



Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.

An Affiliated Foundation with the University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mission:

Founded in 1999, the Center brings together diverse interests from the agricultural, forestry, and environmental communities for the purpose of retaining Maryland's working landscapes and the industries they support while protecting and improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The Center accomplishes this by funding applied research that is used to create policies and new management practices as well as promote policy change and to educate and reach the public through workshops, conferences, newsletters, and the Center's website.

2014 Highlights:

- Held a series of five regional technical workshops throughout the State that focused on the Watershed Implementation Plan Phase II planning process. The workshops continue to strengthen the communication and knowledge sharing between the State agencies and the 23 counties and the City of Baltimore. Workshop participants include WIP team members, environmental organizations, agriculture organizations, and the private sector.
- Interviewed the 23 counties and the City of Baltimore WIP teams to determine their progress, needs, and issues as they work to implement their watershed implementation plans. As a result of these interviews, a memo was written and shared with Governor Hogan and the appropriate secretaries advising them of the current status and providing suggestions to address the issues. A second memo was sent to Governor Hogan and the appropriate secretaries detailing the status of the implementation of the storm water fees in the State's mandated counties and highlighting the progressive work being done.
- Conducted Local Government Exchanges in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore which provide opportunities for town and county officials and the public to gather around issues and topics of concerns and interest. Initially planned by the Center and Extension with an advisory committee comprised of local

representatives, these events quickly transform into self-selected topic venues with the Center and Extension providing the experts for discussion.

- Continued to grow the small group comprised of various components of the poultry industry with environmental and farm representatives to talk about ways to strengthen the relationship and identify issues for research and understanding around the poultry industry on the Eastern Shore. The purpose is to provide a venue for discussion, understanding and recommendation of needed steps and research to reduce the divide between the environmental community and the poultry industry.
- Over the previous two years, the Center has closely followed the development of the regulations for the Phosphorus Management Tool and has on several occasions held meetings involving several of its Board members as well as other interests in providing comments on the various proposed drafts. The Center's Board sent a letter to Governor Hogan supporting the phased in six year Phosphorus Management regulations.
- The Center worked with other members of the Maryland Wood Energy Coalition to organize a one day Biomass Boot Camp which provided participants with knowledge regarding potential funding sources, engineering resources, and examples of the use of wood energy to heat a facility. Workshop participants included city and county representatives, private business owners, and the general public.

To learn more about the Center, visit our website: <https://agresearch.umd.edu/agroecol> or contact Nancy Nunn at (410) 827-6202, ext. 128 or email: nunn@umd.edu.