PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Clean Water Program

Required by a Federal government mandate, the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program instructs Maryland's nine largest counties and the City of Baltimore to establish a funding plan to pay for stormwater management improvements by July 1, 2013.

This program provides an opportunity for Prince George's County to revitalize aging neighborhoods, launch a green economy and put people to work.

It will benefit the County by creating new jobs and green local businesses; expanding existing local businesses and summer youth jobs programs; beautifying our neighborhoods; developing fellowship programs with local universities and colleges; partnering with nonprofits and faith communities to expand restoration efforts; and cleaning our waters.

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Prince George's County
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Adam Ortiz | Director

For more information on the program, please see the frequently asked questions on the back.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Clean Water Program

FAQs

WHAT IS THE WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM?

In 2010 the Federal government required states to meet new standards under the Clean Water Act to address stormwater runoff pollution from impervious areas (that don't absorb water) such as parking lots, roads and roofs. To meet this mandate, Governor Martin O'Malley last year signed into law House Bill 987 (The Watershed Protection and Restoration Program) that requires nine Maryland Counties and the City of Baltimore to collect a fee from property owners to implement a program to address this issue, the Clean Water Act Fee.

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION?

Every day, trash, oil, sediment, chemicals and other pollutants collect on our roofs, roads, parking lots and driveways. When it rains, the pollutants travel over these surfaces, flow into the storm drains and in great volume end up in our creeks, rivers, lakes and streams.

WILL THIS FUND CREATE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY?

This fund provides an opportunity for Prince George's County to revitalize aging neighborhoods, launch a green economy and put people to work. It will benefit our County by creating new jobs and new green local businesses; expanding existing local businesses and summer youth jobs programs; developing fellowship programs with local universities and colleges; and improving our waterways.

HOW WILL THESE FUNDS BE SPENT?

To meet the Federal mandate, the County has to treat 15,000 acres of uncontrolled impervious surfaces at a cost of approximately $1.2 billion and complete the program by 2025. The funds will be used solely to retrofit parking lots, roads and roofs with treatment devices that will filter out pollutants from stormwater.

HOW IS THE FEE CALCULATED?

Prince George's County established a fee structure based on the impervious surface to be paid annually by property owners through their property tax bill. *(Dollar figures listed are presented for illustration purposes only. For actual fee rates, please refer to County Resolution 59-2013.)*

ARE THE FEES FAIR AND EQUITABLE?

Prince George's County is dedicated to meeting our Federal requirements while keeping the fees as low as possible. Our fee structure is equitable, based on the amount of impervious surface, and lower than most Maryland Counties.

CAN THE FEE BE MODIFIED OR REDUCED?

Property owners that retrofit their property with approved runoff treatment practices can receive up to a 100 percent reduction in the impact fee. The County will provide a limited amount of rebate funds each year to property owners to retrofit their properties. A fee can also be appealed to the Department of the Environment (DoE) if there is an error in the way the County calculated the fee.

WILL THERE BE A PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP?

The County's Office of Finance will identify whether the property owner received a Maryland Homeowners Tax Credit. If the Homeowners Tax Credit has been received, the tax bill will be credited for the full amount of the fee. No application is required.

DO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES PAY THE FEE?

Yes, but the fee is based only on the impervious surfaces of the principal residential property and not the land in agriculture.

DON'T I ALREADY PAY FOR A STORMWATER PROGRAM?

Yes, but that program is designated for flood control, not clean water.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Please visit DoE's website at **www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/CleanWaterActFees/Watershed/Pages/default.aspx** or call 3-1-1 for more information.