

6-month Post-Academy Interview Protocol

Thank you for your participation in the Crisfield Resilience Academy, and agreeing to conduct this follow-up interview. The information you share will help us determine the effectiveness of the program and improve future programs. The interview should take about 45 minutes. Your responses are confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside the program team. Any reports that we prepare about these survey results will not include your name or identifying information. You are free to not answer any question you do not wish to answer or to discontinue at any time. If you have any questions about the survey or the program please contact Jenna Hartley at hartley.jenna@epa.gov. We greatly appreciate your participation and support of this program!

Burden Statement:

This collection of information is approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq. (OMB Control No. 2030-0051). Responses to this collection of information are voluntary. This research is conducted to support efforts to restore living resources in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 117, 33 USC Section 1267. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to range from 5-10 minutes per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden to the Regulatory Support Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2821T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.

1. Can you describe your overall experience in the *Crisfield Resilience Academy*? What were the highlights for you?
2. How has your participation in the academy influenced your understanding of environmental challenges and their implications for your community?
 - a. *Probing question:* Can you provide examples of how the academy has increased your awareness of nature-based solutions and green infrastructure in addressing environmental challenges, particularly in coastal communities?
3. In what ways has the academy helped you develop or enhance your leadership skills in addressing environmental issues?
4. How has the academy contributed to your understanding of how environmental policy and governance affects change?
5. Please share any specific instances where the academy has empowered you to advocate for environmental causes or engage with stakeholders and communities.
6. How do you envision applying the knowledge, skills, and insights gained from the academy in your personal or professional life moving forward?
7. How do you perceive the impact of the academy on building community capacity to address environmental issues?
 - a. *Probing question:* Have you observed any changes in your community as a result?
8. Can you describe any specific community engagement or collaborative initiatives that have emerged from your participation in the academy?

- a. *Probing question:* What role did you play in these initiatives?
9. Looking ahead, what do you believe are the key factors for sustaining and expanding the impact of the academy in empowering individuals and communities to lead environmental change?