

## LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

### Incorporate CCMP goals and actions in local government comprehensive plans, land development regulations or ordinances



#### OBJECTIVES:

Encourage local government stakeholders to identify and prioritize goals and actions from Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) that relate to their own efforts. Demonstrate links between CCMP goals and actions to the most appropriate elements of local government comprehensive plans, land development regulations, code of ordinances or other guidance documents. Provide model language based on CCMP goals and actions that can be adopted or adapted by TBEP local government partners in their planning and guidance documents.

#### STATUS:

New Action

#### RELATED ACTIONS:

*All CCMP Actions*

#### BACKGROUND:

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) first adopted a science-based Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Tampa Bay in 1997. Major updates were completed in 2006 and 2017. The CCMP presents strategies for addressing water and sediment quality, bay habitats, fish and wildlife, dredging, spill prevention and response, invasive species, climate change and public involvement, access and education throughout the bay watershed.

At left: Davis Island Boat Basin in Tampa. Photo by Nanette O'Hara.

Local government and regulatory partners of TBEP have formally committed to implementing CCMP goals through adoption of an Interlocal Agreement. The Agreement, the first of its kind among the nation's 28 National Estuary Programs, represents a pledge by TBEP's partners to work together to accomplish CCMP goals and actions.

Through the Interlocal Agreement, TBEP and its partners have made significant, measurable progress in restoring and protecting Tampa Bay. Many local government partners already have adopted goals, objectives and policies consistent with the CCMP as part of their local comprehensive plan. Some have adopted ordinances that address specific actions, such as restricting urban fertilizer use.

While comprehensive plans are critical big-picture blueprints that set the direction for a community's growth, a diverse suite of tools — including land development regulations, guidance manuals and codes of ordinances — are vital to implementing the broader vision. Enhanced bay restoration and protection could be achieved by incorporating CCMP goals and actions directly into these existing planning tools. For example, TBEP's habitat restoration targets could be



Tampa is the largest city in the 4-county Tampa Bay watershed.

formally adopted in conservation and coastal management elements of local comprehensive plans, and supported by specific regulations. This would support acquisition and restoration of critical coastal habitats, as well as policies for adaptation and/or mitigation of climate change impacts. Similarly, CCMP actions to reduce vehicular pollution and greenhouse gases could be incorporated into policies to diversify public transit options.

The 2017 CCMP Update provides multiple additional areas in which concrete, actionable guidance could be incorporated into both comprehensive plans and land development regulations, such as expanding the use of Green Infrastructure (see *Action SW-10*) or non-structural "Living Shorelines" (see *Action BH-6*) instead of hardened seawalls.

In 2016, TBEP contracted with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) to provide guidance to local governments on how to incorporate elements of the CCMP into existing



Tampa Bay is a diverse region, with a unique history that includes the Florida Maritime Heritage community of Cortez in Manatee County. Photo by Nanette O'Hara.

planning tools. The resulting *Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan – Local Government Comprehensive Plan Crosswalk Project* aims to 1) prioritize CCMP goals and actions suitable for inclusion in local government comprehensive plans, land development regulations or other guidance documents, 2) identify relevant elements, goals, objectives and policies in local government regulatory frameworks to serve as the most appropriate vehicle for incorporating CCMP priority goals and actions, and 3) provide model language based on CCMP goals and actions for local government consideration.

The Crosswalk Project will share final recommendations and model language with local government officials, planners and resource managers at a regional workshop in 2018. Ongoing technical assistance will be provided to local governments as they consider adapting and adopting these recommendations in their comprehensive plans, land development regulations and other guidance documents.

**STRATEGY:**

**Activity 1** Engage local government stakeholders to identify and prioritize CCMP goals and actions and create a matrix that relates those goals and actions to the most appropriate elements of local government comprehensive plans, land development regulations or other guidance documents.

**Responsible parties:** TBRPC (lead), TBEP, local government partners (Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee and Pasco counties and the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater)

**Timeframe:** 2017

**Cost and potential funding sources:** \$\$ TBEP, TBRPC

**Location:** Baywide

**Benefit/Performance measure:** Coordination and facilitation of incorporation of CCMP goals and actions in local government comprehensive plans, land development regulations or other guidance documents.

**Results:** Improved coordination and implementation of CCMP goals and actions by local government partners to restore and protect Tampa Bay Area natural resources.

**Deliverables:** Stakeholder meetings providing directed technical assistance to local governments and professional planners regarding strategies to integrate relevant goals and actions of the CCMP into comprehensive plans, land development codes or other guidance documents. A matrix of actions and goals from the CCMP cross-referenced with the appropriate elements, goals, objectives and policies of local government comprehensive plans.

**Activity 2**

Recommend model language, based on CCMP goals and actions, that can be adopted or adapted by TBEP local government partners in their comprehensive plans, land development regulations or other guidance documents.

**Responsible parties:** TBRPC (lead), TBEP, local government partners (Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee and Pasco Counties and the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater)

**Timeframe:** 2018

**Cost and potential funding sources:** No additional cost, staff time only

**Location:** Baywide



TBEP's Board meetings provide a forum for regional collaboration to advance bay improvement.

**Benefit/Performance measure:** Coordination and facilitation to incorporate CCMP goals and actions in local government comprehensive plans, land development regulations or other guidance documents. Number of model goals, objectives and policies (GOPs) developed for consideration by local governments. Number of model GOPs incorporated into comprehensive plans, land development codes or other guidance documents. Number of participating local government partners.

**Results:** Improved coordination and implementation of CCMP goals and actions by local government partners to restore and protect Tampa Bay Area natural resources.

**Deliverables:** Stakeholder meeting to review Crosswalk Project and draft model language. Report summarizing project process, Crosswalk Project and model language recommendations. Presentations to TBEP Management and Policy Boards.

**Activity 3**

Conduct a regional workshop to provide technical assistance to local governments and professional planners regarding strategies to incorporate relevant portions of the CCMP into comprehensive plans, land development codes or other guidance documents.

**Responsible parties:** TBRPC (lead), TBEP, local government and agency partners

**Timeframe:** 2018

**Cost and potential funding sources:** \$ CWA  
Section 320 funds

**Location:** Baywide

**Benefit/Performance measure:** Number of representatives of TBEP partner agencies and organizations participating. Number of CCMP goals, objectives and policies subsequently adopted as part of local government/agency planning tools and regulatory frameworks.

**Results:** Enhanced protection and restoration of bay habitats and water quality.

**Deliverables:** Report summarizing workshop, including matrix of goals and actions and suggested model language.