

# Maryland's Water Quality Trading Program

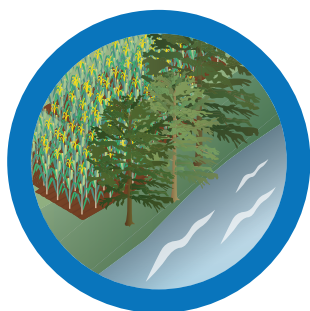
Cleaner water needs your buy in!

## Why should I become an investor?

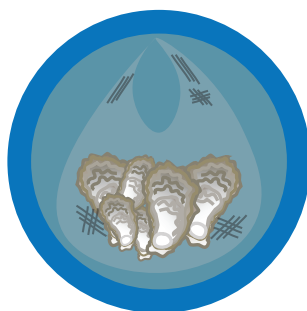
The Maryland Water Quality Trading Program is a market-based initiative designed to generate cost-effective and innovative ways to limit nutrient and sediment pollution into the Chesapeake Bay. Through the exchange of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment credits purchased and sold on a public market, it is our intent to accelerate water quality improvement in the Bay, reduce the costs of water quality implementation efforts, and put money into the pockets of Maryland's farmers, watermen, and other businesses going above and beyond to help restore a national treasure and its tributaries.

## The benefits of Water Quality Trading

### Reduce Nutrient Inputs



### Support Local Businesses



### Accelerate Bay Restoration



## Water Improvement Projects

In addition to removing nutrients and sediment, these projects provide co-benefits to Maryland's communities.



### Forest Buffers

Forest buffers prevent pollution from entering streams, help stabilize stream banks, create habitat, and shade adjacent streams, which helps regulate water temperatures for fish.



### Oyster Aquaculture

The filtering properties of oysters help to remove nitrogen and clarify water while providing local communities with thriving small businesses.



*Photo Credit: MD Department of the Environment*

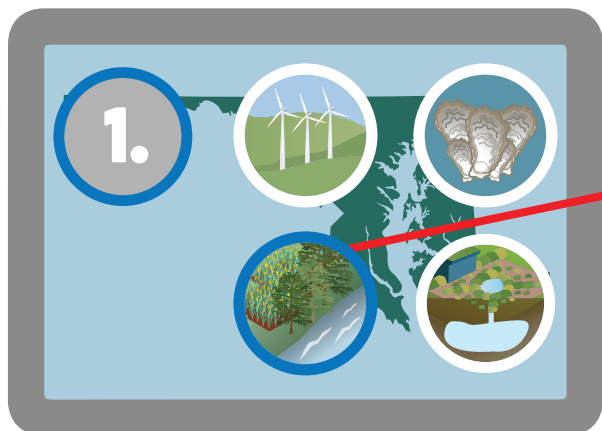
### Green Infrastructure

While benefiting from ecosystem services, communities with green infrastructure also receive run-off reduction, aesthetically appealing landscapes, and a boost in pollination.

# Be green and support local businesses in Maryland

By purchasing credits through Maryland's Water Quality Trading Program, investors support local, small businesses in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and have the opportunity to provide meaningful water quality benefits to local streams and the Bay. Credits purchased will serve to accelerate and improve restoration efforts which contribute to Maryland's Bay watershed implementation plan. Nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment credits are available to be purchased through individual agreements. Below describes the process for buying credits as an investor in this program.

## How do I purchase credits?



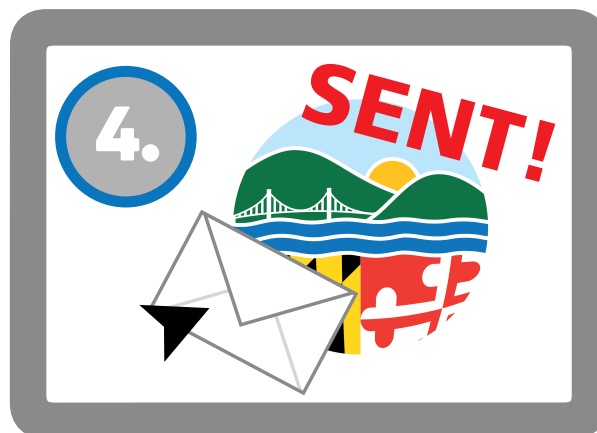
Visit the [Water Quality Trading Program website](#) to find credits available for purchase.



Identify the specific credits or restoration projects you would like to invest in.



Negotiate the terms of the purchase with the credit seller.

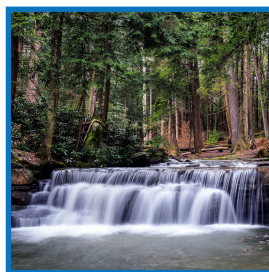


Once the trade is final, send a purchase receipt to the Maryland Department of Environment.

Visit the [Water Quality Trading homepage](#) for more information.



The Water Quality Trading Program is a joint effort between Maryland's Departments of Environment and Agriculture.



Check out our storymap on the Water Quality Trading Program to learn more about investing in your community!

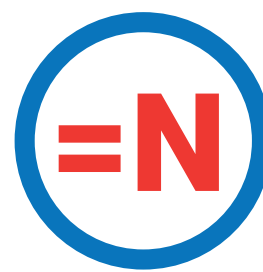


Figure out your Nitrogen input using Maryland's [Nitrogen Footprint Calculator Tool](#).