



## Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption Program

Beginning on July 1, 2013, certain Talbot County taxpayers may be eligible for a Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption. These taxpayers must be billed the Fee either on the Real Property Tax bill or on a Talbot County Sanitary District (sewer) bill. Eligibility is based on the following criteria:

- Property must be owner occupied
- Property owner must be receiving the Homeowner's Property Tax Credit
- The applicant also must meet one additional condition:
  - Receiving energy assistance subsidy
  - Receiving food stamps
  - Receiving Social Security Insurance (SSI)
  - Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Application procedure and forms:

- The Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Application is available at the Talbot County Finance Office at 11 N. Washington Street, Suite 9, Easton, MD 21601; and is also available online at [www.talbotcountymd.gov/finance\\_office](http://www.talbotcountymd.gov/finance_office), under the Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption Program heading. Applicants must complete and return the application to the Talbot County Finance Office.
- The Finance Office verifies with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation that the applicant is eligible for and receiving the Homeowner's Tax Credit for the applicable tax year. If the applicant meets all criteria, the Bay Restoration Fee will be removed from the applicant's account for the current fiscal year. The applicant will be sent a letter advising them of their approval or denial.

Exemption time period:

- Maximum of one year based on fiscal year of July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Applicant must reapply every year.
- *County will send applications to previously qualified property owners.* (not sure if this will be enforced)