



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.

# Town of Chestertown



118 North Cross Street  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
410-778-0500  
[townofchestertown.com](http://townofchestertown.com)  
Municipality  
Member since May 2023

## Management and Leadership



### **Environmental Policy Statement**

*Chestertown works to improve the Town's natural environment through sustainable best practices in land use, stormwater infrastructure, watershed stewardship, tree canopy protection, and public-space management.*

*The Town also seeks to strengthen the local economy through sustainable business practices, reinvestment in vacant storefronts, green purchasing, and support for downtown vitality.*

*Chestertown encourages healthy living through parks, walking trails, bicycle access, public events, waterfront access, and wellness-oriented community programs.*

*The Town is reducing its carbon footprint through expanded renewable energy, energy-saving practices, electric vehicle planning, recycling, composting, lighting modernization, and broader municipal energy planning.*

*Chestertown's sustainability work is implemented through Environmental Committee leadership, Town Council action, Sustainable Maryland certification, state grant programs, project-specific implementation teams, and partnerships with regional and state organizations. This structure helps the Town move from planning to funded projects and visible implementation.*



### **Environmental Team**

*The Chestertown Environmental Committee is composed of residents who work with the Town to further environmental goals. The Committee has been meeting since 2008 and holds regular monthly meetings.*

*The Committee's mission is to promote careful stewardship, research, and wise use of natural and economic resources to improve quality of life through sustainable initiatives.*

*The Environmental Committee has served as the Town's sustained public forum for translating environmental goals into implementable actions, including the municipal energy audit, solar planning, composting, recycling education, EV charging, Earth Day outreach, lighting modernization, habitat work, and climate and resilience planning.*

## **Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects**

*The Town has held an annual Earth Day celebration since 2010. The annual Earth Day Festival continues to provide public education on EV ownership and charging, recycling, composting, native habitat, dark-sky lighting, and Town solar projects.*

*Chestertown received a \$10,500 Sustainable Maryland Action Grant to build pollinator and bird habitats, adding to the Town's environmental restoration and biodiversity work.*

*The Environmental Committee's current action areas include conserving energy, creating pollinator habitat, enriching soil, growing local food, improving water quality, recycling, preserving water access, and reducing food waste.*

*The Environmental Committee's water and habitat work includes pollinator and bird habitat, water-quality education, and resilience-related initiatives that connect land stewardship with stormwater, tree canopy, and watershed protection.*

## **Waste**

### **Recycling**

*Recycling is encouraged in Chestertown and there is a collection site at Vault Storage on the corner of High and Morgnec Roads. The following is collected there:*

- *Glass bottles*
- *Aluminum and ferrous metals*
- *Corrugated cardboard*
- *Clean Mixed Paper*
- *#1, #2, and #5 plastics*
- *Batteries, bottle caps and other difficult to recycle materials are collected at the Farmer's Market on High Street on Saturdays.*

*Curbside recycling has been conducted in Town but is currently paused due to a vendor issue. The Town continues to promote available drop-off recycling options and Environmental Committee education.*

- **Residential Composting and Food Waste Reduction**

*Chestertown has added a residential composting program for Town residents, with compost bins located in the parking lot of Washington College’s Semans-Griswold Environmental Hall at 485 Cross Street. Program rules emphasize kitchen compost only, closed lids, no overfilled bins, and resident-only use.*

*The Town promotes composting as a way to reduce landfill waste, improve soil health, improve water retention, reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, reduce erosion, and support carbon sequestration.*

*The Waste and Recycling team continues to track compost drop-off use and compost return/distribution planning through the Environmental Committee.*

- **Plastic Reduction**

*Chestertown adopted and maintains public resources for its Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance and related retail and community guidance.*

## **Energy**



### **Renewable Energy**

*Chestertown is advancing a Town-owned solar portfolio at the John Hanson Road water/wastewater treatment campus. The current project structure consists of two municipal solar arrays totaling approximately 2.2 MW AC: a Town Operations array of approximately 1.2 MW AC and a Community Solar array of approximately 1.0 MW AC.*

*The project is being financed through a combination of municipal bond financing, short-term clean-energy development financing, Federal Investment Tax Credits, and Maryland Energy Administration grant funding. The current financing structure includes secured state and federal incentives that materially reduce the net cost of the project to the Town.*

*The Town Operations array is intended to supply renewable electricity for municipal operations. The Community Solar array is intended to extend the benefits of the Town’s renewable-energy investment beyond municipal operations by offering resident subscriptions, supporting household bill savings, and expanding access to renewable energy, including for low- and moderate-income households where program rules allow.*

*A small 1.2 kW array is also installed on Town Hall.*



### **Building Electrification**

*Chestertown’s current energy work grew from a planning sequence that included Environmental Committee review of municipal energy use, Council review of energy audit findings and recommended actions, and subsequent development of solar, lighting, electrification, and EV charging initiatives.*

*The Town’s 2023 energy audit and related Environmental Committee work have supported carbon-reduction initiatives including solar development, targeted LED*

replacements, outdoor lighting review, and future building and fleet electrification planning.

*A limited number of Town Hall lights have been replaced with LED fixtures, and the Town is evaluating additional municipal lighting improvements. The Town is also working with Delmarva Power on outdoor lighting modernization, including replacement of high-pressure sodium outdoor lights with LEDs and a more aggressive strategy for non-dark-sky-compliant acorn-style post-top lights.*

*The Town is using the solar project as the foundation for a broader municipal energy strategy. By creating a long-term supply of lower-cost renewable electricity, Chestertown can better evaluate future building electrification, fleet electrification, EV charging, and resilience investments.*

*Chestertown has been awarded FY 2026 planning funds from the Maryland Energy Administration for resiliency hub planning. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2026 and will evaluate how critical facilities, backup power, clean energy, and emergency operations can support community resilience during grid outages and extreme weather events.*

*The Town is integrating clean energy planning with resilience and climate adaptation. Current resilience work includes planning for critical-facility backup power and a potential resiliency hub connected to the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company, as well as broader climate-adaptation work relevant to flooding, sea-level rise, historic resources, and continuity of operations.*

*EV charging infrastructure, solar generation, and future storage opportunities are being considered together as part of a practical resilience strategy. The goal is to improve emergency power supply, support municipal electric fleet operations, and strengthen continuity of operations during grid disruptions.*

## **Transportation**

### **Employee Commute/Customer Travel**

*The Town has been proactive in advocating and promoting the installation of electric vehicle chargers at private, municipal, and commercial sites for residents and visitors. This effort has been initiated by the Town's Environmental Committee. Currently there are approximately 25 EV chargers in Chestertown, with more planned.*

*Chestertown has been awarded FY 2026 planning funds from the Maryland Energy Administration for EVSE community and site planning studies. These studies are expected to be completed by the end of 2026 and will help the Town identify priority locations, technical requirements, ownership models, and implementation pathways for future EV charging investments.*

*The annual Earth Day Festival hosts EV displays and educational outreach about EV ownership and charging.*

*The Town's EV planning work is coordinated with broader municipal electrification, including future fleet charging needs and public-access charging in downtown and municipal locations. Chestertown's EV charging strategy is increasingly integrated with its renewable-energy investments, so that the Town's solar project can support the economics and emissions benefits of municipal fleet charging, public charging, and future transportation electrification.*

**Updated June 2026**



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

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](https://green.maryland.gov)*

