



ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

Jennifer Cotting

Director, Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland

AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL FOCUS:

- Sustainable financing of climate resilience and resource protection and restoration
 - Translating policy, funding and finance concepts to various audiences
 - Local government, stakeholder, and project partner coordination
 - Facilitating access to funding programs
 - Capacity building and technical assistance
 - Public education and outreach, training and workshop development
 - Programmatic and project analysis
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

Jennifer is a center director who works to advance local-level resilience and resource protection efforts. She joined the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in 2004 and currently is the center's Director. Jennifer guides the implementation of three to four dozen community-driven programs and projects, while coordinating efforts as President of the national EFC Network. Prior to this role, Jennifer developed extensive expertise in green infrastructure finance developing solutions that addressed a diverse set of drivers, engaged a variety of partners, and occurred at multiple scales. She also brings a wealth of experience in direct community engagement and capacity development, development of communications resources, and delivery of technical assistance.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN FIELD: 25

SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE:

Director | Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD | February 2018 to present
Prior positions, November 2004 to January 2018: Associate Director; Research Associate – Green Infrastructure; Assistant Director; Program Manager

After fifteen years with the Center, Jennifer was confirmed as Director in early 2019. She was previously the Associate Director and also served five years as the EFC's first Research Associate for Green Infrastructure. In this role she managed the center's green infrastructure finance programming, spanning large landscape conservation, habitat management, urban land use and stormwater management applications of green infrastructure. Her own projects have involved research and analysis on resource management, financial government operations and business planning, and public education, community engagement, and capacity development, particularly in the water quality regulatory arena. She has led programmatic and policy analysis on multiple awards from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, and the William Penn Foundation. She has also assisted dozens of communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed through EFC's Stormwater Finance and Outreach Unit.

Consultant, Urban Wildlife Consulting, Silver Spring, MD, January 2000 – September 2006

Jennifer founded Urban Wildlife Consulting in 2000 and worked as the organization's primary independent consultant for clients at state and local resource protection agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations. In that capacity, Jennifer developed, created, produced and implemented client-specified education and outreach materials; wrote and edited client sponsored newsletters; coordinated and promoted client events;



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and researched and pursued funding opportunities for clients including the Rachel Carson Council, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Field Biologist, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, Columbia, MD, May 1998 – August 1999

During field seasons while in graduate school, Jennifer assisted in leading field crews conducting resource management work at Howard County's Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. The crews carried out field surveys to inventory area flora and fauna, as well as to assess the impact of habitat management issues such as invasive species, excessive deer populations, urban encroachment, expansion of coyote populations, and others. At the close of the field season, Jennifer provided a number of recommendations for the Management Plan developed for the park based on an adaptive ecosystem management approach.

EDUCATION:

University of Maryland, College Park, MS in Sustainable Development & Conservation Biology
Marymount University, Arlington, VA, BA in Communications

AFFILIATIONS AND ADDITIONAL ROLES:

The Chesapeake Bay local Leadership Work Group; the Maryland Watershed Assistance Collaborative; the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay WIP Funding and Financing Workgroup; Delaware River Watershed Water Table Funding and Financing workgroup; grants reviewer for the Mid-Atlantic Climate Action Hub minigrants program and the resilience tracks of the Maryland Grants Gateway program; Environmental Finance Center Network; and the National Source Water Collaborative.

Publications:

Kokolis, M. and Jennifer Cotting. [Emmitsburg, Maryland Stormwater Feasibility Study](#). The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. April 2022.

Espinola, B and Jennifer Cotting. [Informing, Improving and Expanding Water Quality Financing Through Advanced Data Management](#). The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. June 2018.

Billig, M. and Jennifer Cotting. [Financing Green Infrastructure in Blair County, Pennsylvania](#). The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. February 2016.

Billig, M. and Jennifer Cotting. [A Green Infrastructure Approach to Leveraging Local Priorities in Warrington Township, Pennsylvania](#). September 2014.

Cotting, J. [Green Infrastructure Financing Map](#). The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. November 2014.

Cotting, J. [Encouraging Efficient Green Infrastructure Spending](#). The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. February 2013.

Cotting, J. *Improving Capacity: Options for Virginia's Capital Region Land Conservancy*. The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. October 2010.

Cotting, J. *Improving Organizational and Conservation Capacity: Options for Maryland's Lower Shore Land Trust*. The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. June 2010.

Cotting, J. *Improving Watershed Planning Capacity: Middle Chester Partnership*. The Environmental Finance Center. College Park, Maryland. July 2009.
