



# Future Challenges

FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR CHESAPEAKE BAY GOALS

Anna Killius  
Executive Director  
Chesapeake Bay Commission



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# About the Chesapeake Bay Commission



## TRI-STATE LEGISLATIVE BODY

- Codified by General Assemblies of MD, VA, and PA in the 1980s
- Signatory to each Bay Agreement
- Legislative voice within the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Advise General Assemblies and US Congress
- Translate science and local issues into policy

## 7 MEMBERS FROM EACH STATE

2 State Senators

3 House Members

1 Gubernatorial Designee

1 Citizen Representative

# Water Quality Implementation Plans

49%

Nitrogen pollution  
reduction goal  
achieved by 2021

0%

Percent of total  
nitrogen reductions  
achieved by the  
Developed sector

60%

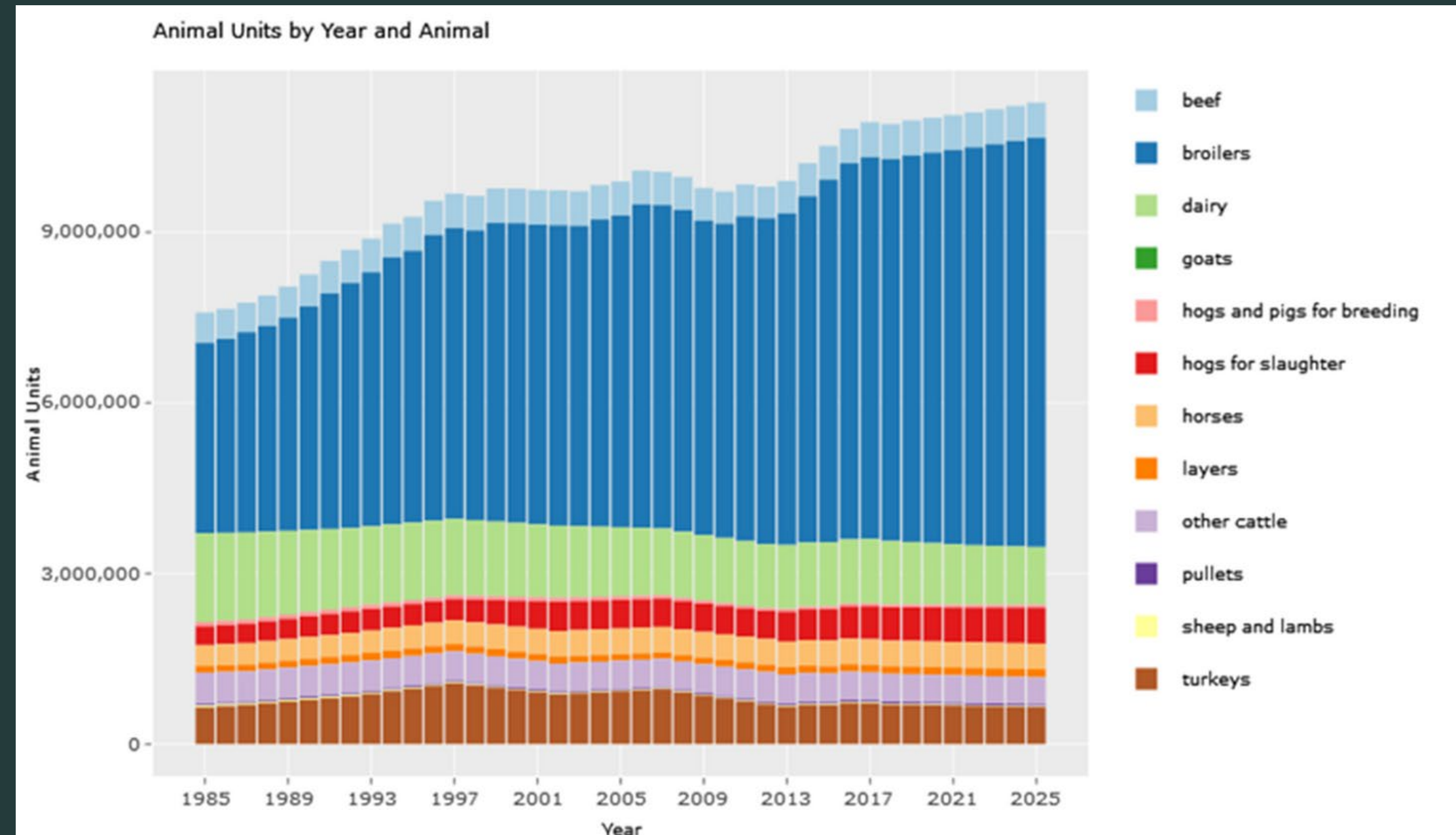
Percent of total nitrogen  
reductions achieved by  
Wastewater



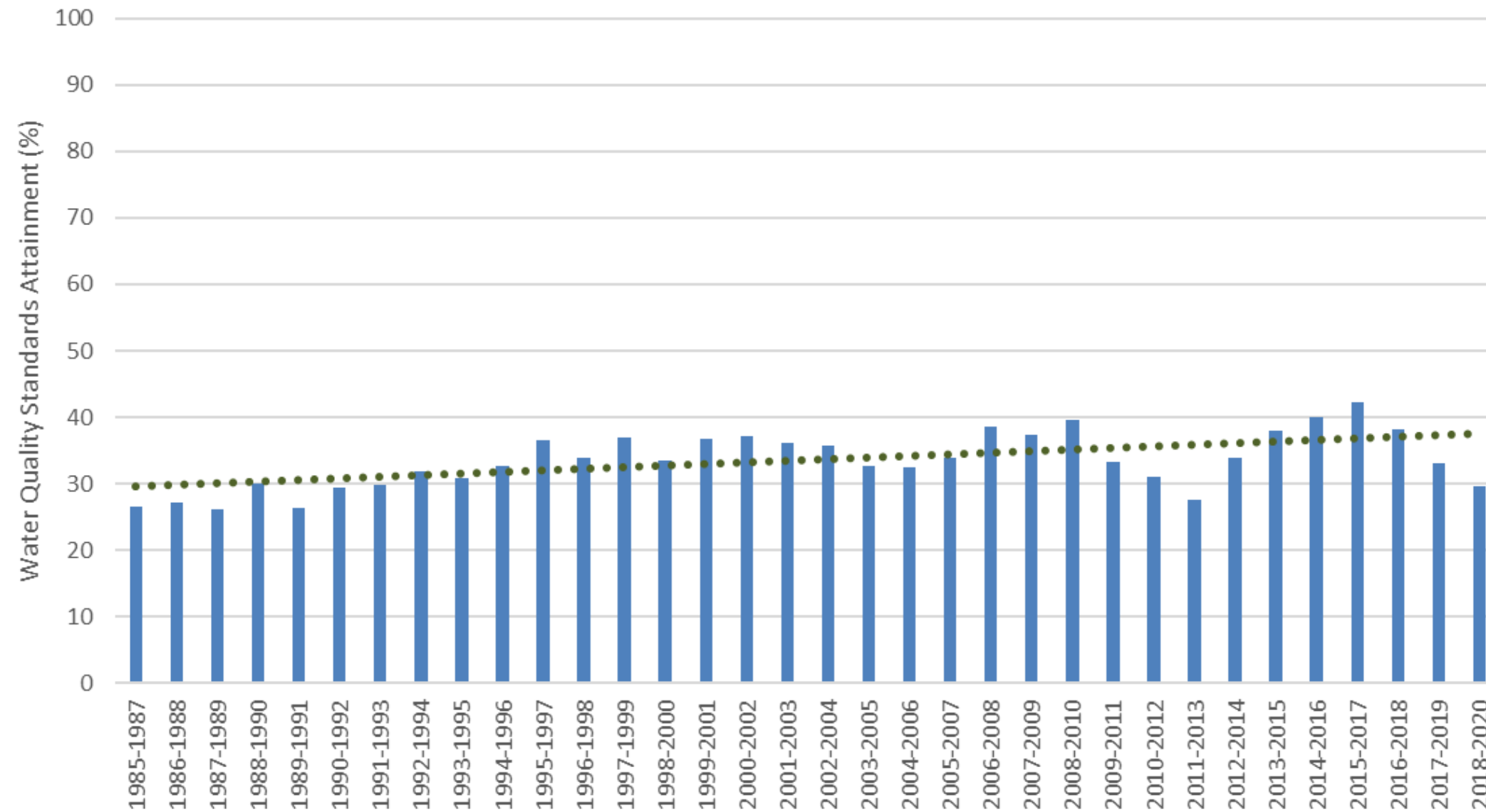


# Agriculture

According to the Phase III WIPs,  
85 % of remaining pollution reductions  
will come from agriculture sector --  
even as more production is concentrated  
on fewer acres.



Achievement of Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards 1985-2020



# Water Quality Response

Only 29% of tidal waters have attained water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV and chlorophyll a -- up from 26% in 1985 but down from an all-time high of 42%.

"...clean water,  
abundant life,  
conserved lands,  
and access to the  
water, a vibrant  
cultural heritage  
and a diversity of  
engaged  
stakeholders."

- Chesapeake Bay Program  
Vision

10

Goals

31

Outcomes

14

Outcomes Completed  
or On Course

17

Outcomes Uncertain  
or Off Course





# Advancing an Ecosystem and all its services

Greater recognition of how our goals and outcomes relate to each other and to the beneficial use of our watershed's natural resources will help diversify our stakeholders and our resources, empowering local action watershed -wide.





# Fisheries

"[Blue Crab] fishery exploitation rates have been low, but both adult abundance and recruitment have not increased consistently as expected. This apparent disconnect between the spawning stock, recruitment, and fishery performance indicates a clear and pressing need to reevaluate the stock assessment model."

-2022 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab  
Advisory Report



# Forests and Tree Canopy

190,557  
acres

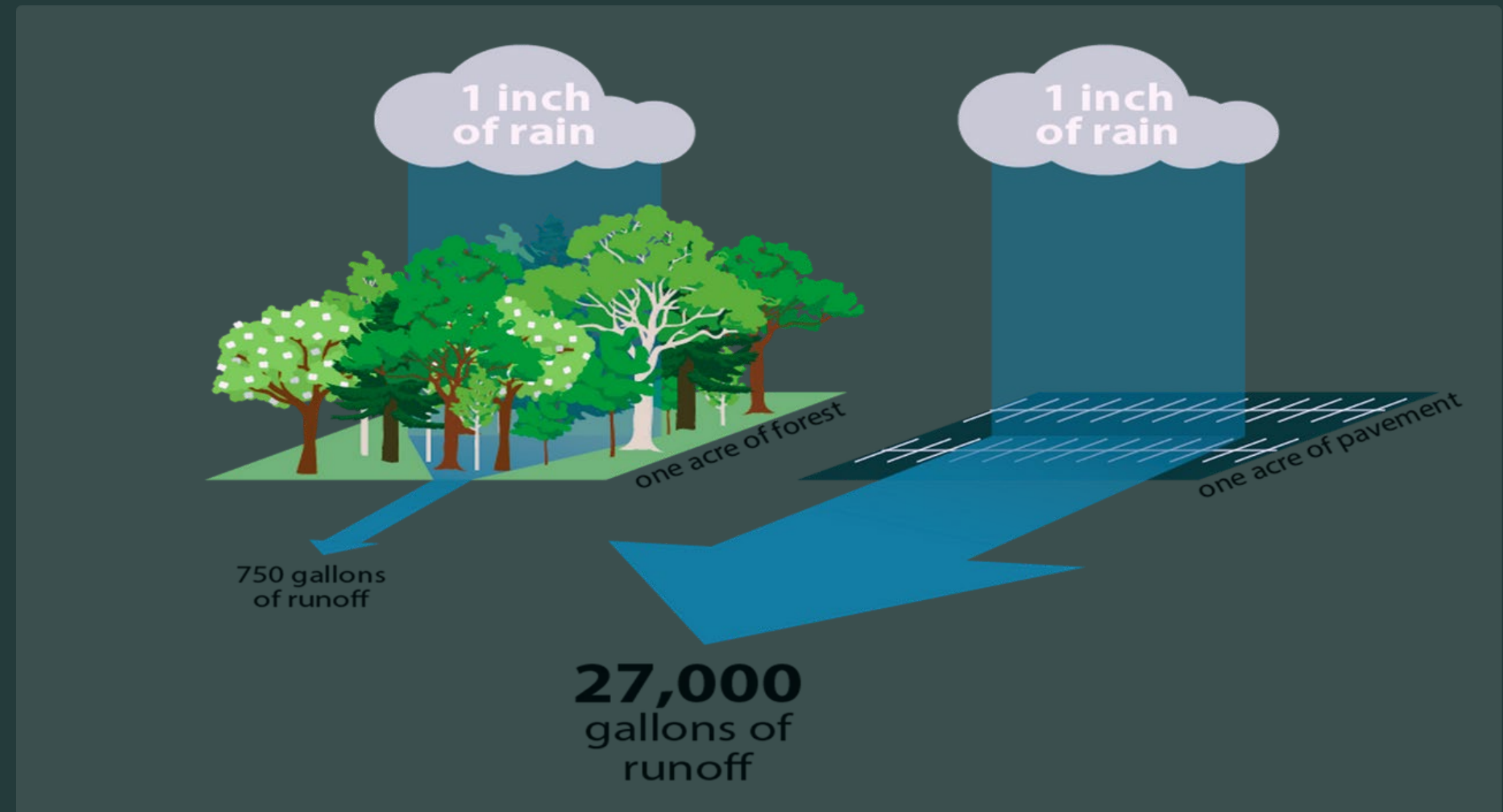
Cumulative forest buffer  
implementation planned  
by 2025

20%

Forest buffer  
progress by 2021

25,000  
acres

Net loss in Urban Tree  
Canopy Cover between  
2013/14 and 2017/18



Green Fin Studio for Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium

# Climate Change

Understanding how our changing projections of rainfall, sea levels, and temperatures will impact runoff rates, freshwater flows, habitat loss and species response.

Helping communities mitigate the impacts to their homes, their livelihoods, and their culturally-significant spaces.



High tide flooding in Annapolis  
Source: WTOP news



Chesapeake Bay Conference, Dec. 8, 1983  
Chesapeake Bay Program photo archives



# Thank you

Anna Killius  
[akillius@chesbay.org](mailto:akillius@chesbay.org)