



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 Bowie



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Bowie, MD 20716
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www.cityofbowie.org
Local Government
Member since August 2009

Management and Leadership



Environmental Team

Bowie has two environmental committees that meet monthly and are made up of residents appointed by the City Council. They are the Green Team Executive Committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee. The Green Team Executive Committee's focus is environmental education and outreach and was created as part of the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program. Their mission is to "establish a course for creating a sustainable path for the City, to educate the City and community members further about sustainable activities and to develop initiatives supporting sustainable local government practices."

The Environmental Advisory Committee's focus is environmental policy and aims to "promote a sustainable community through initiatives relating to such issues as natural resource management and development, wildlife and wildlife habitat protection, energy efficiency, watershed stewardship and protection, pollution prevention, beautification, tree canopy preservation, and green policies."

We also have a Staff Sustainability Team (SST), that meets quarterly to discuss issues in-house, promote policies, and to further sustainability efforts within our buildings for City operations.



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The City has supported a number of restoration and community environmental projects such as the four Monarch Waystations, which are certified by Monarch Watch, a non-profit organization, and contains native plants that help

support monarch butterfly populations in the area. The creation of Monarch Waystations was also part of the Green Team’s effort to certify community properties as National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Wildlife Habitats. NWF Wildlife Habitats help to restore habitat in commercial and residential areas by providing food, water, cover, and a place for wildlife to raise their young. The City itself is a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

The City has Stream CleanUp volunteer opportunities and since their first cleanup, volunteers have removed over 17,000 pounds of trash and over 16,000 pounds of recyclables. Additionally, we have “weed warrior workdays” six times a year (3 in the spring and 3 in the fall) where the Green Team and resident volunteer to remove English Ivy from trees in our forests. This is a successful program that has freed the majority of Whitemarsh Park of its invasive English Ivy issues.

Recently, we have started storm water pond restoration projects, starting in 2023 with Midwood Pond. This effort sought to add pollinator gardens around the pond to enhance the look the pond, create habit, and prevent erosion.

Annual Environmental Goals

The City of Bowie has an over-arching goal in our 2020-2025 Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030. This is in-line with other regional emissions-reduction goals. The first step towards this was our Solar Farm. “The Farm” is on City owned land and is the product of a Power-Purchase Agreement. The energy generated from it will off-set over 40% of City operational emissions. We look forward to our next array going up in aspiration of a net-zero City facility operating status. We have also recently partnered with BGE to install EV chargers at both City Hall and Kenhill Center (our old City Hall which is used for a number of activities). The charging stations are up and running and accessible to all 24/7.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

The City adopted a Green Purchasing Policy in 2022 and continues its efforts to be plastic-free and sustainable at events. Our annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k utilizes compostable cups, for example.

Waste

Recycling

The City has a single-stream recycling program and set a recycling goal of 35%. We are working every day at educational opportunities for residents so we

can increase our recycling rate of recycling while decreasing the contamination rate.

During COVID we hosted several webinars on different sustainability-related topics and recycling education was a central theme to many of them. The Sustainability Planner or Manager often does presentations at schools to help educate the students and teachers.

Composting

The City has a Food Waste Curbside Program with over 265 households in seven neighborhoods and a waitlist of over 100 homes throughout other parts of the City. In January of 2024 we launched a food waste drop off site at the Kenhill Center, in partnership with Compost Crew, and are diverting about one ton of food waste per month through the site. We hope to expand and add more sites in 2025.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The City is designated as a Maryland Smart Energy Community through the Maryland Energy Administration. Our City Hall is LEED Gold Certified as is our Parks & Grounds building. We are currently working on several LED retrofit projects to continue our energy efficiency aspirations and have an Energy Efficiency CIP budget item.

The City participates in BGE's Demand Response program, going on generator power and lessening our demand on the grid during scheduled peak times.

We have a very successful electric lawn care rebate program where residents are rebated \$50 for electric (or mulching) mowers, and \$25 for leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, and weed whackers. Each year we provide about 150-170 rebates for electric equipment.

Renewable Energy

The City has committed to deploying solar technology at City facilities. Efforts to support solar include being a participant in Maryland's Smart Energy Communities as well as the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Roadmap and advertising solar for residents when possible.

The Solar Farm (mentioned above) is a PPA off-site, but many facilities have panels on-site. We have a webpage dedicated to solar efforts in the City.

Transportation

Fleet Vehicles

The City currently owns four Chevy Bolts for Code Department use as well as our original Nissan Leaf, and several hybrids. The Bowie Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in Maryland and one of the first departments on the east coast to purchase electric motorcycles for its patrol fleet. The eco-friendly bikes can run for 10 hours and up to 180 miles on an electric charge.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

Public Works and the Watershed Manager have begun projects retrofitting streams and stormwater ponds, using native plants to line the banks to provide habitat and prevent erosion. Our new retention ponds and streams help us to meet our MS4 stormwater permit from the state and help mitigate the issues present from not having proper stormwater management design when many Bowie neighborhoods were first built in the 1950's and 1960's.

Green Building

LEED

The building that houses the city's Parks and Grounds Division was certified LEED Silver in 2009. The building was built on the site of the old building using materials recycled from the original building and has many LEED features such as solar panels.

The current City Hall building was completed in April 2011 and is certified LEED Gold. There are 42 LEED features incorporated into the building including a partial green roof, water saving toilets, light sensors, and reserved parking spaces for low-emission or hybrid vehicles.

The City has a policy that any new government buildings must meet LEED Silver certification requirements. The Sustainability Manager is a LEED Green Associate.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



The City of Bowie promotes sustainable practices at local businesses through a program called Green Bowie Business. The program was created in partnership with the Maryland Green Registry and members are listed with both programs. The criteria are the same, utilizing the Registry as the main application.

We award a "Bowie Green Citizen" at the Bowie Green Expo each spring.

The City of Bowie was a 2018 Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award Winner and a 2022 recipient, allowing us entry into the Sustainability Leadership Circle in Maryland.

The City of Bowie was a 2020 Prince George's County Waste Diversion Award Winner.

We are members of Sustainable Maryland Certified and have every public school certified through MAEOE as Green Schools.

The City of Bowie was awarded a grant through Keep Maryland Beautiful, and we were able to start a municipal-level Adopt-A-Road program. All 15 roads are now adopted by local organizations.

Please visit www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie for more information.

Profile Updated April 2024



MARYLAND GREEN REGISTRY
**LEADERSHIP AWARD
WINNER
2018**



MARYLAND GREEN REGISTRY
**SUSTAINABILITY
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE
2022**



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

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

