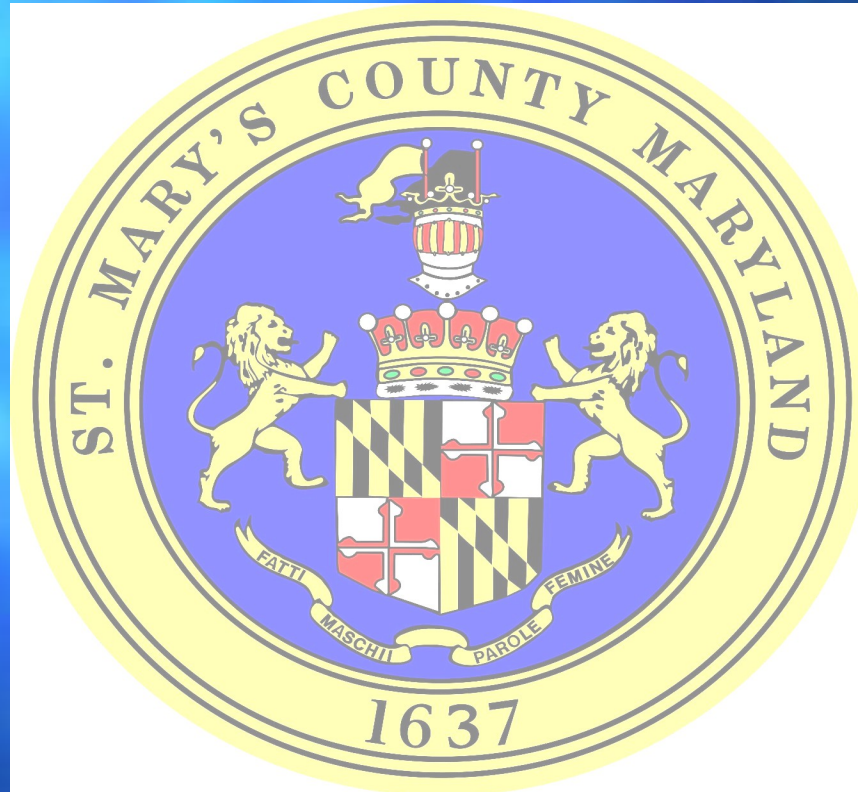


COMMISSION on the ENVIRONMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS & INITIATIVES
AN 18 MONTH INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

THE QUESTIONS

What do County Citizens, Activities & Organizations believe are our major environmental issues?

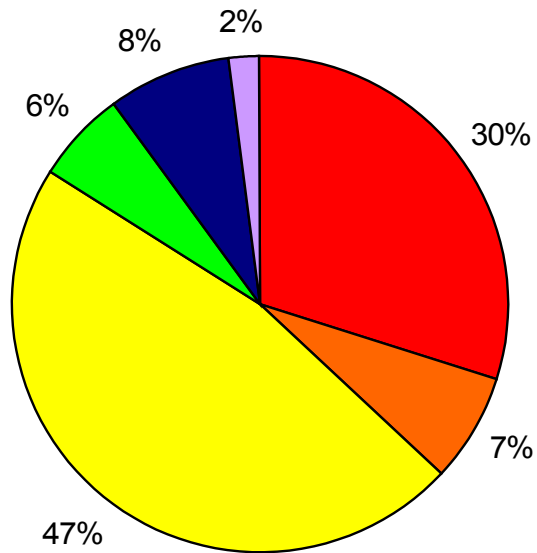
What, if anything, can be done about them?

IDENTIFYING THE ISSUES

- Survey Citizens, Firms & Organizations:
 - Ask Each to List their Major Environmental Concerns
 - Examine replies & determine broad areas of commonality
 - Summarize results & validate
 - Determine follow-on actions, if required

INITIAL RESULTS

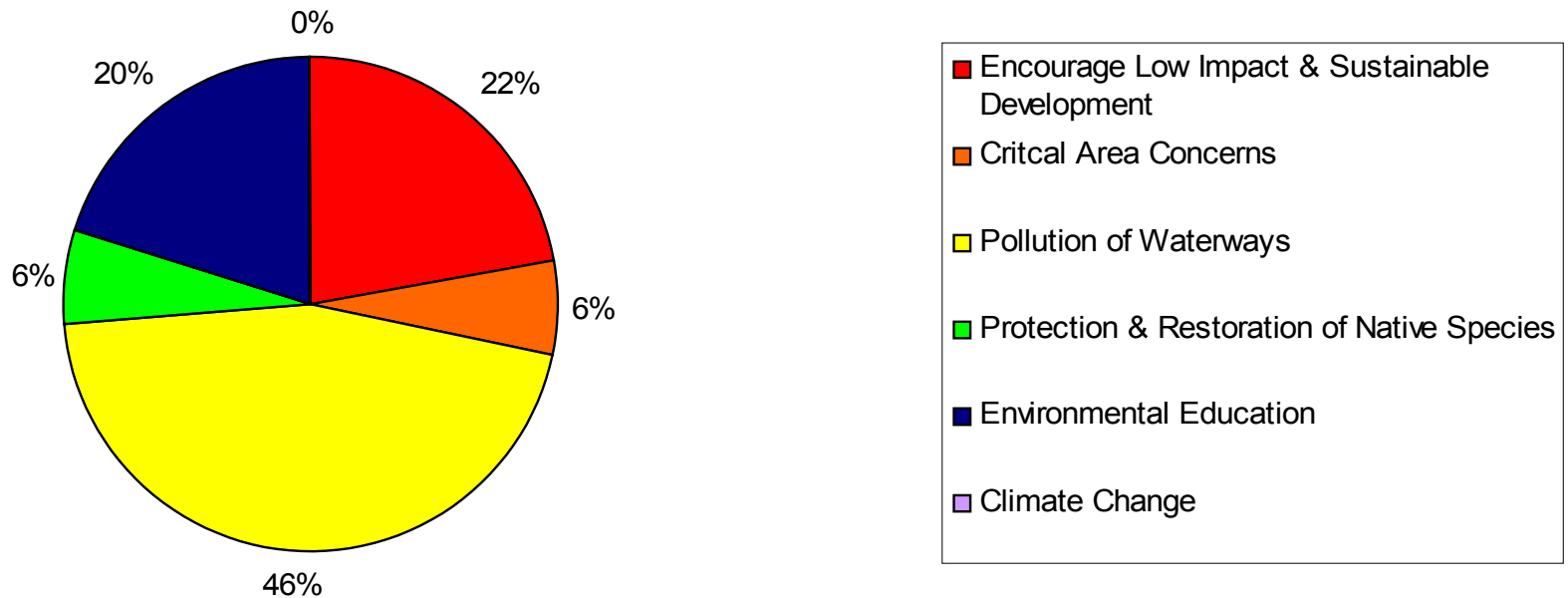
Citizen Environmental Concerns - Initial 2008 Survey



- Encourage Low Impact & Sustainable Development
- Critical Area Concerns
- Pollution of Waterways
- Protection & Restoration of Native Species
- Environmental Education
- Climate Change

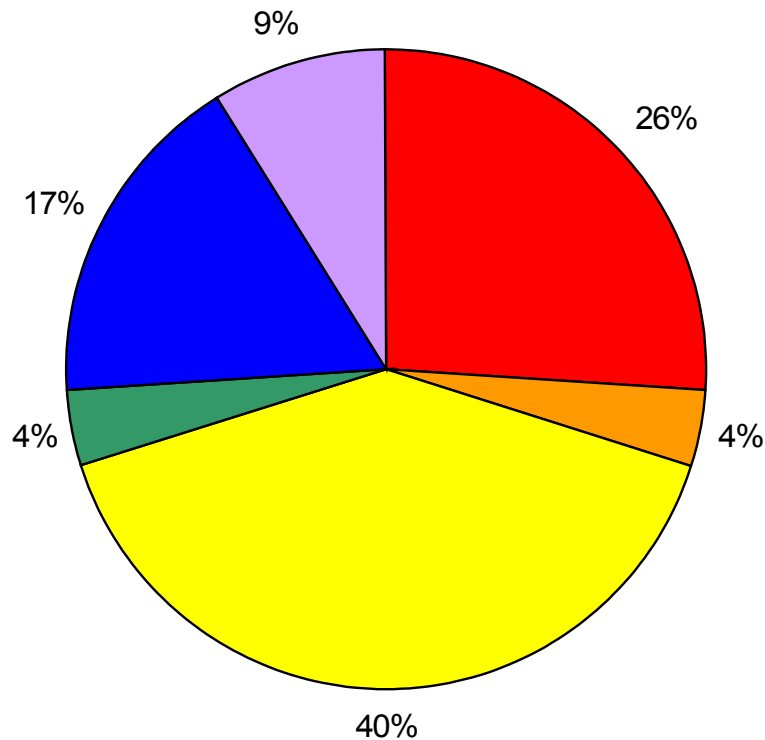
FIRST VALIDATION EFFORT

2009 Living Green Expo Attendees' Environmental Concerns



SECOND VALIDATION EFFORT

2009 Earth Day Attendees' Environmental Concerns



- Encourage Low Impact & Sustainable Development
- Critical Area Concerns
- Pollution of Waterways
- Protection & Restoration of Native Species
- Environmental Education
- Climate Change

INITIAL CONCLUSIONS

- Pollution of our waterways was unquestionably participants' primary concern
- Low Impact & Sustainable Development was a strong second
- Environmental Education was also important
- Follow-on efforts in top two areas definitely warranted

DEVELOPING CORRECTIVE INITIATIVES

- Contact 65 organizations & 130 individuals
- Ask each to send in their top three initiatives for:
 - Correcting Pollution of Waterways
 - Enhancing Low Impact & Sustainable Development
- Consolidate initiatives in each area
- Provide consolidated initiatives to participants
- Ask for their Top Ten in each area

DEVELOPING THE INITIATIVES

- 30 Individuals and 15 Organizations helped develop initiatives
 - Pollution of Waterways – 30 identified
 - Low Impact & Sustainable Development – 30 also identified
- 20 individuals and 12 organizations participated in their prioritization
 - Inputs received and consolidated
 - Prioritized results developed for each

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES

- POLLUTION OF WATERWAYS:
 - Stop letting pollutants get into the Bay
 - Improve inspections to detect pollution problems
 - Find & use latest pollution abatement technology
 - Temporarily suspend menhaden fishing in the Bay by reduction boats
- LOW IMPACT/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
 - Control runoff during & after building
 - Require use of vacant space before rebuilding
 - Incentivize use of energy savings & green technology
 - Use recycled H₂O, encourage biking/walking, stop open air burning

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- CONCLUSIONS:

- Report, while not statistically significant, accurately reflects County residents views
- Stopping waterways pollution is their most important concern...closely followed by adopting low impact/sustainable development techniques wherever possible
- Corrective initiatives in each area were designed and prioritized by your citizens
- Virtually every initiative is within the County's ability to execute

- RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Direct staff agencies to review these 60 initiatives
- Require a report on which initiatives should be adopted and which should not and why

THE END

INITIATIVES - POLLUTION OF WATERWAYS

- 1 Ban Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay by all reduction boats until the menhaden population can filter the Bay in 1 month. Letters to Governor, Congressmen, VA delegation.
- 2 Establish Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for any construction project with serious fines/consequences for non-compliance. Plans should: a) minimize accelerated soil erosion on disturbed areas; b) minimize discharge of sediment and other pollutants in storm water runoff; c) be implemented 7 days prior to beginning construction with a copy available on site; d) be dynamic and subject to modifications as conditions warrant.
- 3 Enforce regulations/requirements at development sites for the purposes of reducing runoff (i.e. soil retention fences). If finding funding for additional inspectors is the answer then it should be considered.
- 4 Encourage the use of porous paving systems for new parking lots for commercial, industrial and multi-family land uses, in addition to using bio-retention areas or other filtering systems to treat storm water. Consider offering one-time tax credits for implementing these.
- 5 Establish a County inspection team with a charter to inspect: construction site runoff, and existing storm water runoff devices. Establish procedures to require correction of deficiencies found and penalties for failure to do so.
- 6 Ban application of fertilizers containing phosphorous except where addition of phosphorous is deemed necessary by soil testing certified by state or county.
- 7 Identify County areas where soil erosion is greatest and where low impact mitigation and storm water management would provide the greatest benefit. Implement practices to correct identified problems.
- 8 Require new septic systems be installed with best available technology.
- 9 Increase programs to re-plant shorelines above and below waterline in a sustainable manner.
- 10 Reduce runoff from residential areas by providing educational outreach on the harmful effects of runoff and on things that homeowners can do to reduce their impact on our waterways, such as landscaping techniques and changes in behaviors (lawn practices, car washing, dog walking, dumping household chemicals or automotive fluids).

INITIATIVES – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Make use of Green Streets, such as those already in place in Portland and Seattle and make Green Streets a Design requirement in development districts. Green streets are characterized as having vegetated swales capable of handling, channeling, and filtering runoff, narrow roadways, landscaping, and pervious roadway materials.
- 2 Require all new development or re-development projects to have storm water and runoff characteristics equivalent to forested land.
- 3 Encourage re-development of existing structures for new businesses or industries versus clearing land and building new.
- 4 Establish tax credits (or impact fee credits) to residential and commercial building owners and tenants of eligible buildings and tenant spaces which meet "green" standards. Green standards include but are not limited to those that increase energy efficiency, improve indoor air quality and reduce the environmental impact of commercial and residential buildings in the county.
- 5 Enact legislation to permit use of recycled water from approved treatment plants for use in irrigation, lawn watering and car and airplane washing.
- 6 Increase Incentives for builders to plan and build environmentally friendly communities and create tax incentives for homebuyers that purchase these properties.
- 7 Require new home construction or additions larger than 300 sq. ft. to incorporate a certain number of "green" building practices (to be developed based on existing standards from LEED, NAHB, GREENGLOBE, etc.) in order to get a building permit. For remodeling or additions less than 300 sq. ft., offer guidance and encouragement.
- 8 Allow higher density of development when green methods are used (such as nationally recognized Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) methods/standards). Development at higher density with Green characteristics will reduce overall footprint.
- 9 Include safe bike paths in any major road construction.
- 10 Ban open air burning.

INITIATIVES – POLLUTION OF WATERWAYS

No	Initiative	Overall Score	Percent Selecting
1	Ban Menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay by all reduction boats until the menhaden population can filter the Bay in 1 month. Letters to Governor, Congressmen, VA delegation.	6.3	73
13	Establish Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for any construction project with serious fines/consequences for non-compliance. Plans should: a) minimize accelerated soil erosion on disturbed areas; b) minimize discharge of sediment and other pollutants in storm water runoff; c) be implemented 7 days prior to beginning construction with a copy available on site; d) be dynamic and subject to modifications as conditions warrant.	6.7	77
4	Enforce regulations/requirements at development sites for the purposes of reducing runoff (i.e. soil retention fences). If finding funding for additional inspectors is the answer then it should be considered.	8.6	60
12	Encourage the use of porous paving systems for new parking lots for commercial, industrial and multi-family land uses, in addition to using bio-retention areas or other filtering systems to treat storm water. Consider offering one-time tax credits for implementing these.	9.0	60
2	Establish a County inspection team with a charter to inspect: construction site runoff, and existing storm water runoff devices. Establish procedures to require correction of deficiencies found and penalties for failure to do so.	9.2	47
3	Ban application of fertilizers containing phosphorous except where addition of phosphorous is deemed necessary by soil testing certified by state or county.	9.6	50
8	Identify County areas where soil erosion is greatest and where low impact mitigation and storm water management would provide the greatest benefit. Implement practices to correct identified problems.	10.2	47
15	Require new septic systems be installed with best available technology.	10.9	47
7	Increase programs to re-plant shorelines above and below waterline in a sustainable manner.	11.0	50