



ANNOUNCEMENT Baltimore, MD - August 29th, 2012

Yesterday, staff from Blue Water Baltimore were pleased to join U.S Senator Ben Cardin, EPA Senior Advisor for the Chesapeake Bay Jeff Corbin, and leadership from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) at The Maryland Science Center as they announced \$9.2 Million in funding for restoration efforts along the Bay's many tributaries and in urban communities like Baltimore. Blue Water Baltimore will receive \$400,000 in a two-year grant for continued funding of its highly successful Water Audit Program. "We cannot accomplish our mission of measurable water quality improvements without the support of large-scale, multi-year grants from funders like NFWF that enable innovative projects that both engage citizens and deliver results. We are pleased to bring federal resources and national corporate support to Baltimore to leverage contributions from the many local and regional foundations and corporations that support our work," said Halle Van der Gaag, Executive Director for Blue Water Baltimore (BWB). Additionally, Ms. Van der Gaag noted that these grants are highly competitive and require significant technical proficiency to qualify and implement.

"This funding allows Blue Water Baltimore staff to work directly with homeowners, business owners and faith-based institutions to design and install stormwater reduction projects that suit the specific needs of the site and individuals involved," said Dana Puzey, Water Audit Program Manager for Blue Water Baltimore. Funding also provides cash incentives that help cover materials for projects ranging from rain gardens, conservation landscaping and rainwater harvesting, as well as larger projects like removing asphalt at schools and retrofitting parking lots at churches and synagogues. BWB has streamlined the program and has made some exciting changes, including incentives and support for the installation of green roofs.

From 2009 to 2012, our Water Audit program diverted annually more than two million gallons of stormwater from our City's and County's aging sewer systems, and significantly reduced the pollution loads of nitrogen, sediment and phosphorus entering our streams, the Baltimore Harbor and the Bay. Additionally we have engaged more than 1,200 citizens in taking action in their neighborhoods and communities.

With this vital second round of funding, we plan to do even better, increasing the amount of stormwater—and the pollution it carries—that we divert annually from two million to eight million gallons and engaging more than 5,000 citizens.

While the pollution reduction is extremely important, these projects help beautify and green neighborhoods and schools, and help protect vulnerable wastewater and drinking water infrastructure in our streams and stormdrains. Perhaps most importantly, the enthusiasm and interest of students, homeowners, and property owners has been tremendous. When provided with a plan, know-how and the right tools, people do more.

The renewed funding helps forward the Blue Water Baltimore approach of increased education of and action by members of our communities. This grant provides essential funds to build on the momentum of Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts and the need to focus on the stormwater runoff from highly urbanized areas as a growing source of pollution.

Blue Water Baltimore's programs provide quantifiable pollution reduction, helping Baltimore City and Baltimore County meet stormwater permit obligations, as well as WIP (Watershed Implementation Plan) and TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) requirements.

Blue Water Baltimore is grateful for the direct cash match from Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS) and the in-kind match from Baltimore City's Department of Public Works that helped make this grant possible.

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For more information on Blue Water Baltimore, please visit www.bluewaterbaltimore.org