



1 WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (ACP)?

The Alternative Compliance Program is an elective partnership between Prince George’s County and qualified 501(c) nonprofit organizations and tax-exempt faith-based organizations to improve County water quality by reducing and treating stormwater runoff. All qualified organizations who participate in the ACP are eligible to receive a reduction in their Clean Water Act Fee.

2 WHY WAS THE ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM CREATED?

The ACP was created in partnership with faith-based and nonprofits groups to meet the Federal and State mandates of the Clean Water Act, reduce trash and toxic pollution in our neighborhoods and provide opportunity for relief from Clean Water Act Fees.

3 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM?

Any qualified tax-exempt 501(c) nonprofit organization or faith-based organization that owns property in the County and contributes towards the Clean Water Act Fee fund.

4 HOW CAN I BENEFIT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM?

You can benefit from the ACP and receive a reduction in your Clean Water Act Fee by implementing measures to reduce polluted stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces (e.g., parking lots, rooftops) on your property.

5 WHY SHOULD NONPROFIT AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM?

As responsible stewards of our environment, everyone has a responsibility to protect our waters from pollution and should therefore consider being an active part of the solution. The ACP provides a unique opportunity for nonprofit and faith-based organizations to partner with local government toward the common goal of making our local waterways clean, healthy and safe for all to enjoy.

6 HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM?

Qualifying organizations can participate in the ACP by learning more about the program and submitting an application to DoE at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/CleanWaterActFees/Alternative%20Compliance/Pages/default.aspx.

7 WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE ACP?

option 1

PROVIDE EASEMENT - Receive a 50% Fee Reduction

Property owner agrees to provide to the County a *Temporary Right-of-Entry Agreement* and *Temporary Construction Easement* for the County to install stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on the property owned by the organization.

AND

To continue receiving the 50% impervious area fee reduction credit, property owner is required to sign a *Maintenance Agreement* and continuously maintain the installed BMPs which are subjected to a tri-annual inspection by the Department of the Environment.

option 2

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION - Receive a 25% Fee Reduction Award

Property owner agrees to take part in the County's education and outreach campaign to encourage other property owners as well as members of their organization to participate in the County's *Rain Check Rebate Program* to contribute toward the restoration and protection of the County watersheds.

AND/OR

Property owner agrees to host County's representative to organize and/or conduct annually one (1) of the following activities:

- On-site trash pick-up event
- On-site recycling and better waste management
- Host a *Rain Check Rebate Program*
- Plant at least five (5) trees on site (*trees provided through the County Rain Check Rebate Program*)

Note: The organization agrees to conduct the selected activity on an annual basis in order to continue receiving the 25% impervious area fee reduction credit.

option 3

GREEN CARE AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING - Receive a 25% Fee Reduction Award

Property owner agrees to use lawn management companies* that are certified in the proper use and application of fertilizers in connection with their landscaping and lawns.

*Companies must be listed in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's searchable pesticide database under the appropriate license category (www.kellysolutions.com/md/pesticideindex.htm).

AND/OR

Property owner agrees to good housekeeping practices for ensuring clean lots and pledges at least three (3) of the following activities:

- Reduce or eliminate fertilizer and pesticide use and application.
- Conserve water and use water-saving landscape practices.
- Establish and maintain healthy vegetative cover on the grounds of their property.
- Keep their site clean by regularly sweeping up trash and debris.
- Responsibly manage common chemicals used and stored on their property, and to properly dispose of hazardous products or materials.
- Practice proper pollution prevention measures.
- Other: _____

8 WHAT ARE THE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) THAT CAN BE INSTALLED ON MY PROPERTY?

There are multiple and innovative BMPs that meet MDE and County stormwater management water quality design criteria. Seven types of BMPs to help manage stormwater runoff and mitigate pollution include rain barrels, rain gardens, cisterns, permeable pavers, green roofs, pavement removal and urban tree canopies. For more information on BMPs, visit:

www.cbtrust.org/site/c.mjPKXPCJnH/b.9146461/k.6D3F/Prince_George8217s_Rain_Check_Rebate.htm.

9 DOES THE ACP REQUIRE TAX-EXEMPT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO PREACH SERMONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOPICS?

No, while the Program provides a 25% impervious area fee reduction credit for qualified groups to conduct education and outreach, the Program does not require sermons be designed or delivered on the program. This would be at the sole discretion of the organization.

10 DOES THE COUNTY OFFER OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE A REDUCTION FOR THE CLEAN WATER ACT FEE?

Yes, Prince George's County offers a Rain Check Rebate Program that allows property owners to receive rebates for installing stormwater management practices that improve and reduce stormwater pollution.

For more information or to apply, visit:

www.cbtrust.org/site/c.mjPKXPCJnH/b.9146461/k.6D3F/Prince_George8217s_Rain_Check_Rebate.htm.

The Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program provides funding for the construction of water quality projects and community outreach and behavior change projects. For more information or to apply, visit:

www.cbtrust.org/site/c.mjPKXPCJnH/b.9167947/k.BF6B/Prince_Georges_Stormwater_Stewardship.htm.

11 CAN A TAX-EXEMPT FAITH-BASED OR NONPROFIT GROUP ELECT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACP?

Yes, the ACP is 100% voluntary.

12 DO I STILL HAVE TO PAY A FEE IF I PARTICIPATE IN THE ACP?

Yes, all qualified groups will still have to pay an administrative fee of \$20.58 that will be applied annually to each tax account. The amount of fee reduction is proportional to the amount of pollution prevented. In addition, all groups will still have to pay an administrative Clean Water Act Fee of \$20.58.

13 WHAT COSTS WILL I HAVE TO PAY TO INSTALL ONE OF THE BMPs ON MY PROPERTY?

All costs associated with the installation of the selected BMPs are provided by Prince George's County. Property owners will be required to provide aesthetic maintenance of the BMP to be eligible for continued fee reductions.

14 WHAT STEPS ARE INVOLVED IN APPLYING FOR THE PROGRAM?

An interested candidate only needs to submit an application that can be completed online or mailed to:

**Prince George's County
Stormwater Management Division
Department of the Environment
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20772**

Candidates will receive notice of their application status in 45 business days. Upon approval, applicants will meet with a Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) representative to develop an alternative compliance design plan. DoE will review the plan and notify candidates in writing of the fee reduction credit award.

15 I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

You can contact Mr. El Hadji Fall at (301) 772-8996 or by e-mail at EFall@co.pg.md.us if you have additional questions or to schedule a site visit for evaluation.