



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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www.cityofbowie.org

Local Government

Member since August 2009

Management and Leadership



Environmental Team

The City 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 City staff led Municipal Green Team that meets quarterly to discuss issues in-house and to further promote green practices within our buildings.



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The City has supported a number of restoration and community environmental projects. In May 2014, 33 total volunteers helped to create a

Monarch Waystation on city property in between City Hall and Bowie Town Center Pond. The Monarch Waystation is certified by Monarch Watch, a non-profit organization, and contains native plants that help support monarch butterfly populations in the area. We now have a second certified Monarch Waystation at the Bowie Senior Center and a third at the City of Bowie Belair Meadows Park. The creation of Monarch Waystations was also part of the City 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. Four city-owned properties have been certified. They are Bowie Town Center Pond, the Senior Center, the Bowie Gymnasium, and Allen Pond Park. The City is now a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

Additionally, the City has Stream Team volunteer opportunities. Many of the volunteers represent local Girl and Boy Scout troops. Since their first cleanup, 2,216 Stream Team volunteers have removed 17,040 pounds of trash and 16,460 pounds of recyclables. Also, the City and the Bowie Lions Club have implemented a widespread rain barrel program. More than 260 rain barrels have been sold.

Annual Environmental Goals

The City of Bowie has an over-arching goal in our Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020. According to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) we have reduced emissions by 15% from a 2005 baseline. We will continue working on our goals and strategies within the plan, and the plan itself will be updated in 2020.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Bowie is hosting the first annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5K on November 10, 2018. This 5k seeks to honor veterans and active duty service members while promoting Green Bowie Businesses and other green initiatives. The cups we bought are compostable and made from corn and are from Green Paper Products. We will not provide single use plastic water bottles.

Waste

Recycling

The City has a single-stream recycling program. The City set a recycling goal of 35% by 2012. As of FY2015, the recycling rate is 36% with a total of 9,300 tons of recycling collected.

Composting

The City also has a Food Waste Program with over 160 participants in select neighborhoods. As of September 2018, the program has diverted over 15,000 lbs. of food waste from the landfill. The scraps go to the county facility where it is turned into compost and sold as Leaf Gro.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

A Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy was developed for the City and many of the measures that were outlined have been completed such as lighting retrofits and adopting an Energy Star purchasing policy. The City is also designated as a Maryland Smart Energy Community through the Maryland Energy Administration. The City has committed to a 15% reduction in energy consumption of City-owned buildings by 2016, using 2011 as the baseline.

Renewable Energy

The City has committed to deploying cost-effective solar technology at city facilities. Efforts to support solar include starting a yearly renewable energy budget allocation and being a participant in Maryland's Smart Energy Communities as well as the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Roadmap. Currently, the City has a total capacity of 90.27 kW at city facilities. Additionally, City Council has approved 4 MW of capacity to be installed on 27 acres of a city-owned farm property. This will allow city facilities to receive 60% of the electricity they need from renewable energy and save about \$373,000 per year, since the system will be installed through a Tesla Power Purchase Agreement that will offer a reduce price per kWh. This project is set to break ground early 2019!

Transportation

Fleet Vehicles

The City owns a number of hybrid vehicles and has recently purchased an all-electric Nissan Leaf S and two all-electric police motorcycles. 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

The City is currently upgrading a stormwater basin used for flood control to current stormwater standards, which will provide water quality treatment to over 50 impervious acres. Additional projects that will provide water quality treatment to an additional 200+ acres are planned for construction over the next 5+ years. There are also some redevelopment projects underway that will provide stormwater treatment to untreated commercial areas.

Green Building

LEED Silver

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.

LEED Gold

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.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

The City of Bowie promotes sustainable practices at area 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.

We also award an annual "Sustainable Citizen" at the Bowie Green Expo each spring. We have had two winners so far, and will continue to grow this certification program. Residents are nominated by friends or family and a team reviews the applications to choose the winner. More information can be found on the Green Bowie webpage.

The City of Bowie was a 2018 Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award Winner.

Profile Updated September 2018



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

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

