



## 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 Laurel



8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707  
301-725-5300 ext. 2203  
[cityoflaurel.org](http://cityoflaurel.org)  
Municipality  
*Member since April 2021*

## Management and Leadership

### Environmental Team

*The City of Laurel Environmental Affairs Committee was created and established by Resolution No. 10-3, passed by the Mayor and City Council on July 28, 2003. The Committee is made up of seven (7) members; (1) Council Member; the committee shall be made up of City Residents, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.*

<https://www.cityoflaurel.org/boards/cacs/environmental-affairs-committee>

*The City of Laurel was awarded the Bee City USA certification through the Xerces Society in 2022. The office of Environmental Programs and the Environmental Affairs Committee hosted educational events (No Mow April) and pollinator planting events. <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1756/Bee-City-USA>.*

### Aspirational or Long-Term Environmental Goals

The City of Laurel is currently writing its first Sustainability Plan in coordination with the consultants from the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments. This plan will address operational goals and actions as well as community based concerns and the framework created by our focus groups. The Plan will be completed by the Fall 2024.

<https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1783/Sustainability-Plan-Our-Voice-Our-Future>.

*The City revitalized our Farmer’s Market! In 2023 the City assumed responsibility for the restoration of the market lot as well as bring back the Main Street Farmer’s Market. The Market in 2023 original ran every other Thursday from May through September. In 2024 due to popular demand and the input the City received from the vendors – we have extended our market to every Thursday – beginning in early May and ending late September. We have been accepted as an authorized SNAP/EBT provider and are part of the Maryland Market Money program for the 2024 market.*

*The office of Environmental Programs created and updates the “Green Living Resources page: <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/406/Green-Living> found under Community Resources on the City’s website.*

*The City passed legislation on plastic bags. Plastic Bags Ban – Ord #1977 - effective January 1, 2022; Plastic Bag Ban Updated – Ord #2008 – effective January 2024.*

**Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects**

*The City’s Parks and Recreation Department worked closely with the Clean Water Partnership to improve and manage stormwater infrastructure in the City. The full article highlighting the interview with the City’s Director of Parks and Recreation can be found here: <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/system/files/files/cwp-drop-jan2021-final002.pdf>*

## Waste

**Recycling**

*The City of Laurel provides curbside single stream recycling collection to all our single family and townhome communities (7,043) and provides bulk recycling collection to our condo and apartment communities as well as curbside recycling collection for our businesses that wish to participate. Beginning in January 2021, the City began a pilot program appropriately named [One and Done](#) – referring to residents only having to remember one day a week for all their collections – refuse, recycling and voluntary organic composting. The three neighborhoods received the change well – with only a few complaints and the City is looking to expand the program, thus reducing landfill waste, increasing recycling and raising awareness of the organics composting program.*

*During calendar year the City collected 1,092.12 tons of recycling – resulting in a cost savings of over \$68,000. In addition to the single stream recycling collection, the City also offers, electronics recycling, CD and DVD recycling, household battery recycling either by curbside collection or via drop-off. The City also sponsors a bi-annual event for electronics recycling provided by Securis and paper shredding provided by Chesapeake Paper Shredding, which is*

*free to City residents, schools and businesses. As part of the Repurpose with a Purpose campaign – we have added GreenDrop to the event. During calendar year 2020 the City collected and recycled 19,002 lbs. of electronics – using Unicorn and Care Environmental. The electronics recycling information was provided to the Maryland Department of the Environment.*

*The City has added additional recycling/repurposing programs within the bi-annual recycling event. EPS recycling and paint recycling via Yuck Paint made their debut during calendar year 2023 and are very popular with residents.*

## **Composting**

*The City of Laurel created a curbside [organic composting pilot program](#) in August of 2019 with 200 participants. The compost program for the full year of 2020 collected 30.5 tons of compost – resulting in a diversionary rate of \$1,928 – the tonnage diverted represents the equivalent of 47,618 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> saved. The program was so successful that it has been expanded to include local businesses, Prince George’s County elementary schools and 300 more residents. Residents participating in the program are allowed bi-annual free organic compost which the City purchases from Maryland Environmental Services. The organics composting program is in addition to the existing weekly yard debris collection program which is also recycled at Maryland Environmental Services. Within the last calendar year we have increased participation and tonnage, Our tonnage increased by 32 tons.*

The City became a true leader in the environmental arena in the State of Maryland becoming the first municipality in the country to legislate mandatory organics diversion. Ordinance 2010 was signed into law in May 2023.



Ordinance No.  
2010- Mandatory Or

## **Energy**

### **Energy Efficiency**

*The City of Laurel has contracted with an outside vendor to convert all fluorescent lights in all City facilities to energy efficient LED lights with motion detectors. The project is nearing completion and cost savings are expected to be realized within several months.*

*The City was awarded a technical assistance Grant from the Maryland Energy Administration to evaluate city facilities for solar panels. The City will use the results of the evaluation to install solar panels on City facilities during calendar year 2024 and beyond.*

*The City has completed the installation of the public facing EV charging stations – using City parking lots – located at the Municipal Center; the Community Center and the Parking Lot on Main Street. The City is working on installing EV charging stations behind the “gates” to serve the current four EV fleet vehicles.*

## **Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities**

- Sustainable Maryland Certified  
Main Street Maryland Designated  
Sustainable Community through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).*

*Represented by Environmental Programs Manager on:*

*Maryland Recyclers Network (MRN) – Board of Directors – Vice President  
MRN Legislative Affairs Committee -- Vice Chair  
Environmental Affairs Committee -- Advisory position  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments:*

- *Recycling Committee*
- *Small Jurisdiction Recycling Committee Chair*
- *Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment Working Group*
- *Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee*
- *Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee*
- *Recycling Markets and Material Subcommittee*
- *Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee*

*Solid Waste Association of America (SWANA)*

*Climate Mayors*

*US Conference of Mayors*

*National League of Cities*

*Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition*

*Nation's Capital Sustainability Circle*

*U.S. Composting Council*

***Profile Updated April 2024***



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

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

