

## What is the Cecil Soil Conservation District?

The mission of the Cecil Soil Conservation District is to provide information, technical assistance, and education in conserving the county's natural resources. The District plays a critical role in preventing soil loss and promoting water quality to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

When the District was established on June 26, 1945, agriculture was the dominant land use in Cecil County, as it was in most of America. Today, Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plans are developed for individual farms that inventory natural resources, list soil erosion and water quality problems, and identify practices that would help solve pollution problems and improve soil, water, and air quality. This facilitates the requirements for the Critical Area law, agricultural preservation participants, and USDA Program compliance.

Cecil Soil Conservation District was organized under the laws of the State of Maryland and is a separate legal subdivision of the State. The District includes all of Cecil County and is governed by a Board of Supervisors. The District is responsible for natural resource conservation programs in Cecil County.

Each year the Cecil Soil Conservation District sponsors and coordinates the Cecil County Envirothon. The Envirothon is a series of environmental competitions in which teams of high school students solve real-life, interactive environmental problems in a natural setting. The students compete in five topics: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, and a current environmental issue. Cecil schools compete every May to earn a place in the Maryland competition. The State winners advance to the International Canon Envirothon Competition. To learn more about the Envirothon or to view competition results visit <https://www.cecilscd.com/education-outreach>

The District reviews and approves erosion and sediment control plans that developers, by law, must submit in order to obtain a grading permit from the County. Activities requiring a plan include clearing, grading, forest harvest, and other soil disturbances. Practices outlined on the plan work to minimize the disturbed soil flowing from a site and decrease sediment's impact on our waterways or environmentally sensitive areas.

For more than half a century, the District has worked to encourage landowners to see themselves as stewards of the land, with a responsibility to pass their property on to future generations in a better state than when the land was received. Please visit <http://cecilscd.com> for more information on natural resource education and programs including camps, scholarships, competitions and conservation information for all ages.