



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

City of Greenbelt



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Local Government
Member since May 2017

Management and Leadership



Environmental Policy Statement

The City of Greenbelt is committed to environmental practices. The City strives for sustainability by supporting an environmental team, setting annual environmental goals, planning community environmental projects, encouraging and educating residents on waste reduction, recycling, composting, and water conservation, encouraging projects focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and supporting stormwater management projects.



Environmental Team

The City of Greenbelt's Green Team is a citizen group, supported by the City, which works to engage the community in sustainability projects and events, and educate the city on programs, practices, and activities that contribute to a green lifestyle. Greenbelt's Sustainable Maryland Certified Green Team envisions a City of Greenbelt that has a minimal ecological footprint and supports all city stakeholders to live, work, and play in an environmentally sustainable manner. The mission of the Green Team is to provide leadership to the City of Greenbelt on matters relating to environmental sustainability by:

- *Engaging in sustainability projects and events, on our own and in collaboration with other entities, that actively promote and model environmental sustainability*
- *Educating city staff, elected officials, residents, and businesses on programs, practices, and activities that contribute to a green lifestyle*
- *Serving as the City's Green Team*

Annual Environmental Goals

The City of Greenbelt sets environmental goals annually and consistently reviews their progress. For FY 2018, the City set the following management objectives:

- *Reduce the City's greenhouse gas generation in line with state and COG goals (20% lower than 2005 level by 2020 and 80% by 2050).*
- *Reduce electricity consumption 15% by 2017. (Goal set as part of city's participation in Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) program.)*
- *Raise the City's recycling percentage to 60% by 2020.*
- *Promote waste reduction, recycling, and composting.*
- *Support the Green Team in implementing its Sustainability Framework Plan.*
- *Improve stormwater quality throughout the city.*
- *Provide 20% of the City's electricity from renewable sources by 2022. (Goal set as part of the city's participation in the MSEC program.)*

Additionally, the City of Greenbelt has been designated as a Sustainable Maryland Certified municipality and has set a goal to maintain this certification.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The City of Greenbelt provides voluntary opportunities for citizen engagement in watershed stewardship through: organic gardening, planting trees, protecting trees from beavers, removing invasive species, cleaning up litter, planning zero waste events, composting, storm drain stenciling, and collecting GIS data.

The total number of volunteer hours served grew from 2015 (4,205 hours) to 2016 (4,324 hours), and is expected to continue growing in 2017.

The City of Greenbelt organized the following annual service-learning events:

- Weekly Weed Warriors from June – July*
- Day to Serve on October 8, 2016*
- Columbus Day of Service on October 10, 2016*
- Clean Up Green Up on October 29, 2016 and April 29, 2017*
- America Recycles Day on November 19, 2016*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 16, 2017*
- Presidents' Day of Service on February 20, 2017*
- International Forest Day on March 25, 2017*
- Arbor Day on April 8, 2017*
- Earth Day on April 22, 2017*
- National Trails Day on June 3, 2017*

In 2016, volunteers protected 211 trees from beavers and English ivy takeover, cleaned up 1,020 pounds of litter, and diverted 1,126 pounds of compostables from the landfill for composting. On Arbor Day 2017, 60 volunteers planted 33 native trees and shrubs at Buddy Attick Park. Partners included Department of Public Works and the Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT). On Earth Day 2017, 42 volunteers cleaned up over 385 pounds of litter from the shorelines of Indian Creek and managed the CHEARS Three Sisters Demonstration Gardens and Greenbelt Food Forest at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Partners included Greenbelt Public Works, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES), Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society (CHEARS), and Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Waste



Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

The City of Greenbelt is able to divert waste from the landfill through comingled curbside recycling, electronics recycling, yard waste diversion, construction materials diversion, paper shredding and recycling, and composting. During FY2016, 1818.56 tons of material was diverted from the landfill, which was a savings of \$107,295.04 for the City.

The City of Greenbelt sponsors and provides space for a twice-monthly drop-off donation collection. Green Drop provides Donation Drop-Off collection on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. Green Drop encourages the reuse of materials through donation and accepts an extended list of donations including: Small Appliances, Bedding and Draperies, Book, CD's & Videos, Clothing, Electronics, Small Furniture, Kitchen Items, Household Items and Sporting Goods.



Recycling

The City of Greenbelt offers a comingled curbside recycling pickup. Items collected include metal food and beverage containers, small metal parts, aluminum foil and trays, empty aerosol can, glass bottles and jars, rigid plastics, pill bottles, plastic containers #1-7, cardboard cereal and food product boxes, aseptic boxes, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, Kraft paper bags and non-foil wrap, phone books, mail, magazines, mixed paper, paperback books, pizza boxes, paper plates and cups.

As of FY2016, the diversion rate is 52.25% with a total of 679.19 tons of curbside recycling diverted from the landfill. Additionally, the City's quarterly electronics recycling event collected and diverted 21.5 tons of electronics from the landfill. The tipping fee for comingled recycling materials is \$25/ton compared to \$59/ton for landfill materials, creating a savings of \$23,092.46 in FY2016.

Composting

Since 2014, the City of Greenbelt has partnered with the Green Team's Zero Waste Circle to perform outreach and education at 23 zero waste community festivals and events by providing equal access to recycling, composting, and landfill waste bins. As of May 2017, these zero waste events have resulted in a total of 2,419 pounds of compostable materials being diverted from the landfill through collection for composting.

In 2013, the Greenbelt Department of Public Works started a composting pilot program for food scraps. The purpose is to reduce food waste, while improving the nutrient content of soil at the same time. In addition, they started an outreach campaign to encourage yard waste diversion. The City provides spaces for composting demonstration projects at the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) Three Sisters Demonstration Gardens. Public Works has held workshops to teach people about backyard composting and vermiculture on March 3, 2016, November 5, 2016, and March 18, 2017.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The City of Greenbelt improved the energy efficiency of its facilities by upgrading the HVAC systems at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center and at the Community Center. Additionally, all the City lights have been retrofitted with LEDs. This has led to a 718,973 KWh/year reduction of energy used in all public buildings for the City between 2005 and 2016.

In FY 2012, the City worked with the Assistant City Manager on replacing 80 street lighting fixtures with energy efficient fixtures including LED and induction.

Renewable Energy

Starting in FY2014, the City of Greenbelt obtains 100% of its power from wind alternatives by our electricity provider. The contract has a Green Purchasing Power of 3,378 kWh/year through WGL Energy's CleanSteps WINDPOWER program.

Transportation

Fleet Vehicles

The City of Greenbelt has a fleet of environmentally responsible vehicles in service. The City is currently running three (3) compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles: Honda Civic, Pickup truck, and Dodge van; nine (9) hybrid Ford Fusions, two (2) hybrid Ford Escape; and one (1) all electric Gem Polaris. This year (2017) we plan to acquire two (2) more hybrid Ford Fusions for a total of fourteen (14) alternative fuel vehicles.

Water

Water Conservation

The City of Greenbelt partnered with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) to sell 47 rain barrels in 2016.

Additionally, from February 4 – March 18, 2017, Greenbelt residents had the opportunity to order a discounted rain barrel online for \$75. Residents were also encouraged to cover the cost of the rain barrel through the Prince George’s County Rain Check Rebate program. On April 1, 2017, an installation demonstration and rain barrel pick up event was sponsored by Prince George’s County Department of the Environment and Plumbers and Gasfitters UA Local 5. Residents had a chance to ask questions about installation and seek assistance applying for the Rain Check Rebate Program. Over 50 rain barrels were ordered during the Greenbelt Great Rain Barrel Event. The event was organized by the following partners:

- *City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works*
- *Prince George’s County Department of the Environment*
- *Plumbers and Gasfitters UA Local 5*

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The City of Greenbelt’s stormwater control measures includes landscaping with rain gardens and bioswales, rain cisterns, and permeable pavement. The Greenbelt Public Works Department Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) describes the sediment and erosion control plan, as well as activities to prevent stormwater contamination, control sedimentation and erosion, and comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Stormwater visual monitoring inspections are performed and recorded quarterly at the Public Works outfall. The Public Works Department Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan helps prevent a discharge of oil, or control a spill should one occur, into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines.

In 2016, the dredging of the forebays at Greenbelt Lake removed 2,385 cubic yards of accumulated sediment. The four-month renovation cost \$1 million from the County's Storm Water Utility Fee a.k.a. "Rain Tax".



View our video



Maryland

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