



A resident of Tylerton, located on Smith Island, Maryland, walks down a flooded street during an exceptionally high tide that was caused by a nor'easter that buffeted the Chesapeake Bay. The flooded structure in the background had been decaying for years due to neglect, not specifically because of the storm in the photo. © Dave Harp

Change is Here

A campaign to tackle climate change and protect clean water

Climate change isn't a distant threat—it's happening now. In the United States and all around the world, we are seeing the impacts: the accelerated melting of our polar ice caps, deadly heat waves, catastrophic droughts and wildfires, and more frequent and intense storms hitting our coasts—just to name a few symptoms. The good news is that nature can help. To match the urgency of this crisis, The Nature Conservancy—including the Maryland/DC chapter—has prioritized innovative solutions that maximize nature's ability to fight climate change while bolstering resilience for our most precious ecosystems and vulnerable communities.

In 2018, the Maryland/DC chapter launched an ambitious, five-year capital campaign to finance a science-based strategic plan to tackle climate change and protect clean water for the

Chesapeake Bay—two conservation priorities where we know our local actions will have the greatest regional and global impacts. The “Change is Here” five-year, \$70-million capital campaign is now more than halfway complete,



Tim Purinton © TNC

and—thanks to the generous support of some of our most committed donors—I'm thrilled to announce that we have reached nearly 70 percent of our goal.

Support for the Change is Here campaign takes many forms and comes from a

diverse group of supporters including individuals, families, volunteers, foundations, corporations, government agencies and more. Now that we are taking the campaign public, we look forward to expanding our base of support to include an even broader audience so that—together—we can drive the change that we want to see in the world. As we look ahead at the work we have left to accomplish over the next two years, it's critical that we reach our private and membership fundraising goals so that we can continue to use those funds to leverage public dollars and impact investments. It's the combination of these funding sources that allows us to have the outsized impact for which TNC is known. Together with supporters like you, we will work with global colleagues to ensure that our legacy is one of action.

—Tim Purinton, Executive Director

Together, We Drive Change

Inclusion and collaboration lead to planet-size solutions

The Nature Conservancy has a long history of working across aisles, across sectors and across borders. The partnerships that are created as a result of that inclusive philosophy lead to large-scale impact, including the way we finance our work. Conservation at scale needs funding at scale, and TNC is well-known for our ability to combine, match and blend funds from a variety of sources to achieve the scale needed to finance our ambitious conservation agenda.

The Maryland/DC chapter's "Change is Here" capital campaign has been supported by a wide range of conservationists. From corporations to private foundations to members and volunteers, each form of support is critical—and when combined, they all add up to make a transformative impact on our region and on the planet. For example:



Lockheed Martin Corporation, headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, recently awarded a \$2 million donation to the Maryland/DC chapter's work around climate adaptation for vulnerable coastal communities and ecosystems. Among other things, Lockheed Martin's grant will support TNC staff who are working with the DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program to protect up to 4,000 acres of habitat in the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape—home to one of the Navy's premier aircraft testing locations, which has also been identified by TNC science as one of the most climate-resilient and biodiverse landscapes in the region.

investments in green infrastructure improvements that will help reduce stormwater runoff pollution and flooding, and will improve climate resilience for coastal communities that are already being impacted by sea-level rise.



Courtesy of Kent Mason

Silver Spring-based photographer and conservationist Kent Mason has supported TNC for more than a decade through his photography. In support of the Maryland/DC chapter's "Change is Here" campaign, Kent has taken several custom photography assignments to support visual communications around the chapter's conservation priorities. Kent's stunning photography brings TNC's mission to life. TNC members in Maryland and D.C. provide a critical stream of revenue that

goes to support the behind-the-scenes operations of the chapter. Members are the heroes at the heart of our conservation and advocacy work and are kept informed of how their support is making an impact through membership communications.

TNC volunteers in Maryland and D.C. also play an important role by rolling up their sleeves and helping with trash cleanups, tree-plantings, political advocacy and more.



A MOM's Organic Market employee and TNC volunteer helps pick up trash during a 2019 Earth Day clean-up.
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Thank you to all of our supporters. Together, we drive the change that the planet needs. With your continued support, we will create a world where people and nature thrive together.



The France-Merrick Foundation, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, awarded a grant to the Maryland/DC chapter that led to the creation of a new urban conservation program in Baltimore. TNC's new Baltimore program will help establish citywide