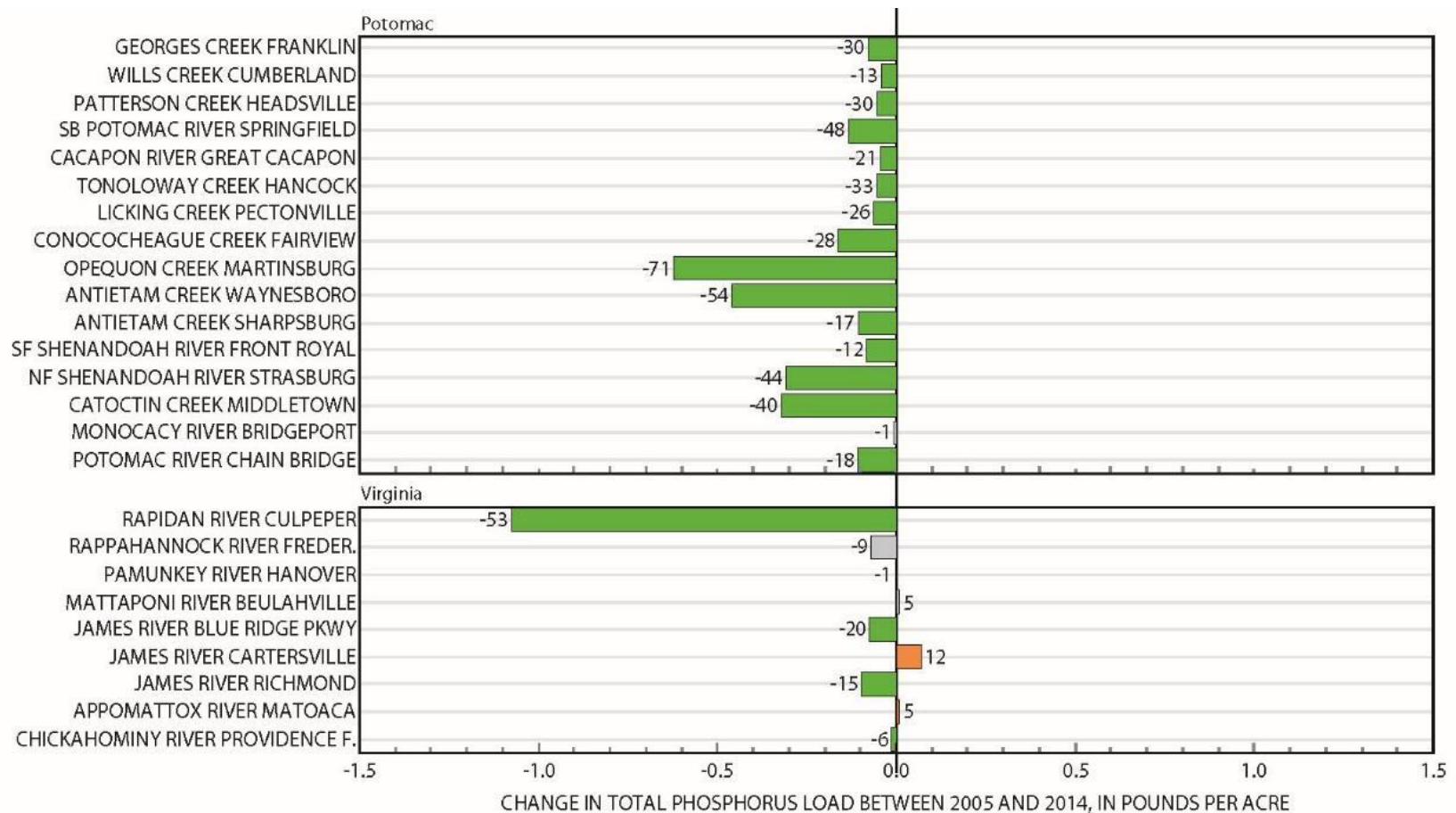


# Virginia Delivered Sediment Loads

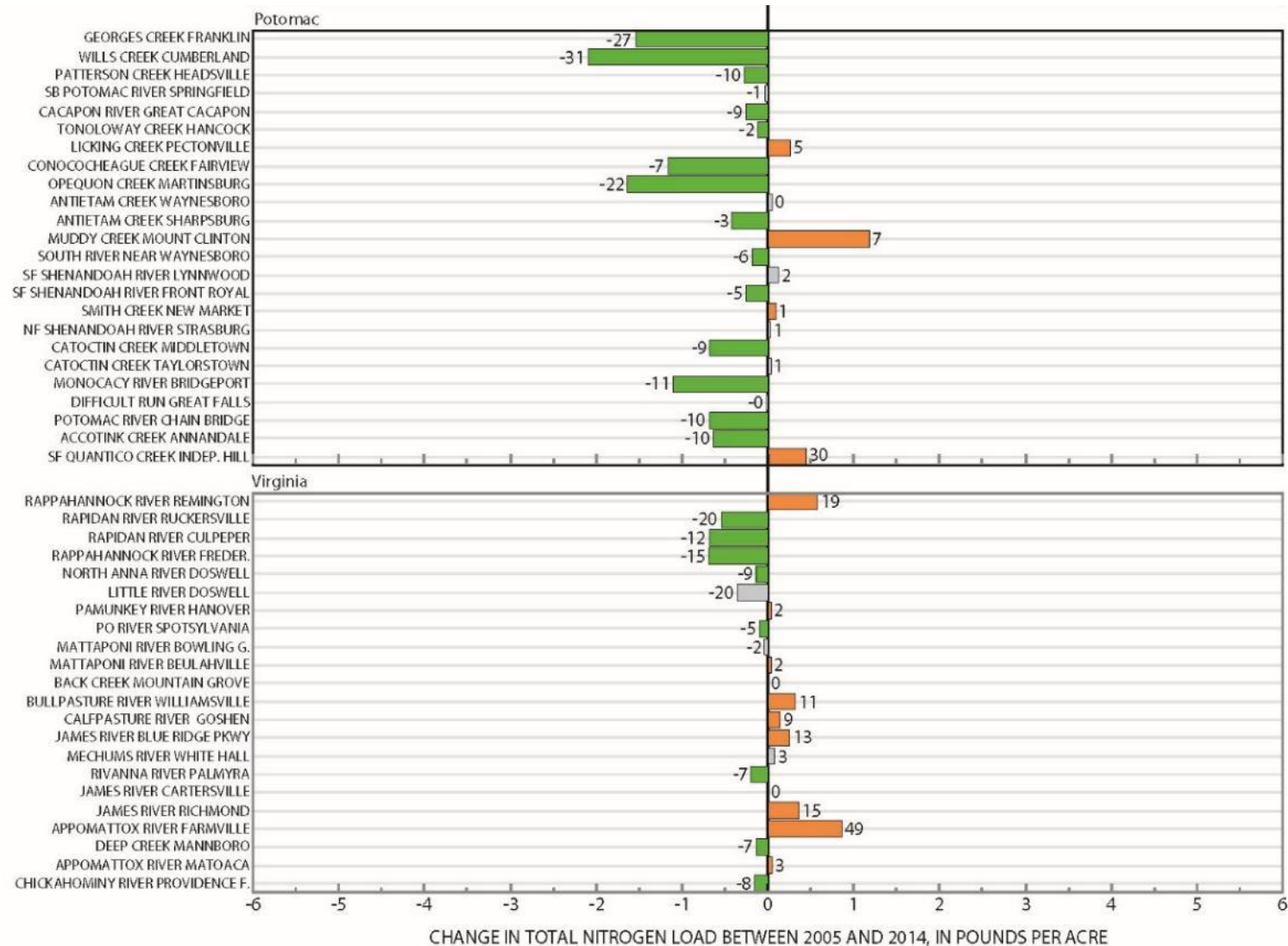


*Is it making a difference?*

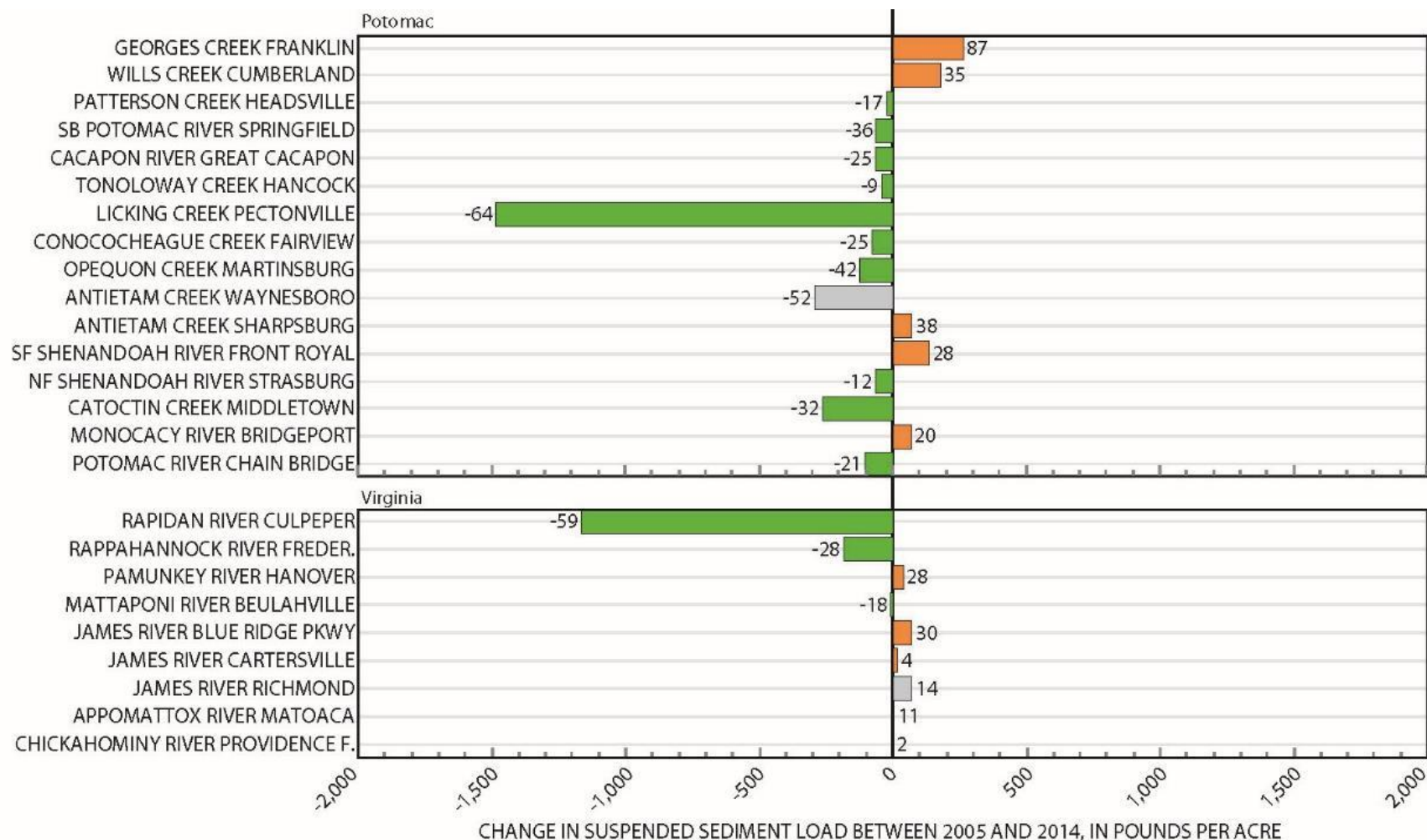
# Change in Monitored Phosphorus Loads Potomac River and Virginia Watersheds 2005 to 2014



# Change in Monitored Nitrogen Loads Potomac River and Virginia Watersheds 2005 to 2014



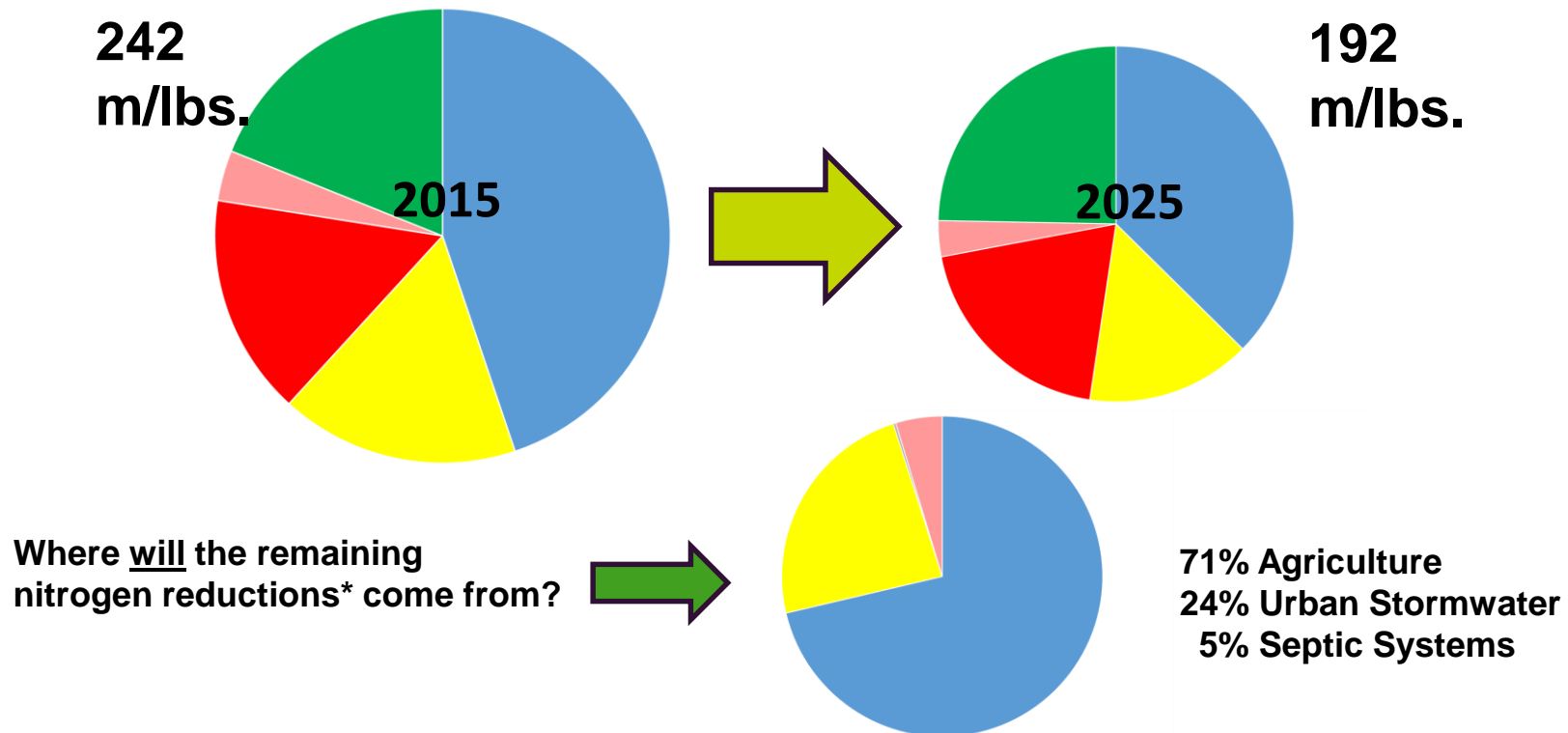
# Change in Monitored Sediment Loads Potomac River and Virginia Watersheds 2005 to 2014



*Where are the challenges ahead?*

# Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nitrogen Reductions – 2015 to 2025

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\*Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership, Based on the jurisdictions' Phase II WIPs.

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# 2017 Mid-Point Assessment

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- ▶ The 2017 target is 60% of the measures put in place to meet water quality standards.
  - ▶ December 22, 2017 – Release of the draft load reduction planning targets.
  - ▶ May 7, 2018 – Release of the final planning targets.
  - ▶ February 8, 2019 – Draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) released for public stakeholder review.
  - ▶ June 7, 2019 – Final Phase III WIPs released.
  - ▶ **Post-June 2019 – New pollutant load reduction targets included in MS4 permits issued after Phase III WIP adoption.**
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*Critical decision points.*

# Conowingo Dam



# Climate Change

## In the Watershed

Increased  
Precipitation Volume  
= Hypoxia ↑

Increased  
Precipitation Intensity  
= Hypoxia ↑

Increase in Temp and  
Evapotranspiration  
= Hypoxia ↓



## In the Estuary

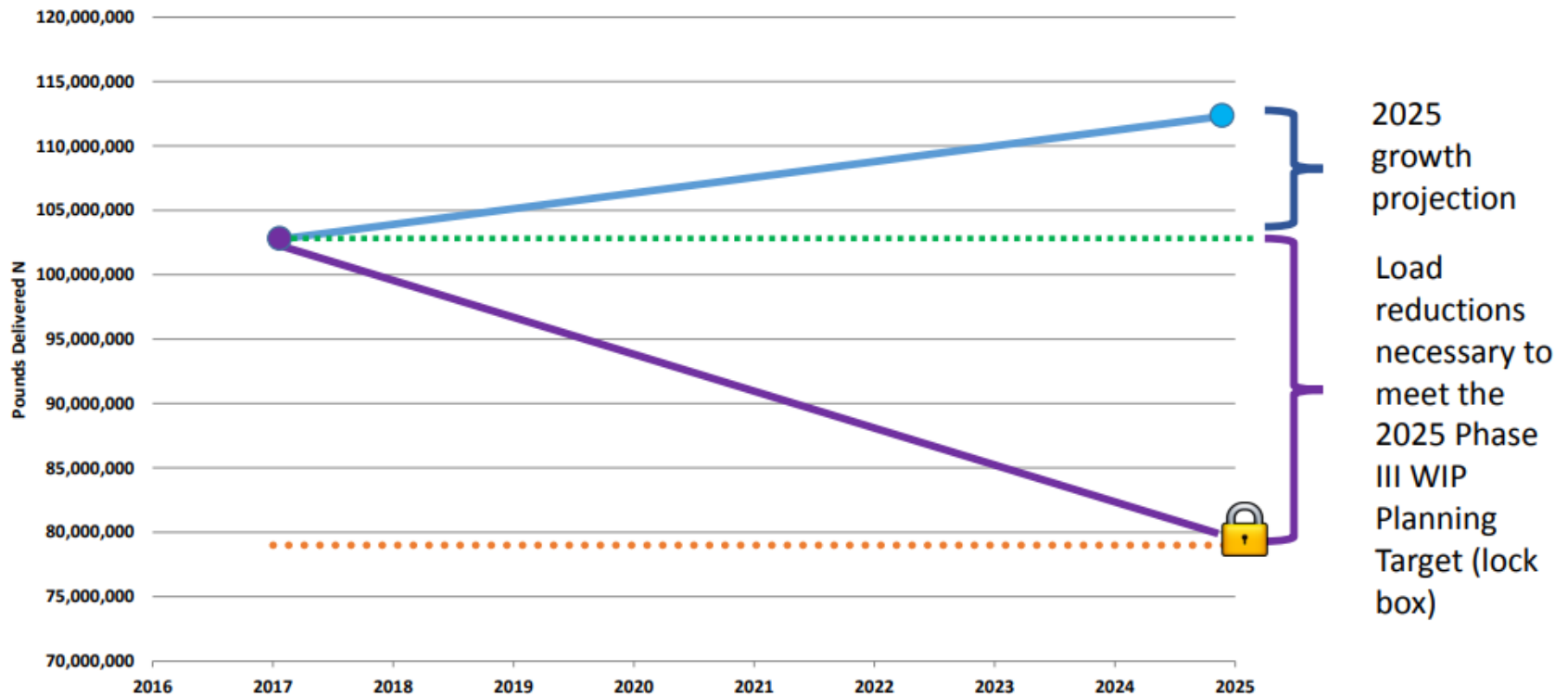
Increased WS Loads  
= Hypoxia ↑

Increased WS Flows  
= Hypoxia ↓

Increased  
Temperature  
= Hypoxia ↑

Sea Level Rise  
= Hypoxia ↓

# Accounting for Growth



# Things that keep me up at night...

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- ▶ Credit for Certain Practices

- ▶ Street sweeping
- ▶ 2006-2009 BMPs

- ▶ Unregulated Urban Areas

- ▶ Exacerbated by new VDOT MS4 permit

- ▶ EPA-Required Local Area Planning Goals

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# Upcoming General Assembly Session



# Big Changes for 2018

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- ▶ New Secretary of Natural Resources.
  - ▶ Changes in the Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee:
    - ▶ Two members not returning.
    - ▶ Proportionality – current split is 15 Republicans and 7 Democrats.
    - ▶ Assuming 51 Rs and 49 Ds, that split is 12 to 10.
    - ▶ Or, if there is an even split – power sharing!
  - ▶ Same issues for House Appropriations Committee.
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# Budget Items

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- ▶ Budget Prognosis – Modest growth with lots of other demands (education re-benchmarking, Medicaid, etc.).
  - ▶ Stormwater Local Assistance Fund
    - ▶ FY17 saw \$19.8M for 41 projects.
    - ▶ Hope this will be in the Governor's introduced budget.
    - ▶ Some discussion of another bond package similar to 2015.
    - ▶ Other potential demands on SLAF.
  - ▶ Agricultural BMP Stabilization
    - ▶ Subject of workgroup; recommendations due in December.
    - ▶ Stabilize funds for technical assistance and BMP cost-share.
    - ▶ Establish a baseline of \$35 million for agricultural BMP cost share.
    - ▶ Direct other half of recordation tax to Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve.
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# Stormwater Management Act

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- ▶ Improving Stormwater Management in Rural, Tidewater Localities (Chapter 345, 2017 Acts of Assembly).
  - ▶ Possible recommendations:
    - ▶ Authorize rural Tidewater localities to accept stormwater management plans sealed by a licensed PE in lieu of local plan review for projects between 2,500 SF and one acre.
    - ▶ Authorize rural Tidewater localities to use tiered approach to water quality control based on watershed impervious cover for projects between 2,500 square feet and one acre.
    - ▶ Create a Stormwater Local Assistance Fund sub-fund for Roadside Ditch Maintenance.
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# Stormwater Management Act

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- ▶ Stormwater Facility Maintenance – Anticipate there may be some bills that tighten up the requirements for oversight of private stormwater facilities.
  - ▶ Stormwater Utilities – Always on the look-out for bills that would weaken the ability of localities to generate revenue through a stormwater utility.
  - ▶ Stormwater Erosion and Stormwater Management Consolidation – Passed in 2016 (HB 1250); delayed until July 1, 2018 during 2017 session.
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# Highlight on Innovation

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- ▶ Hampton Roads Sanitary District initiative to inject waste water treated to drinking water standards into the Potomac Aquifer.
  - ▶ Results in groundwater recharge.
  - ▶ Nutrient reduction is considerable; tradable.
- ▶ Legislation could involve establishment of an independent oversight committee, similar to the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Lab.



# Environmental Education

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- ▶ Part of Chesapeake Bay Agreement and MS4 stormwater permit requirements.
- ▶ Office of Environmental Education was eliminated in 2017 due to budget cuts (\$400,000).
- ▶ Secretary of Natural Resources in conjunction with Secretary of Education will release a study in the next week on state-wide coordination strategies.
- ▶ Likely to include clearinghouse for environmental education curricula and outreach resources.

Thanks and Questions!