



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 College Park



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Local Government
Member since March 2011

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

The City of College Park is a leader in the protection and restoration of natural resources and the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, technologies, and plans. The City reduces its impact on the environment through collaboration, research, and the adoption of best practices to incentivize reduced energy usage. The City has well-managed and attractive natural resources, such as parks, trails, and outdoor recreation areas. The City supports new development that is sensitive to environmental issues and that strives to limit impacts on the environment.

Environmental Team

The City of College Park is a Sustainable Maryland Certified community. The Committee for a Better Environment (CBE) serves as the City's Green Team.

CBE is made up of City residents with an interest in improving the environment and quality of life in College Park. The Committee elects its own Chair and receives assistance from a City appointed Staff Liaison and it has an annual budget. CBE meets monthly and membership is limited to a total of 25 individuals who are appointed by the Mayor and Council for renewable terms of between 1 and 3 years. The Committee promotes beautification, sponsors Earth Day and Arbor Day activities, and provides support for local environmental projects and activities. CBE has taken an active role in addressing planning and development concerns including, public education, pollution reduction, recycling, commuter issues, noise and light abatement, bicycle and pedestrian trails, "Smart Growth," environmental

awareness, green-space preservation, green-award programs, stream and roadside cleanup, sustainable landscaping, and regional planning. CBE frequently sponsors cleanups and educational workshops.

Annual Environmental Goals

One-Year Objective and Key Result July 2021-June 2022: Educate residents in behaviors to reduce waste and increase recycling. Expand and improve our parks and green spaces.

- *Reduce by 100 tons household and bulk refuse collected by the City – met*
- *Increase by 30 tons of curbside and miscellaneous recycling collected by City – not met*
- *Reduce by 4% the total gallons of gasoline and diesel used by the City fleet – not met*
- *10 environmental events (recycling, composting, trash reduction, tree canopy, pollinators, and clean ups) - met*
- *100% Bulk trash plan implemented - met*
- *.5% increase in tree canopy -not met*
- *100% design plans for Duvall Field completed and approved - met*
- *2 additional properties for purchase using Program Open Space funding – not met*

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

In order for residents to reduce their impact on the environment, the City offers several products for sale, some of which are subsidized and sold at a reduced rate to residents.

- *GAT Mosquito traps are available to help reduce mosquito populations. This gives residents an environmentally safe way to decrease the mosquito populations in their own yard.*
- *Backyard compost bins. This program promotes backyard composting as an easy, cost-effective way to divert residential organic waste from landfill, and it helps residents monitor and reduce their food waste.*
- *Yard Waste Carts - 95-gallon. The cart replaces the need for disposable paper bags, and the wheeled cart makes it easier for residents to collect more yard waste.*
- *Rain Barrels – 50-gallon. Once installed resident can apply for a Prince George's County Raincheck Rebate. All property owners can play a role in stormwater management. Setting up and using a rain barrel reduces stormwater run-off which helps to keep our waterways healthy. In addition, residents can use less water and save money by capturing and reusing rainwater for gardens and lawncare.*



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

- *On May 10, 2022, the City of College Park's Mayor and Council approved Ordinance 21-O-09, which will require a permit to remove tree(s) on residential land beginning July 1, 2022. The ordinance was enacted to limit the removal of healthy, mature trees as a measure to maintain the city's tree canopy. The ordinance was passed three years after the College Park Urban Tree Canopy Assessment was completed, which indicated a steady loss of tree canopy coverage during the past 9 years.*
- *City of College Park property owners can apply for a Tree Canopy Enhancement Program (TCEP) reimbursement of up to \$150.00 annually for approved tree(s) planted on their residential lot. In FY22 17 TCEP's were approved, and 13 trees planted.*
- *To comply with Maryland roadside tree law the city plants trees annually in the right-of-way to replace any that are dead or damaged. Sixty-one trees were planted to replace removed street trees.*
- *The City had its first Earth Day tree giveaway on April 23, 2022, and 123 residents signed up to receive up to two trees each.*
- *Became a Bee City certified community; formed a Bee City committee. Planted first pollinator garden; gave away free milkweed seeds. Created a new initiative "No Mow April" which was a huge success with 349 residents participating.*

The Committee for a Better Environment (CBE) conducts regular activities including cleanups and workshops. The following are some of CBE's event from 2020 to 2022:

- *Worked with city staff to create and promote a Sustainability Survey open to all residents in College Park. The survey was released online in both English and Spanish and there were 187 responses. Residents highlighted activities they were taking in their own lives as well as steps they would like the city to take to increase sustainability --including protecting pollinators, lowering the environmental impact of developers, improving walkability/bike-ability, reducing waste to landfill, and increasing the tree canopy and green spaces. The results were shared with residents and Councilmembers through a webinar in fall 2021. <https://youtu.be/kV7d6lsQEhk>*
- *Worked with the College Park Arts Exchange to paint storm drains to encourage people to not put anything other than water down the drains. The paintings feature animals native to the Anacostia that are threatened by chemicals and other materials going down storm drains.
<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/330/Sustainability>*
- *Worked with city staff to create signage labeling native tree species along the trolley trail from Berwyn south to Calvert Hills. The signs provide the common*

and scientific names for many trees, as well as information highlighting the value of each species to the environment and community. An online map of all the trees is here

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2bb4e8c7031b4770ab57609ca5d559de>

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

New bulk trash changes took effect July 1, 2021, limiting collections to 4 times per fiscal year, and 20 items per fiscal year for resident owned properties, and 29 items for registered rentals in the city. Bulk trash tonnage is down 30% since Ordinance 20-O-02 went into effect.

Recycling

The City introduced single stream recycling in September 2008. The recycling rate at that time was 18% but has continued to increase. Over the years we have added several items to our recycling Program including food scraps, electronics, scrap metal/white goods, soft yard waste, woody yard waste, motor oil, batteries, toners, coffee capsules and Styrofoam. Fiscal Year 2022 recycling rate is 43%.

Composting

The City collects soft yard waste (leaves, grass, and soft clippings) curbside throughout the year. From mid-January through the end of October residents can gather soft yard waste in paper bags or reusable containers. From November through early January, the City uses leaf vacuums for curbside collection. For FY22, 1,796 tons of soft yard and leaves were collected from residents. The City also processed an additional 1,243 tons of leaves tipped by other surrounding municipalities. All of the soft yard waste collected is recycled through the City's composting program and processed in to screened Smartleaf® compost.

On April 1, 2019 the City introduced a Food Scrap drop-off program at Public Works that is available 24/7. In February 2020, a new location was added in Old Town College Park. In addition, residents can drop-off food scraps at the North College Park Farmers Market that run from May-November. Since the program began, appx. 73 tons of food scrap have been diverted from the landfill. Council approved funding to start curbside collections in the FY23 budget. November 2022 the curbside collection of food scraps will roll out.

Energy



Energy Efficiency

The City is a member of ICLEI, an international association of local governments who have made a commitment to sustainable development. As part of our involvement with ICLEI, the City's Committee for a Better Environment completed a Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory for City government operations.

The City's Capital Improvement Program included a Green Initiative project with \$50,000 in funding. The first project was a Level I Energy Audit of four City buildings. Based on the Audit results, improvements have been made to facilities to improve energy efficiency. Some projects include LED lighting in our parking garage and in several of our buildings, as well as motion detection lighting in bathrooms and some offices.

The City has converted 150 watt High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) street light fixtures to 150 watt LED fixtures. This conversion reduces the City's energy use while still keeping the streets and trails well-lit to promote safe travel and recreation.

- *Converted 16 streetlights in the Old Town neighborhood along Rhode Island Avenue between Campus Drive and Calvert Road*
- *Converted all existing HPS streetlights (150) to LEDs, and added 42 new LED streetlights along 53rd Avenue, from Lackawanna Street to Edgewood Road in North College Park*
- *Hollywood Shopping Center - added 22 energy-efficient LED lights and 4 Floodlights.*
- *The city continues to maintain the LED lighting in our parking garage which was retrofitted with LED lighting in 2015.*



Renewable Energy

The City met its goal to produce 20% of its municipal energy needs from renewable sources by 2022. Together with our efforts in energy generation, we're simultaneously working on energy reduction to meet the goal. The City has reduced energy consumption across our municipal buildings by 23% over the past 4 years. The City is also an EPA Green Power Partner. Formerly, the City was purchasing wind renewable energy certificates (RECs) to offset our electricity usage. We are now able to purchase 50% Green-e certified wind energy directly from our electricity supplier: Washington Gas Light Energy Services (WGL Energy) under a regional energy contract with a renewable component.

In 2020, the City of College Park received a grant through a Maryland Energy Administration for the design, construction and maintenance of a 30 kWh solar photovoltaic system at the Department of Public Works, 9219 51st Avenue on the Landscaping Garage. FY21 energy production was 23,477 kWh.

The City of College Park received a grant from the Maryland Energy Administration for the design, construction, and maintenance of a 31 KW solar photovoltaic system at the Department of Public Works, 9219 51st Avenue on the Facilities Parking Garage. In January 2018 we contracted to AltEnergy and the project was completed in late 2018. FY21 energy production was 28,292 kWh.

The City of College Park received a grant from the Maryland Smart Energy Committee for funding for a 31 KW solar photovoltaic system at 4912 Nantucket Avenue; known as the Youth and Family Services Building. Advanced Solar from White Plains MD performed the installation which was completed in June 2017. FY21 energy production was 35,423 kWh.

Transportation



Employee Commute

The City approved a 3-year mobility share agreement with VeoRide Inc. in April 2022. VeoRide provides a rentable fleet of electric bicycles, pedal bicycles and scooters that are accessible through the use of a mobile app. The service is popular with users, with scooters being rented far more than bicycles. In 2021, for instance, over 200,000 individual scooter rides were recorded. The service is most heavily used by UMD students, with heat maps showing that Regents Drive on campus is the most heavily trafficked street. There are now 50 citywide racks and hubs in which users can park their vehicles, serving a fleet of 50 e-bikes and 150 scooters. The City expects to add additional parking in 2022 and beyond as appropriate, particularly in the residential neighborhoods where many students live, and from and to which they commute. We were awarded a \$54,087 Maryland Bikeways grant to retrofit existing parking locations with bike racks, corrals, and signage as necessary to encourage appropriate parking. This retrofitting is expected to be complete by the end of 2022.

The College Park City-University Partnership, funded jointly by the City and the University, provides grants to encourage University and City employees to live in the City they work, thereby reducing commutes, strengthening neighborhoods, and supporting our local economy. As of May 2022, the program has assisted more than 76 new homeowners, most of whom bike or walk to work.

Employee Commuter Benefit: The City will contribute \$75.00 per month towards a full-time employee's Metro SmarTrip card when the employee agrees that the benefit will only be used for commuting back and forth to work at the City

on at least 50% of her or her scheduled workdays. The employee will contribute \$5.00 towards the initial cost of a new card and will be responsible for replacement.



Efficient Fleet Vehicles

The city has four fully electric vehicles:

- One 2019 Chevrolet Bolt
- Two 2020 Chevrolet Bolt
- One 2022 Chevrolet Bolt (contract to lease)

Between 2018-2022 four Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations were installed at Public Works (9217 51st Avenue) for internal use only

The city has the following hybrid vehicles

- Two 2014 Honda Insights
- Eight 2017 Ford C-Maxs
- One 2020 Ford E-450 Hybrid 20-person bus

The percentage of cars in fleet that are hybrid or electric are 85%.

Calendar Year	Diesel	Unleaded	Total Fuel
2017	32,222	16,293	48,514
2018	31,542	15,540	47,083
2019	31,485	15,258	46,743
2020	30,001	14,422	44,423
2021	29,792	14,224	44,016

Water



Stormwater Management and Site Design

Micro-Bioretention Facilities at City Hall:

- *The property features 7 separate micro-bio retention facilities along the three sides of the property. This includes 1 in the plaza, 4 along Knox Road, and 2 along Yale Avenue. Though these Micro-Bioretention facilities play a role in the landscape design of the exterior, they also serve an important role in stormwater management by filtering runoff water. Under the various plantings lies a mix of sand, soil, and organic matter, which filters out unwanted pollutants and prevents them from entering the public storm drain system. Moreover, they also protect the building's*

foundation from erosion. In total, these micro-bioretention facilities occupy approximately 5,000 SF of area and treat over 6,250 Cubic feet (\approx 46,750 gallons) of rainwater.

Hollywood Gateway Park has native plants to stabilize soil, green roof, stone rill to channel rainwater, rain garden to reduce runoff to the nearby street; handles stormwater runoff from Baltimore Avenue; educates public about the climate and how weather works

The County installed rain gardens to capture stormwater runoff at locations throughout the City. Two are at Duvall Field, two are along Narragansett Parkway to slow and detain and clean runoff. There is a stepping pool project along Rhode Island Avenue for flow reduction.

A Prince George's County Stormwater project was constructed in 2018 at Public Works, 9219 51st Avenue. The project treats storm water run-off from 51st Avenue and the parking lot of the Department of Public Works because of the lack of storm inlets on 51st Avenue around the facility. Quarterly maintenance is performed by the County and supplemental maintenance by DPW with mowing and removal of any floatables collected. Device type: Sand filter. BMP Id no: PG16POI101110. Constructed by the Clean Water Partnership. Treats 1.33 acres.

Permeable Pavement:

- *In 2020, 150 ft² of permeable concrete sidewalk was installed connecting 47th Place with the Hollywood Gateway park to mitigate runoff concerns*
- *In 2019, 1,808 ft² of permeable concrete sidewalk was installed to create access for city residents from the southern end of the city to an adjacent shopping area in Riverdale Park*
- *In the fall of 2018, 3 new flexi-pavement sidewalk was installed on Quebec Street in front of 3 large trees.*
- *1,000 ft² of pervious pavers were installed on the east sidewalk between Route 1 and Lehigh Rd.*

Green Building



LEED Silver

The City and the University are partners in a new City Hall, UMD offices, and public plaza on Baltimore Avenue. Through our use of sustainable building features, we have recorded an 18.7% energy cost reduction, 33% indoor water use reduction, and a 99% outdoor water use reduction. Currently, the project is pending LEED Gold certification.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



- *Tree City USA Award for 33 consecutive years (2022)*
- *Sustainable Maryland Certification since 2011, the most recent was silver*
- *Prince George's County Beautification Awards for 5 consecutive years for the following: College Park Trolley/Hiker Biker Trail, and the Veteran's Memorial*
- *HEAL – Healthy Living, Active Eating Campaign Gold Status Member*
- *Maryland DNR & Prince George's County (DOE) 2018 Green Award and a 2021 Green Award in recognition of our enthusiasm and hard work in planting and caring for trees in our local urban and community forests*



[View our video](#)

Profile Updated November 2022



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

