



## 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 Brunswick

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<https://www.brunswickmd.gov>

Local Government

Member since April 2015

## Management and Leadership



### Environmental Team

*The City officially appointed an environmental team which operates under the name of "Sustainable Brunswick." Their initial goal is to achieve Sustainable Maryland Certification by June 30, 2015, but their long-term goal is to better educate the general Brunswick population about more eco-friendly practices that the City can adopt. The team currently has a membership of 14 people and they meet once a month. They have developed a three-year action plan and are currently working through the actions for the first year. Each member has taken on a specific task to complete and will upload all applicable data to a shared Google Docs Drive before submittal for certification. Their three-year action plan includes items such as: helping to establish and promote a local farmer's market; becoming a member of [HEAL](#) ("Heal Cities and Towns provides free technical assistance and support for local elected officials and their staff to adopt policies that stem the obesity epidemic and create healthy, prosperous communities") and working to reduce the City's energy costs through sustainable measures.*

## Waste



### Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

*Sustainable Brunswick members believe strongly in using as few natural resources as possible; they reduce, reuse and recycle in their homes and at work. As a team, they work primarily through online cloud style interfaces, requiring them to print very little, while still collaborating effectively. They also work very hard to encourage the average Brunswick citizen to be more mindful about their*

waste and recycling habits; they are beginning to accomplish this through monthly seminars called, "Sustainable Saturdays." The topics of this educational outreach program include topics such as home composting, effective recycling, and reuse opportunities such as Goodwill. They use various social media sites to communicate about the classes, as well as about other resources available for decreasing waste, and increasing reuse of materials. The Mayor initiated a conversation about a program that would incentivize residents to recycle more material by paying for the actual amount of trash each household discards instead of paying a flat fee; it is often referred to as "[Pay As You Throw.](#)" Though some residents expressed concern in the implementation of a new system, the dialogue spurred interest among residents in learning more on the subject of reducing the amount of trash they discard.

**Recycling**

The City's residential curbside single-stream recycling program is operated through the [Frederick County Recycling Department](#). The City encourages citizen participation in this program, as the cost is included in their county taxes. The County provides a variety of recycling containers, in sizes which can be chosen by each individual household. One container/household is supplied for free, but additional ones are available for the cost of a refundable deposit; to make it easier, the County is willing to deliver the bins directly to the residence on the recycling pick-up day following the request. The containers are equipped with lids, wheels, and pictographic sticker indicating what can and cannot be recycled through the single-stream system. The Sustainable Brunswick team is available to answer citizen questions about the recycling program, and help put the residents in touch with the correct county officials to aid them in solving any problems they might have. The City has also partnered with the County in allowing citizens outside the City limits to use the drop-off recycling bins located at the City's Public Works facility. Measurable amounts of recycling material for curbside recycling in the City of Brunswick are:

- 2010 = 480.30 tons (39.37 lbs/month/household)
- 2011 = 489.11 tons (39.72 lbs/month/household)
- 2012 = 511.53 tons (40.19 lbs/month/household)
- 2013 = 498.72 tons (40.83 lbs/month/household)

Although the City does not yet have the 2014 recycling numbers, the amount per household for the year will hopefully show an increase as people become more mindful of their waste habits.

**Composting**

*Backyard composting is an area where the City is making great strides in education and use. The City purchased [Earth Machine](#) compost bins, countertop containers, and turners to sell to their residents “at cost.” They are easy-to-use and come with complete instructions for the homeowner. The countertop container keeps small amounts of food scraps conveniently inside the house until the resident is ready to take it outside to the main compost bin. The Sustainable Brunswick team hosted a well-attended class in composting presented by an expert from the County’s Recycling Office. Composting food scraps can reduce trash weight by 30% and thus save landfill costs for the City.*

*In addition to encouraging the residents to compost, City Hall staff have learned directly how to compost by having a countertop container in their kitchen area, which they use regularly. At least 260 pounds of food scraps from City Hall are added annually to the large compost bin in the parking lot garden, in addition to the yard waste from the garden which is collected in the spring, summer, and fall months.*

**Water**

**Water Conservation**

*The City of Brunswick developed a tiered water-rate structure to encourage conservation of water throughout the City. Currently, the City rates for in-town water users are:*

<i>Base rate for up to 4,000 gallons:</i>	<i>\$48.50</i>
<i>Tier 1 excess (4,001-10,000 gallons):</i>	<i>\$ 5.33 (per every 1,000 gallons)</i>
<i>Tier 2 excess (10,001-22,000 gallons):</i>	<i>\$ 8.20 (“)</i>
<i>Tier 3 excess (above 22,000 gallons):</i>	<i>\$ 8.52 (“)</i>

*The higher “per excess 1,000-gallons” cost as a resident uses water above the minimal 4,000 gallons creates a financial incentive to conserve. Despite some minor political ramifications, this has been very effective in lowering the amount of water required to be produced by the City. Potable water is becoming increasingly more expensive to produce due to regulatory measures passed down through the federal and state governments as well as the cost of chemicals needed to treat it. In addition to the tiered system, the City offers free “[water tablet kits](#)” for residents to check their toilet tanks for possible leaks. The City will also be offering rain barrels at a reduced cost as well as instructions for their use in conserving rain water as a Sustainable Saturday class in the Spring.*



*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](http://www.green.maryland.gov/registry)*

