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.
**Certification Development & Piloting Timeline**

2014-15

- Hire CBLP Coordinator
- Convene Workgroups
- Develop Certification Structure & Exam
- Develop Training Curriculum & Pilots
- Establish Self-Financing Business Model

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