



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 2020, 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.) Goal Achieved!*
- *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.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

The City of Greenbelt has implemented a Green Purchasing Policy for all employees. The Policy will guide the City's efforts to procure environmentally sustainable products and services. While not all of these guidelines will be feasible in every procurement of goods and services, the City will make a good faith effort to incorporate these guidelines to the maximum extent possible in the procurement decisions. The Policy must be considered for purchasing and contracting in support of the operation and management of all City-owned buildings and facilities as well as their components, systems, operations and materials, and for all programs and events.

This Policy is intended to:

- *Identify those sustainability factors that shall be incorporated into procurement decisions;*
- *Provide implementation guidance;*
- *Empower employees to be innovative and demonstrate leadership by incorporating sustainability factors into procurement decisions;*
- *Communicate the City of Greenbelt's commitment to sustainable procurement.*



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), to 2019 (4,893 hours) and is expected to continue growing in 2020.

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

- Weekly Weed Warriors from June – July*
- Columbus Day of Service on October 2018 and 2019*
- Clean Up Green Up on October 2018 and April 2019*
- America Recycles Day on November 2018 and 2019*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 2018 and 2019*
- Presidents' Day of Service on February 2018 and 2019*
- Arbor Day on April 2018 and 2019*
- Earth Day on April 2018 and 2019*
- National Trails Day on June 2018 and 2019*

In 2019, Public Works and volunteers planted 283 new trees in parks and street right-of-ways. Started the implementation of the Greenbelt Urban Forest Master Plan.

On Earth Day 2018, 35 volunteers cleaned up over 300 pounds of litter from the shorelines of Indian Creek and managed the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (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 FY2019, 2,296 tons of material was diverted from the landfill, which was a savings of \$78,058 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. In FY19 collected 1,651 tons of refuse and 2,296 tons of recyclables during the year to obtain a recycling rate of 58%. For FY 2020, it is estimated the recycling rate will continue around 60%.

Held quarterly Electronic Recycling events. In FY 2019, 0.31 tons of expanded polystyrene (block Styrofoam), and 18 tons of electronic equipment were recycled in the United States. Our vendor, UNICOR, is R2 certified. The City partners with Berwyn Heights so its residents can also recycle their electronic materials. Established in 2018 and continued partnering with TurnKey Enterprises to provide textile recycling at both recycling centers (Buddy Attick Park and Dog Park). TerraCycle at Buddy Attick Park was discontinued at the end of January 2020 due to a change in their business model. Co-sponsored two "Shred-It" events with the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union. In FY19, 10.4 tons of documents were shredded for recycling. Continued partnering with Yuck Old Paint to recycle usable paint. Paint can be recycled on the same days as our Electronics Recycling events.

Composting

Since 2014, the City of Greenbelt has partnered with the Green Team's Zero Waste Circle to perform outreach and education at multiple zero waste community festivals and events by providing equal access to recycling, composting, and landfill waste bins. In FY19, these zero waste events have resulted in more than 100 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 holds workshops to teach people about backyard composting and vermiculture twice a year, every year.

Worked with Maryland Environmental Service's tub grinder to grind yard and storm debris, and Christmas trees at Northway Fields to create mulch. In FY19, 907 tons of yard waste was processed.

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.

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.

In FY 2012, a goal was established to reduce city greenhouse gas generation in line with goals set by the state and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments – 10% below 2005 levels by 2012, 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. In 2013, an additional goal was established to reduce electricity consumption by 15% by 2017 (set as part of city's participation in Maryland Smart Energy Community (MSEC) program). A number of actions have been and are being implemented to achieve these goals. Data collected through 2018 shows the city has reduced its carbon footprint 67% from 2005 levels and its electrical consumption by 15% from 2012 levels.

Maryland Energy Administration MSEC grants:

- Phase I grant monies (\$63,800) were used to upgrade lighting in the Indoor and Outdoor Pool, Youth Center Gym and Springhill Lake Recreation Center Gym with energy efficient LED lighting fixtures.*
- Phase II grant monies (\$80,000) were used to replace all interior and exterior lights at the Police Station, and exterior lights and interior lights for building #2 at Public Works.*
- Phase III grant monies (\$100,000) were utilized to replace the interior lights in the Community Center, and the exterior lights at the Skate Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Staff replaced those fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures and installed occupancy sensors and other controls to help produce energy savings. The City's Phase IV grant application was denied.*
- Phase V grant monies (\$58,500) were utilized for the installation of solar panels on the roof at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.*

- *Phase VI grant monies (\$15,000) were utilized to install two level two electric charging stations at Public Works.*
- *For Phase VII The City was awarded \$50,000 which will be used to upgrade lighting fixtures, the installation of occupancy sensors and other controls to help reduce energy consumption at the Youth Center and Public Works. Work is currently underway replacing the light fixtures at the Youth Center.*

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. Utilizing the greenhouse gas calculation methodology of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the city has calculated its reduction in generation of greenhouse gases (carbon footprint) for FY20 by 64.8% from 2005 levels. This process is well ahead of the goals set by the State of Maryland and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

In 2018, a photovoltaic solar system was installed at the Springhill Lake (SHL) Recreation Center and is making its own electricity and offsetting electrical consumption at SHL Recreation Center. As part of the MSEC grant program, the city has also committed to get 20% of its energy from renewable sources. A separate request for proposals for an off-site solar farm was completed by the department and the Solar Task Force resulting in a successful offeror being awarded the project.

Transportation

Fleet Vehicles

The City of Greenbelt has a fleet of environmentally responsible vehicles in service. The City is currently running nine (11) hybrid Ford Fusions, two (2) hybrid Ford Escape; one (1) all electric Gem Polaris, and three (3) all electric Chevy Bolts. fourteen (17) alternative fuel vehicles. Installed two level 2 EV charging stations at Public Works, and one level 3 EV charging station at the Municipal Building. The department is already working towards the goal by researching new technologies and purchasing more fuel efficient vehicles. Seven hybrid SUV police pursuit vehicles are in line to be purchased in FY 2020.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The City of Greenbelt’s stormwater control measures include 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

Profile Updated June 2020



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