



#### How do I apply for Bay Restoration Fund grant money?

Owners of OSDS that have a state groundwater discharge permit should apply for funding directly with MDE. MDE has established an outsource program where local jurisdictions or agencies will administer funds for individual and small OSDS. For jurisdictions without an outsourced program, individuals should submit a pre-application directly to MDE. A copy of the pre-application and a list of jurisdictions with outsourced programs is available online at

[www.mde.state.md.us/BRF](http://www.mde.state.md.us/BRF)

#### Who do I contact within my jurisdiction to see if money is available?

For local jurisdiction contacts, consult MDE's website at  
[www.mde.state.md.us/BRF](http://www.mde.state.md.us/BRF)



# CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION

*investing in the future  
of the bay*

## BAY RESTORATION FUND

### On-site Sewage Disposal System

### INFORMATION GUIDE



#### Department of the Environment

1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230  
(410) 537-3000  
(800) 633-6101  
[www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us)

## What is the Bay Restoration Fund?

The Chesapeake Bay is Maryland's greatest environmental and economic treasure. The Bay has experienced a decline in water quality due to over enrichment of unwanted nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. The three major contributors to nutrient discharge in the Bay are wastewater effluent, urban and agricultural runoff.

On May 26, 2004 the Bay Restoration Fund (Senate Bill 320) was signed into law, marking a critical turning point for the State of Maryland in its efforts to restore the Bay.



The law created an unprecedented fund, financed by wastewater treatment plant users, dedicated to upgrading Maryland's wastewater treatment plants with enhanced nutrient removal (ENR). This technology reduces nitrogen and phosphorus levels in wastewater effluent.

The bill also created a similar fee to be paid by on-site sewage disposal system (OSDS) or septic users. The fee paid by OSDS users will fund OSDS upgrades and implement cover crop plantings to reduce nitrogen loading to the Bay.

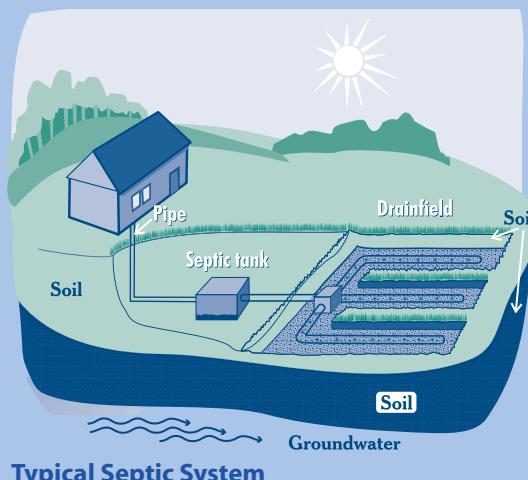
The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) oversees the Bay Restoration Fund. For more information on the fund, please call (410) 537-4195.

With the passage of this bill, Maryland continues its efforts to further reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loading to state waters by more than 7.5 million pounds of nitrogen per year, and more than 260,000 pounds of phosphorus per year. This represents more than one-third of Maryland's commitment under the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement.

## I'm on a septic system, what's in it for me?

A \$30 annual fee will be collected from each OSDS user. There are approximately 420,000 OSDS in Maryland. The total estimated OSDS program income is \$12.6 million per year. Sixty percent of these funds will be used for OSDS upgrades and the remaining 40 percent will be used for cover crops. The objective of the OSDS upgrades and planting of cover crops is to reduce nitrogen levels in the state's groundwater, which discharges to the Chesapeake Bay and contributes to water quality problems in the Bay and its tributaries.

With priority given to failing OSDS in Critical Areas, funds are available to upgrade OSDS to Best Available Technology (BAT) for nitrogen removal.



## What is considered an upgrade?

An upgrade is the addition of Best Available Technology, or BAT, for nitrogen removal to a traditional OSDS or the construction of a new OSDS that has BAT for nitrogen removal. Funding is only available for the portion of the system upgrade that is designed to reduce the nitrogen discharge.

## What type of treatment unit is considered a BAT?

MDE consults with technical advisory groups and technical experts to review data from third-party testing organizations to evaluate available technologies to determine suitability to be considered as BAT.



To be considered as a BAT, a technology must have an acceptable level of reducing nitrogen, have consistent and reliable performance and be cost effective.

A listing of BAT units is available at:  
[www.mde.state.md.us/BRF](http://www.mde.state.md.us/BRF)