

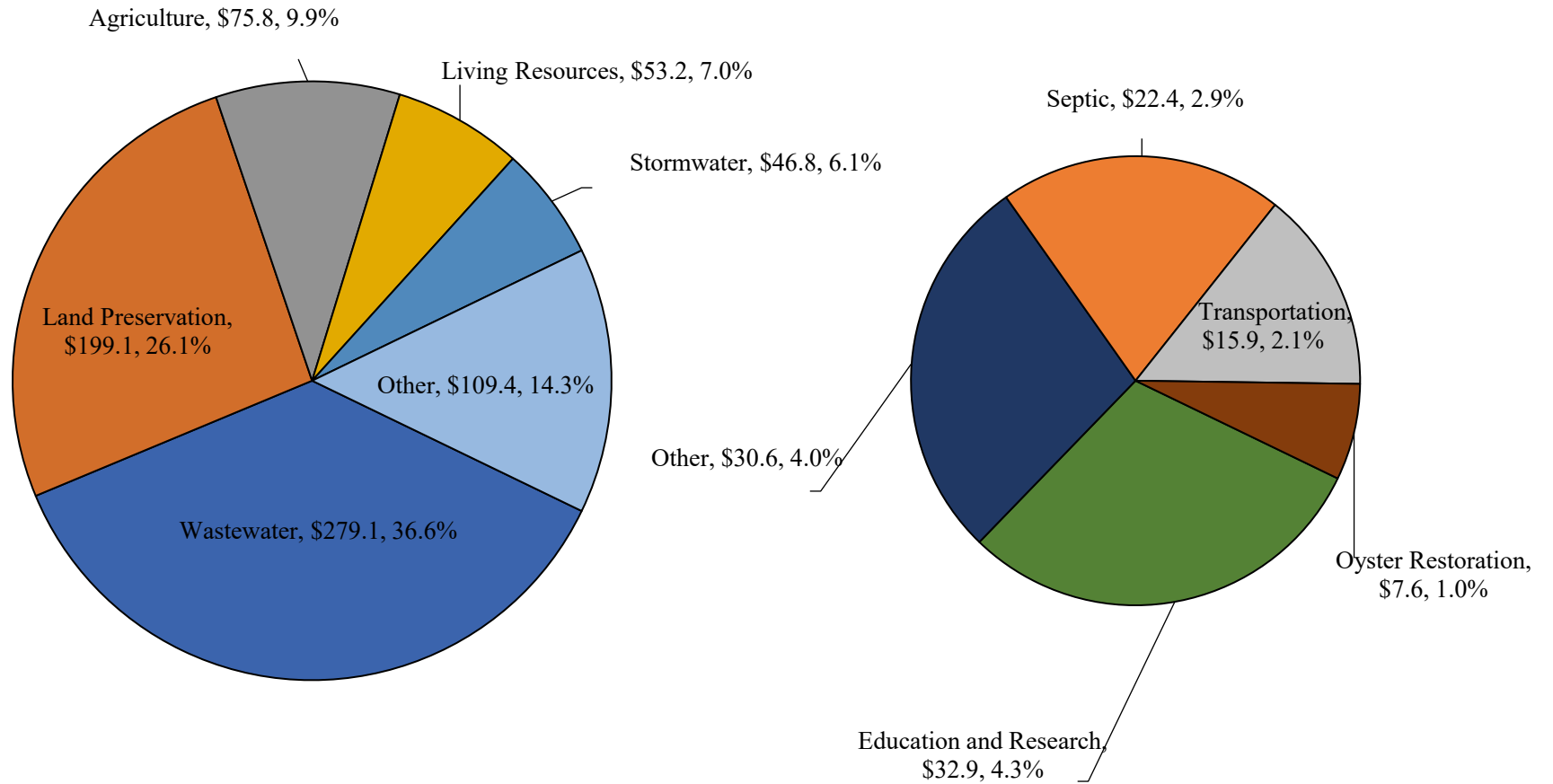
Bay Restoration Progress

The Bay Restoration Plan

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), as required under the federal Clean Water Act and in response to consent decrees in the District of Columbia and Virginia. This TMDL sets the maximum amount of nutrient and sediment pollution the bay can receive and still attain water quality standards. The TMDL also identifies specific pollution reduction requirements that must be in place by 2025, with at least 60% of the actions established by 2017.
- Maryland's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) builds on the Phase I and Phase II WIPs and details how and when the State will achieve its 2025 TMDL nutrient and sediment pollution reduction goals. The preliminary estimate of overall annual State costs of implementing the Phase III WIP was \$273 million, which excluded \$1.6 billion estimated to be paid by local governments to meet stormwater permits through 2025. The fiscal 2023 State budget funding for all Chesapeake Bay restoration activities, which includes more than nutrient and sediment pollution reduction, is \$763.5 million.
- The State's Phase III WIP incorporates a variety of strategies to comply with the TMDL, including enforcing farmer nutrient management plan compliance, upgrading failing septic systems, and retrofitting existing infrastructure with better stormwater controls.
- In the agricultural source sector, farmers are required to develop and implement nutrient management plans. While the goal is to achieve full compliance with nutrient management plans, since fiscal 2009, actual initial compliance has ranged between 61% and 74%. Expired nutrient management plans account for most violations. Compliance rates from initial on-farm audits increased from 68% to 74% between fiscal 2021 and 2022, while compliance rates from follow-up audits increased from 77% in fiscal 2021 to 79% in fiscal 2022.
- In the stormwater source sector, cumulative efforts to retrofit existing infrastructure with better stormwater controls decreased between 2009 and 2019 before increasing substantially for one year in 2020 and decreasing again through 2022. Accordingly, the State is not on track to meet its overall stormwater pollution reduction goal for 2025.
- In the septic source sector, the cumulative denitrifications and connections for septic systems in the State have slowed in recent years, with a substantial increase for one year in 2020 but decreasing again through 2022. Therefore, the State does not appear to be on track to meet its 2025 goal. However, the nitrogen load reduction estimated from the septic sector is not expected to have an appreciable impact on the State's overall ability to meet the 2025 goal.
- The State's reliance on the agricultural sector for approximately 58% of the remaining 2022-2025 nitrogen load reductions will be a challenge. In addition, the State will face the challenge of constraining growth to areas with infrastructure in order to mitigate the need for additional nutrient and sediment reductions from sprawling development and will need to maintain wastewater gains despite two large wastewater treatment plant setbacks.

Fiscal 2023 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Activities

(\$ in Millions)

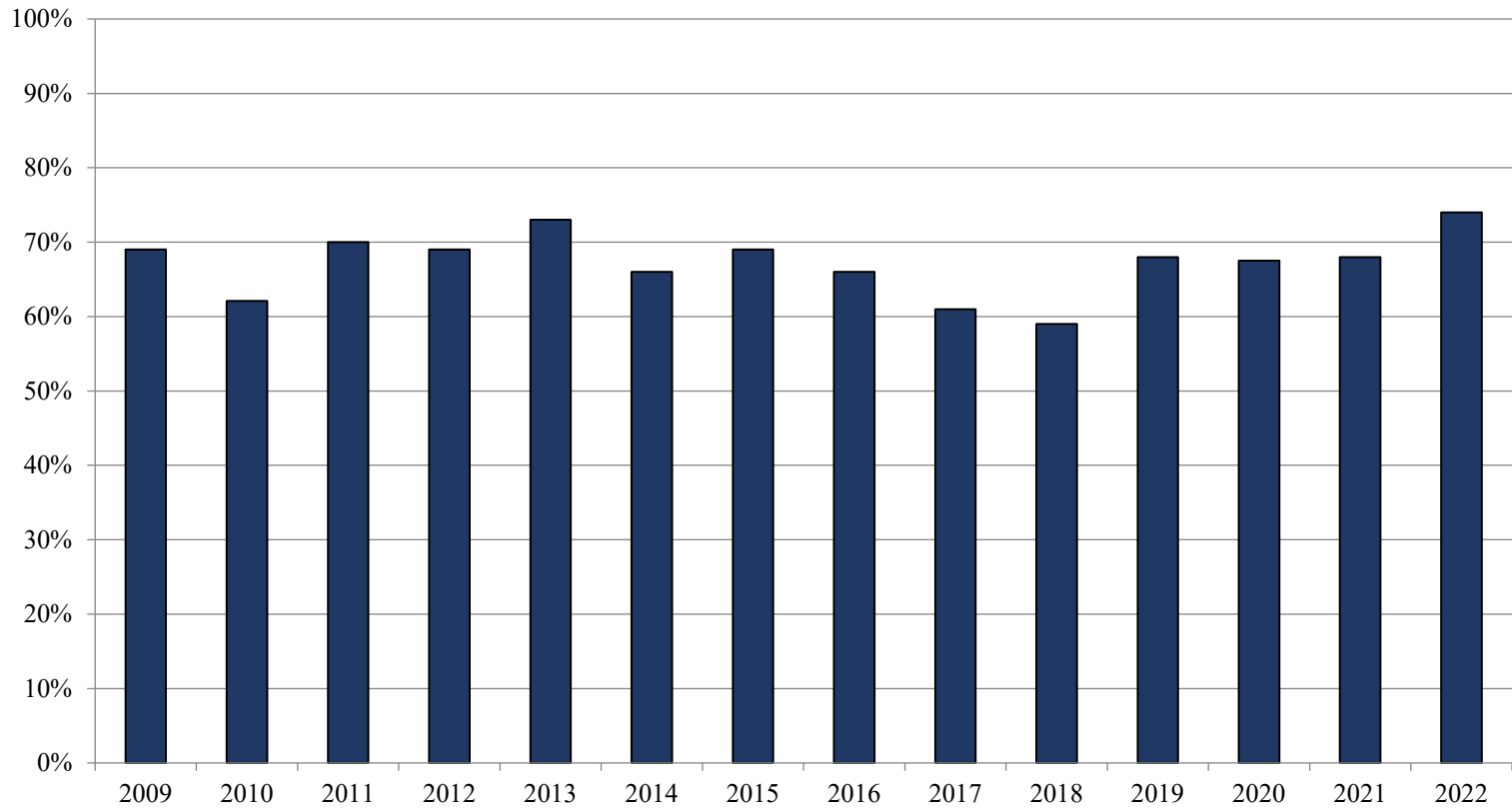


Total Funded in the State Budget – \$763.5 Million

Compliance with Initial Farm Nutrient Management Plan Audit

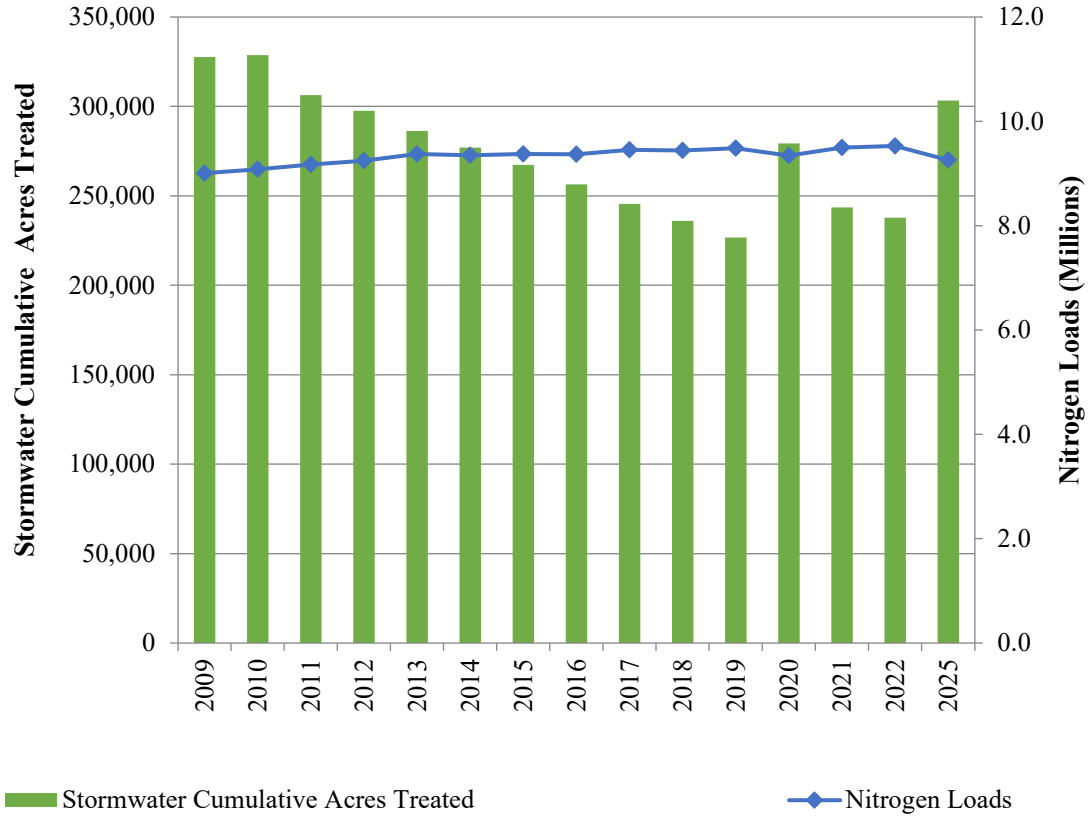
Fiscal 2009-2022

2022 Target Goal = 100% compliance

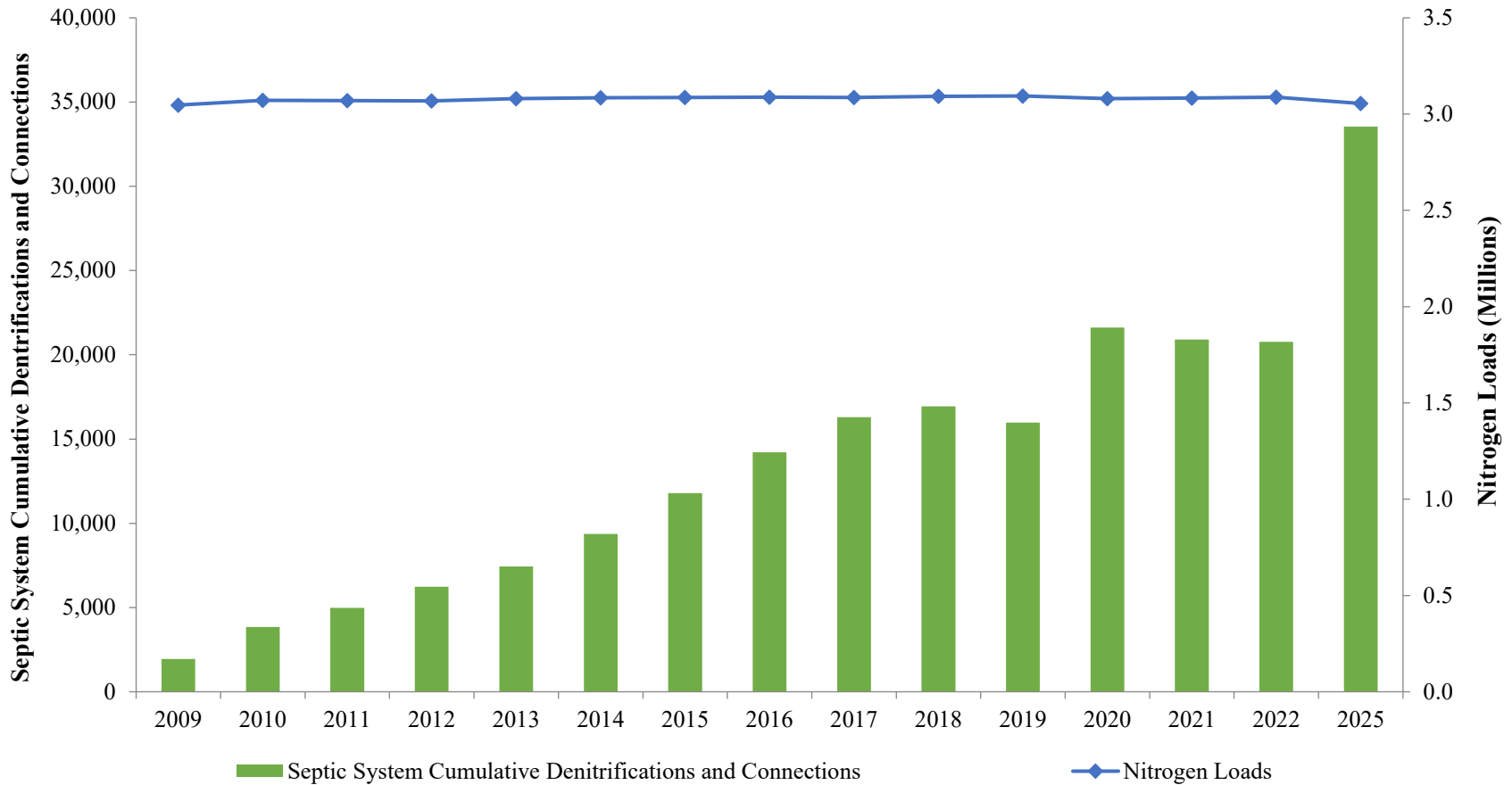


Nitrogen Pollution Reduction Due to Stormwater Management Retrofitting

Calendar 2009-2025



Septic System Pollution Reduction Due to Septic System Upgrades Calendar 2009-2025



Prepared by: Maryland Department of Legislative Services
 Source: Maryland Department of Environment; Maryland Department of Agriculture; US Environmental Protection Agency; Environmental Finance Center; Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Legislative Services

Contact Information: Andrew Gray (410-946-5530)
 Updated: December 1, 2023