

# THE COMMON GOOD



**A**t this writing, members of my cabinet and I continue to work closely with members of Maryland's General Assembly to adjust our State's budget in the face of the nation's ongoing economic crisis and declining revenue estimates here at home.

Yet even as we make these increasingly painful, albeit necessary decisions that are impacting programming and services across our State, our unwavering commitment to managing and preserving our natural resources stands firm. While it is true that our dollars are few and our needs are many, we cannot lose sight of the fact that our planet is what sustains us, and that healthy, productive natural resources will be vital to the recovery of our economy.

There are many tangible cost benefits of conservation. By choosing to grow greener, smarter and more sustainably, we are increasing opportunities for green jobs, preserving our most valuable resource lands, and making available smarter housing and transportation choices that are helping us reduce our energy usage and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Current fiscal conditions mandate that we strategically invest our limited resources to receive the highest rate of return on our collective investment. Working together, we began making changes to the way we focus our natural resource investments just over two years ago. Today, targeting and tracking systems like BayStat and GreenPrint are providing decision-makers and citizens with up-to-date information on where and how our dollars are being spent and what kind of return we're getting for our money.

By maintaining our commitment to a Smart, Green & Growing Maryland, together we can create a future where our citizens live in cleaner, healthier and more vibrant communities; where resource-based economies flourish; and where green technologies have injected new resources into our economy, our homes and our methods of transportation.

Even as we make the decisions needed to carry us through this fiscal storm, we cannot abandon our efforts to create a smarter, greener and more sustainable future or our responsibility to Maryland's fragile, finite resources.

Martin O'Malley  
Governor



Please visit our new website: [www.green.maryland.gov](http://www.green.maryland.gov) to experience **GREENPRINT** and learn more about Maryland's Smart, Green & Growing initiatives.