

**ATTENTION OWNER OCCUPIED PROPERTIES
OWNERS:
YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR AN FINANCIAL
HARDSHIP EXEMPTION FROM PAYING THE
STATE OF MARYLAND'S BAY RESTORATION
FEE (BRF)**

Bay Restoration Fund Facts

In the 2004 the State of Maryland took a major step to protect our waterways through the enactment of the Bay Restoration Fund (Senate Bill-320). The purpose of the bill was to create a dedicated fund to improve the environment and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. Through an environmental surcharge fee, this fund is used to upgrade wastewater treatment plants, upgrade septic systems in the critical area, and implement cover crops on agricultural land. Approximate annual fee to the user \$30.00. SB320 also required all Municipalities to bill all properties through their utility billing and transmit the funds to the State.

During the 2012 State of Maryland Legislative Session, came the adoption of Senate Bill 240, doubling the BRF. Effective July 1, 2012, the BRF was doubled for all property owners. For most the fee is now \$60.00 a year. The Town of Denton began billing the new fees on the Utility Bills issued on Oct. 1, 2012, (for the July 1, 2012 –Sept. 30, 2012 billing cycle).

Single Family Residential Home Owners - saw a quarterly increase from \$7.50 per quarter to \$15.00 per quarter, annual increase from \$30.00 to \$60.00.

Non-Residential/Commercial Owners – the BRF is based on the number of EDU's and the total average daily water consumption. Minimum BRF will be \$15.00 per quarter/\$60.00 for a year.

BRF Exemption Plan - Most recently with the implementation of House Bill #446, a bill also adopted during the 2012 legislative session, in which Municipalities are now required to establish a BRF Exemption Plan.

As a result on February 7, 2013, The Denton Town Council took action,

adopting Resolution #778, establishing a BRF Exemption Plan and application. If you own property within the Denton Town limits and it is your primary place of residence visit www.dentonmaryland.com to read more about the BRF Exemption plan to see if you qualify for an exemption from paying the State of Maryland's Bay Restoration Fee. If you do not have access to a computer, stop by the Denton Town Office at 13 N. Third St. or call 410-479-2050 to pick up a copy of the new plan to see if you qualify.

For additional information about the State of Maryland Bay Restoration Fund visit the Maryland Department of the Environment website at: www.mde.state.md.us.

**TOWN OF DENTON
BAY RESTORATION FUND EXEMPTION PROCEDURE**

The Town of Denton has established a program to exempt certain owner occupied residential properties from the Bay Restoration Fee based on substantial financial hardship. In order to qualify for this exemption, the applicant must meet at least **(2) two** of the following criteria:

PROPOSED FINANCIAL HARDSHIP EXEMPTION CRITERIA:

Factors to be considered for possible exemption are the following:

- Receiving energy assistance subsidy;
- Receiving public assistance – supplemental security income (SSI) or food stamps;
- Receiving veterans or social security disability benefits;
- Meeting the income criteria below:

**Income Eligibility Limits*
Effective July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013**

<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Monthly Income Is Less than</i>
1	\$1,628.95
2	\$2,206.45
3	\$2,783.95
4	\$3,361.45
5	\$3,938.95
6	\$4,516.45
For each additional person add	\$ 577.50

* (Income limits established by the Maryland Department of Human Resources/Office of Home Energy Programs. www.dhr.state.md.us/meap/index.htm)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND FORMS:

- Complete the Bay Restoration Fee hardship exempt application form.
- Check all boxes that apply. You must check at least two (2) boxes to qualify for an exemption.
- Verification of any exemption criteria (proof of assistance, proof of income, etc.) must be presented with the completed application.
- Sign and date the form and submit it with the verification document to: Town of Denton, Attn: Clerk-Treasurer, 13 N. Third St., Denton, MD 21629.
- Renewal application shall be received by May 30th of each year.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

- Copy of tax bill.
- Proof the applicant is the owner and resides at the property – copy of energy bill.
- Copy of other documentation of receiving one of the above benefits.

EXEMPTION TIME-PERIOD:

- Maximum of one year based on fiscal year July 1st through June 30th.
- Applicant must request exemption renewal.



**TOWN OF DENTON
BAY RESTORATION FUND
EXEMPTION APPLICATION**

(Exemption Period: One year based on Fiscal Year July 1st through June 30th)

Date of Application: _____

Tax Map: _____ Parcel: _____ Lot: _____ Property Account Number: _____
(Include a Copy of Tax Bill)

Applying for Fiscal Year Ending July 1, 20 ____ to June 30, 20 ____

Name of Property Owner/Applicant : _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Address of Property: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(if different than address of property)

QUALIFYING FACTORS: (Please check all that apply. Homeowner must meet **two (2)** apply for an exemption to be granted.)

- I am receiving an energy assistance subsidy from the Department of Social Services: (Must supply current award letter as documentation.)
- I am receiving public assistance benefits such as supplemental security income (SSI) or food stamps: (Must supply benefit award letter as documentation.)
- I am receiving veterans or social security disability benefits. (Must supply benefit award letter as documentation.)
- I meet the household income criteria listed on the following page. (Must supply a copy of the tax return you filed for the prior calendar year.)

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 Bay Restoration Fund
 Exemption Application

Please check the number of individuals in your household and fill in your actual household income. Must supply proof of household's gross income received in the 30 days prior to the date you sign this application – bank statements, pay subs, etc.

<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Monthly Income is less than</i>	<i>Actual Income</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	\$1,628.95	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	\$2,206.45	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	\$2,783.95	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	\$3,361.45	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	\$3,938.95	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	\$4,516.45	_____
___ <i>additional persons</i>	<i>Add \$ 577.50 each</i>	_____

Signature of Residential Property Owner: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Note: Exemption valid for one (1) Fiscal Year which will end on June 30 of each year. Any subsequent exemptions must be reprocessed and verified by May 30 of each year. No reminder will be sent; it is up to the property owner to re-apply.

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Office Use Only

Proof of benefits attached (2): YES or NO (circle one)

Approved: _____ Date approved: _____ Expires: _____

Disapproved: _____ Reason for disapproval: _____

Reviewed by: _____ Approval Signature: _____