FY 2024-2025
Regional Conservation Program

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Bianca Soto
RCPP Program Manager

Project Types

RCPP Classic

- Partner defined project
- NRCS responsible for FA execution through producer contracts, easements, and watershed agreements
- Partner may deliver FA in support of NRCS producer contracts
- NRCS involved in technical assistance, may delegate some to partner

Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)

- Partner led project
- Partner contracts directly with eligible producers/landowners or performs work on their behalf
- Partner expected to deliver all technical assistance

FY 2024-2025 Active RCPP Project

RCPP Classic (Total 6 PPA Active)

2019 Achieving WIP Goals & NM Compliance in Maryland

2445 Million Acre Challenge RCPP

2697 Engaging Small AFOs in the NM Planning Process

2589 RCPP-ESLC Land Protection Initiatives

New!--3119 Connecting Small and Urban Farms in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. Urban Corridor with Conservation Resources

New!--3150 Mid-Atlantic Dairy Farmers Producing Tangible Results Through Climate Smart Solutions

FY 2024 Active RCPP Classic Project

2019 Achieving WIP Goals & NM Compliance in Maryland

This is a Critical Conservation Area (CCA) RCPP project to promote a cost effective and nutrient effective solution to address manure management and related resource concerns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The overall project success will be based on reducing the best management practice (BMP) gap for the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and increasing NM regulation compliance in northern Maryland.

Counties: ***Allegany, Baltimore, Cecil, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, and Washington***

FY 2024 Four (4) Contracts Obligated; Funds Obligated $1,289,428

FY 2025 Funds available $499,071

FY 2024 Active RCPP Classic Project

2445 Million Acre Challenge RCPP

This project helps all farmers in Maryland build soil health, increase farm profitability, and improve water quality while making farms resilient in the face of climate change. The goal is to have one million agricultural acres in Maryland using healthy soil techniques throughout the Chesapeake Bay region by 2030.

Counties: ***All Maryland***

FY 2024 No contracts obligated

FY 2025 Funds available $497,000

FY 2024 Active RCPP Classic Project

2697 Engaging Small AFOs in the NM Planning Process

This project seeks to reduce nutrient and sediment loss associated with small dairy AFOs by encouraging the development and implementation of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans. It is available to small dairy operations interested in developing comprehensive nutrient management plans and implementing plan practices, including waste storage structures, animal mortality facilities, heavy use areas, barnyard runoff practices, animal exclusion practices, and enhanced nutrient management (such as manure injection), among others

Counties: ***Carroll, Frederick and Washington***

FY 2024 One (1) Contract Obligated; Funds Obligated $453,308

FY 2025 Funds available $1,155,944

FY 2024 Active RCPP Classic Project

2589 RCPP-ESLC Land Protection Initiatives

The project focuses on both working lands preservation and habitat preservation to enhance the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A key element of the project includes the requirement for 100-foot naturally vegetated buffers along all tidal waterways to support water quality improvement.

Counties: ***Kent and Cecil counties***

FY 2024 No parcel contract; Supplement Agreement I and IV were actived

FY 2025 Funds available $1,600,000

November 15,2024- January 10,2025 Open for Sign Up application

FY 2025 New Active RCPP Classic Project

3119 Connecting Small and Urban Farms in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. Urban Corridor with Conservation Resources

The primary goal is to connect urban farmers with NRCS and partner conservation resources. We are particularly interested in increasing the number of HU farmers that benefit from conservation and partner infrastructure program funding. All the conservation practices are available to benefit the urban farmers or small farmers on this project.

Counties: ***Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, DC, Prince George's and Anne Arundel***

PPA Budget $1,116,000

FY 2025 New Active RCPP Classic Project

3150 Mid-Atlantic Dairy Farmers Producing Tangible Results Through Climate Smart Solutions

The goal and objectives of the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Farmers Producing Tangible Results Through Climate Smart Solutions project are to increase outreach and education about conservation practices and their benefits (water quality, GHG reduction, soil health, farm efficiency) to dairy farmers in Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Throughout the project area, partners expect to reduce Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment run off by 30,000 – 270,000 lbs/year, 1,600 – 15,000 lbs/year, and 48,000 – 450,000 lbs/year respectively.

Counties: ***Washington, Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, Cecil, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Montgomery and Prince George's***

PPA MD Budget $1,500,000

FY 2024-2025 Active RCPP Project

RCPP AFA (Total 3 PPA Active)

2659-Maryland Clean Water Commerce Outcomes Project

New!-- 3083 Scaling the adoption of adaptive nitrogen management using low-cost cover crop imaging and nitrogen crediting technology

New!--3269 Nature's Climate Solution: Planting Forests and Building Resiliency in Maryland

FY 2024-2025 Active RCPP AFA Project

2659-Maryland Clean Water Commerce Outcomes Project

Maryland enacted the Clean Water Commerce Act (CWCA) in 2017 and reauthorized it in 2021. The CWCA authorizes the Maryland state legislature to appropriate $20 million each year for nine years. Funding from this account must be directed toward purchase of "environmental outcomes," defined as, "nitrogen load reductions that can be directly measured or modeled using the Chesapeake Bay Program Models." A minimum of 35% of funding must be used on agricultural lands for filter and ditch management practices and up to 25% of funding could also be used for any other activities on agricultural lands that result in a modeled nitrogen pollution reduction outcome.

Counties: ***All Maryland***

FY 2024 Fifteen (15) applications submitted

FY 2025 PPA Budget $2,602,050

FY 2025 New Active RCPP AFA Project

New!-- 3083 Scaling the adoption of adaptive nitrogen management using low-cost cover crop imaging and nitrogen crediting technology

This project combines innovative, user-friendly, and affordable on-farm technology with streamlined farmer engagement and payments that offset perceived risks associated with reducing nitrogen (N) rates as part of implementing a stacked advanced nutrient management-cover crops-conservation tillage system (ANM-CC-CT). We will support farmers to plant multi-species cover crops (CC), then use low-cost camera systems to create CC species composition and biomass maps. These maps will be used with an existing CC N calculator to produce variable rate prescriptions for the following cash crop.

Counties: ***All Maryland***

PPA MD Budget $7,925,000

FY 2025 New Active RCPP AFA Project

New!--3269 Nature's Climate Solution: Planting Forests and Building Resiliency in Maryland

Maryland has ambitious goals related to addressing climate change and improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Planting trees, and ensuring their health through climate smart forest management, helps achieve both those primary goals while providing other important benefits like wildlife habitat and air quality. Maryland proposes a partnership with NRCS to expand programs that work with agricultural producers to identify land suitable for tree planting, like riparian buffers and marginal agricultural land, and fund the installation and maintenance of tree plantings as well as interested landowners of non-industrial timberland that is in need of climate smart forest management.

Counties: ***All Maryland***

PPA Budget $7,675,000