

CHRISTINA BASIN CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

Scope: Regional/Watershed

Location: Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland

SCOPE:

- » Christina Basin – An interstate watershed encompassing 565 square miles throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The basin includes four watersheds – the Brandywine, Red Clay and White Clay Creeks and the Christina River.
- » Drinking water source to over 500,000 people in New Castle County, Delaware and Chester County, Pennsylvania.
- » Effort to work closely with relevant stakeholders to address interstate water quality concerns and drinking water source protection throughout the basin.

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- » The Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership (CBCWP), formerly known as the Christina Basin Water Quality Management Committee, was formed in 1993 as a unique cooperative partnership to work on coordinated approaches to improve water quality and meet the water needs of the region.
- » The CBCWP received an EPA Watershed Initiative Grant in 2003, which provided \$1 million for community-based projects to reduce nonpoint source runoff impacts on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.
- » In 2006, EPA, Pennsylvania and Delaware worked together to establish watershed-based Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address impairments for nutrients, sediment, dissolved oxygen and bacteria.
- » CBCWP's 20+ member organizations work together through its Task Force to share information and leverage resources to reduce pollution and protect sources of drinking water. The partnership's leadership committees, the Policy and Coordinating Committees, meet on an 'as needed' basis.

MEMBERS:

- » More than 20 partners including federal, state, interstate and local government agencies, universities, water utilities and non-governmental organizations.

WATER CONCERNS:

- » Safe and abundant supplies of drinking water for Delaware and Pennsylvania residents.
- » Impacts from nutrients, sediment, pathogens and toxic chemicals that have led to impaired water quality, loss of fish and wildlife habitat and fish advisories.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

www.wra.udel.edu/public-service/watershedmanagement/christinabasinpartnership/

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STRATEGIES:

- » Enhance intergovernmental and interstate communication and coordination.
- » Implement Christina Basin TMDLs and drinking water source protection plans.
- » Identify a sustainable source of funding for restoration and preservation projects within the basin.
- » Create long-term watershed stewardship and restoration through education and outreach.

RESULTS:

- » Developed a Christina Basin TMDL Implementation Plan (Pennsylvania) and a Christina Basin Pollution Control Strategy (Delaware) to serve as road maps to meet the watershed-based TMDL budgets.
- » Updating five source water assessments in Delaware that were originally completed in 2002.
- » Helping to implement the City of Wilmington's Source Water Protection Plan.
- » Establishing an early warning monitoring system that would notify downstream users in the event of spills and emergencies.
- » Partnering with Suez Water to implement their Watershed Control Plan to help reduce sources of cryptosporidium and meet Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule requirements.
- » Assessed the feasibility of establishing a "water fund" to finance restoration projects and conservation needs through support from the William Penn Foundation's Delaware River Watershed Initiative.
- » Established a mailing list to share timely information with watershed stakeholders.
- » Formed the Christina Basin Education Group to address unified communication and education initiatives.
- » Leads an annual bus tour to give stakeholders the opportunity to learn about and see restoration and protection projects first hand throughout the Basin.
- » Developed a Christina Basin Trends Report (1995-2010) to show how water quality has changed throughout the Basin over time.