The Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Certification is an Initiative launched by the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (CCLC), a coalition of multiple organizations and agencies within the mid-Atlantic region. From 2015 to 2016, the Initiative is focused on certification program development and piloting in Maryland and Virginia with an ultimate goal of a Bay-wide certification program.

CCLC, University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Habitat Partners® and Wetlands Watch have formed a consortium to administer and coordinate the certification. Managed by two Certification Coordinators and the Consortium, the certification will be developed in collaboration with local governments, community colleges, non-profits, private practitioners and landscape trade associations that share a common goal of consistently trained and certified conservation landscape professionals.

**CERTIFICATION TARGET AUDIENCE**

**DESIGN TIER:** Landscape professionals who design “small scale” conservation landscaping practices: rain gardens & bio-swales, turf reduction using native plants, tree plantings, buffer plantings, rain barrels/cisterns, and impervious cover removal.

**INSTALLATION TIER:** Landscape professionals who install the practices listed in the Design Tier. Will include downspout disconnection or dry wells and rain barrel/cistern installation.

**MAINTENANCE TIER:** Landscape professionals who maintain the practices listed in the design tier and will address urban nutrient management “turf/lawn-care” and invasive plants.

**BENEFITS:**

- Provide trusted, skilled contractors to local governments, non-profits and property owners.
- Protect green infrastructure investments—ensures properly designed, installed and maintained practices.
- Reduce duplication of landscape contractor training efforts across region.
- Increase trade marketability and earning potential - motivates landscape contractors to sell green infrastructure.

Anyone interested in collaborating on this important initiative is invited to contact us – see back for details.
**CONSORTIUM PARTNER CONTACTS**

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VA DGIF Contact:
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**COLLABORATING PARTNERS**

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Anne Arundel Community College
- Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works
- Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy
- Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation
- Arlington Co. Office of Sustainability & Environmental Mgmt.
- Baltimore Community College
- Baltimore Civic Works
- Blue Water Baltimore
- Center for Watershed Protection
- Chesapeake Stormwater Network
- City of Hyattsville
- City of Hampton
- City of Norfolk
- City of Rockville
- Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District
- District Department of the Environment
- Elizabeth River Project
- Environmental Concern

**CONSORTIUM PARTNER CONTACTS**

Green Jobs Alliance
Howard County
Howard County Community College
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
James City Co. Engineering & Natural Resource Division
James River Association
LID Center
Lynnhaven River NOW
Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association
Montgomery Co. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Montgomery County Community College
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Prince Georges Department of Environmental Protection
Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting
Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Virginia Native Plants Marketing Partnership
Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association

**CERTIFICATION DEVELOPMENT & PILOTING TIMELINE**

- 2015-16: Pilot in MD, DC & VA, Market Certification, Develop Database, Evaluate and Refine, Recruit Additional Funding
- 2017: Expand Certification to Other Bay Jurisdictions, Become Self-Financing