



The Town of Cottage City
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May 13, 2026

Whitney Vong
Senior Program Officer
Chesapeake Bay Trust
108 Severn Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403

Re: Letter of Support for University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center; FY 27 Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

Dear Ms. Vong,

The Town of Cottage City is pleased to submit this letter of support for the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC)'s proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant to expand the Prince George's County Climate Stewards Academy (CSA).

EFC developed CSA as a residential program to train community members on best practices to implement climate adaptation and resilience efforts. Expanding upon the CSA framework to include a cohort for municipal leaders offers an important opportunity to build municipal capacity to accelerate climate action planning and implementation. Training for our municipal staff and elected officials will help our leadership better understand and address climate change, specifically as it relates to advancing the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Plan commits County leadership to implement policies, programs and strategies to meet the challenge of global climate change as it impacts our communities.

The Town of Cottage City has already taken steps to address climate action, including efforts to improve energy efficiency in municipal buildings, participation in regional sustainability initiatives, stormwater management improvements, and community clean-up and beautification programs that support environmental health. The Town has also begun exploring opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and increase tree canopy coverage to mitigate urban heat and improve air quality.

We are also facing challenges such as limited financial and staffing resources to implement large-scale sustainability projects, aging infrastructure that is vulnerable to flooding and extreme weather events, and the need for more comprehensive data and planning tools to guide climate resilience efforts. Additionally, there is a need to strengthen community engagement and education around climate impacts, as well as to coordinate efforts with neighboring jurisdictions to address shared environmental concerns.

The opportunity to participate in a municipal cohort of CSA would help us address community priorities by developing a climate action work plan and providing our team with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions and develop practical solutions that can be carried forward in our community.

We look forward to working with EFC's Climate Stewards Academy to support climate action in communities throughout the region. Your consideration is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wanda Wheatley
Commissioner, Ward 3
Town of Cottage City

Cc: Cottage City Commission
Town Manager

