



LANCASTER CLEAN WATER PARTNERS

COMMON AGENDA 2025 – 2030

A Shared 2040 Vision for Impact



A Shared Path to Clean and Clear Water by 2040

We have an important and ambitious vision for Lancaster County - clean and clear local water by 2040. Since 2017, a diverse network of partners has come together around a Common Agenda - a shared vision, clear priorities, and a coordinated plan of action to achieve it. Together, we've aligned our efforts, accelerated progress to protect and restore the county's 1,400 miles of streams, and emerged as a leading model for collaborative restoration across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Examples of our collective success include developing, funding, and implementing Lancaster's first Countywide Action Plan, launching the Watershed Leadership Academy to grow local clean water leaders, and building a strong backbone organization to coordinate and amplify the efforts of 70+ partner organizations.



This new 2025-2030 Common Agenda builds on a strong foundation of partnership, leadership, and bold action, outlining our shared priorities and strategies to deepen and scale our impact over the next five years. Developed between November 2024 and June 2025, with input from over 150 stakeholders—board members, staff, partners, and community members—this renewed roadmap sets a focused direction for our work. It includes updated priorities and strategies to guide our collaborative work from 2025–2030, clear, long-term progress indicators to track impact and a shared implementation plan to ensure every partner contributes meaningfully to achieving our 2040 vision.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2017-2025



Grew a robust network of
70+ PARTNERS
from local businesses, municipalities, higher education, state and federal agencies, and nonprofits



Developed a Countywide Action Plan (CAP) through a grassroots approach to achieve clean water goals to serve Lancaster's
558,589 PEOPLE
and everyone downstream



Raised and distributed
\$20 MILLION+
through the Lancaster Clean Water Fund for agriculture, education, restoration, and stormwater projects

Living Our Values

Underpinning our mission—to **collaborate, accelerate, and expand efforts to restore and sustain healthy waterways in Lancaster County**—are six core values that guide how we work together. These shared values are essential to collective impact, creating the trust and alignment needed for a diverse network of partners to move forward together.



1

Collaboration not duplication: We support and elevate one another to achieve greater impact together than we could alone, combining our unique strengths instead of duplicating efforts.

2

Think big – be bold: We operate with a bias toward action and innovation, driving results that build momentum for bold solutions and lasting positive change in our communities.

3

Trust: The partners have confidence in each others' abilities and share a commitment to a community-based approach that fosters accountability and trust.

4

Clean and clear water for all: Access to clean water is a fundamental right. Through collaboration, we amplify diverse voices and work to ensure equitable access for all, particularly for those who have historically been denied it.

5

Transparency: We communicate how decisions are made and operate with genuine openness and authenticity.

6

Responsive leadership: We are responsive to one another and our communities, adjusting our approach to meet evolving challenges and opportunities.

Highlight: The CAP Coordinator Team demonstrated **Responsive Leadership** by acting on the need for transparent and fast data sharing by creating the Data Dashboard. Work with state agencies, local contractors, and engineers was essential.

Highlight: East Earl Township garners **Trust** by listening to local needs before deciding on project sites, collaboratively working with landowners and partner organizations to implement stormwater runoff practices.

Our Priorities and Strategies



The four priorities in our 2025-2030 Common Agenda are what our network aims to achieve over the next five years. To reach those goals, we've outlined a set of strategies, some tied directly to individual priorities and others that are cross-cutting, meaning they influence the success of all the work we will do together. These priorities and strategies form the foundation of our collective and aligned activities from 2025 to 2030, when a reassessment is scheduled to ensure we are on track to meet our 2040 vision.

To support implementation and accountability across the network, we will use a shared implementation plan that outlines specific responsibilities for each organization and details joint efforts. The backbone staff uses a dedicated operations plan aligned with the Common Agenda to guide its unique role in coordinating and advancing the work across the network.

Strong, Connected, and Mobilized Partners:

A growing and diverse network of partners collaborating to increase impact.

- Share programs, practices, and lessons learned across the Network to strengthen alignment and accelerate shared progress
- Identify and grow the Network to include a broader range of sectors and individuals with lived experiences
- Expand existing Action Teams to connect and drive greater sector-specific impact
- Engage researchers and subject matter experts to ground our work in the latest data and science

Accelerated Implementation: Increased development and installation of projects that engage communities and improve the health of local streams.

- Continue to deploy a targeted delisting strategy through landscape scale restoration in prioritized geographies
- Build implementation and technical assistance expertise from inside and outside Lancaster
- Remove barriers to landowner participation and provide incentives for investing and maintaining clean water projects
- Provide guidance and ongoing support for site-specific implementation of best practices

Collective Advocacy: A powerful voice for clean water to advance federal, state and local policies and processes that support implementation.

- Identify and prioritize high-impact policy and process improvements
- Enhance partner communication and education on water quality regulatory standards
- Build collaborative relationships with and among regulating agencies to improve efficiencies
- Equip partners with tools, resources and opportunities to effectively engage in advocacy for restoration, one another, and the Network

Amplified Engagement: Broadened and enhanced involvement of community members in local clean water efforts.

- Analyze existing activities and audiences to identify gaps and opportunities to increase and expand community engagement across the county
- Provide tools and training to help partners meaningfully connect with new and diverse constituents and communities

Cross-Cutting Strategies (These apply to and advance all of the Priorities)

- Innovate to enable new and scalable solutions
- Enhance shared infrastructure to improve data gathering, analysis and reporting to communicate impact, including BMP implementation and water quality trends by watershed, inform decisions and drive action
- Acquire and deploy collaborative funding at the scale needed to achieve the priorities of the Common Agenda
- Enhance and provide continuous marketing and storytelling to amplify clean water initiatives

How We Will Measure Success in 2040



Our priorities and strategies outline how we will unite our efforts and maximize our impact to ensure we meet our 2040 vision for clean, clear local water.

RESULT:

Clean and Clear Water in Lancaster by 2040



“It is beautiful and amazing to me that [success] is common talk now and the diverse groups and plans have come to work together.”

— Partner

Water Quality

- 20 streams changed from impaired to supporting aquatic life
- Positive trends at monitoring sites:
 - Decreased nutrient and sediment loading
 - Less salt
 - Lower temperature
 - Higher dissolved oxygen in tributaries
 - Improved macroinvertebrate scores.

Land Management

- 600 acres of high-quality wetlands restored and/or floodplains reconnected
- 90% of farms implementing effective runoff reduction practices
- 75% of streams buffered, stabilized and/or restored
- 15% increase in tree canopy
- 30% of the county is permanently protected lands
- 60% of developed land treated by stormwater management practices

Engagement and Capacity

- 75% of Lancaster residents accurately aware of clean water issues in the county
- 50% of people taking action for clean water
- \$25M per year for the restoration and protection of Lancaster’s waterways
- A connected and growing network of 200+ active partners reflecting the diversity of Lancaster County

For more detail on data sources, definitions, and how progress is measured, visit the “Definitions and Sources” document on our website.

Acknowledgements

We are incredibly grateful to the many individuals and organizations who contributed to shaping this renewed Common Agenda. Their invaluable input and collaborative spirit were essential in defining our path forward.

The asterisk () next to some individuals' names indicates that they hold multiple roles.*

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In addition to the participants listed above, our process included interviews with diverse leadership teams and individuals from nonprofits, academia, business, and local governments. More than 100 partners participated in a meeting on April 29, 2025, and numerous other stakeholders engaged in listening sessions and community discussions. We truly appreciate everyone's time, thoughtfulness, and valuable feedback.

This document reflects the network's voice and a collaborative commitment to working together towards 2040. We invite you to join this powerful movement for clean and clear water in Lancaster County.

