

**ACES 2014 Tuesday Evening Town Hall
December 9, 2014 | 5:45pm-6:50pm | Grand Ballroom Salons F-G**

Title: *Federal Coordination in the Chesapeake Bay—Reducing Complexity in Water Quality Trading*

Description:

The Chesapeake Bay watershed represents one of the largest, most comprehensive efforts to establish water quality trading markets in the country. Water quality trading has the potential to save millions of dollars in meeting water quality goals-- but there are costs associated with establishing, running, and maintaining a water quality trading program. Setting effective policies can alleviate some of this burden; however, establishing efficient trading programs requires coordination between state and federal governments, and among federal agencies.

This Town Hall will outline challenges to establishing environmental markets, focusing on ways the federal government is coordinating to identify solutions. Town Hall Participants represent the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Markets Team, a group of twelve federal agencies tasked with improving effectiveness and efficiency of environmental markets in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Participants will provide insight drawing on their experiences with ecosystem services and environmental markets in the Chesapeake Bay.

This Town Hall will serve a venue to:

- Engage federal leadership on current coordination in the Chesapeake Bay regarding water quality trading
- Provide feedback and lessons learned on water quality trading development
- Discuss ways the federal government can continue to facilitate the development of water quality trading markets
- Learn how to engage in water quality trading efforts in the Chesapeake Bay