



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 College Park

4500 Knox Road

College Park, MD 20740

240-487-3542

www.collegeparkmd.gov

Local Government

Member since March 2011

Management and Leadership



Environmental Policy Statement

The City's vision statement reads that "The City of College Park will be a vibrant and prosperous residential, commercial, and educational community with individuals working cooperatively. College Park will have safe and harmonious neighborhoods; a clean, attractive, and healthy natural environment; efficient services; attractive, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly streetscapes; a thriving downtown, revitalized commercial districts including the Route 1 corridor and Hollywood Commercial District; and convenient transportation systems with enhanced public transit."



Environmental Team

The City of College Park is working toward certification in the Sustainable Maryland Certified program. The formation of a Sustainable Maryland Certified Green Team (SMCGT) is the first step in establishing a community sustainability program. By bringing together a group of community leaders, municipal staff, and community organizations, the team will leverage the skills and expertise to develop policies and plans, implement programs, and assist with educational opportunities that support the creation of a sustainable community.

The City also has a volunteer committee, the Committee for a Better Environment (CBE), which is made up of City residents with an interest in improving the environment and quality of life in College Park. The Committee elects its own Chair, and receives assistance from the Planning Department. CBE has a budget of \$11,000. CBE meets monthly and membership is limited to a

total of 25 individuals who are appointed by the Mayor and Council for renewable terms of 3 years. The Committee promotes beautification, sponsors Earth Day and Arbor Day activities, and provides support for local environmental projects and activities.

CBE has taken an active role in addressing planning and development concerns including, public education, pollution reduction, recycling, commuter issues, noise and light abatement, bicycle and pedestrian trails, "Smart Growth," environmental awareness, green-space preservation, awards programs, stream and roadside cleanup, sustainable landscaping, and regional planning. CBE frequently sponsors clean ups and educational workshops.



Annual Environmental Goals

The City's Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2015 includes a goal to, "Lead the community in environmental conservation, protection, restoration, and energy efficiency." Priorities include, "continue being a leader in 'leading edge' green programs and community education; provide more incentives for solar energy, reduced energy use in homes and businesses, composting, and community gardens; align new development with plans to protect and preserve natural resources; increase protection and preservation of natural resources, including cleaner air and water, tree replacement, mosquito control, care for wildlife, and park maintenance. "

The City's Action Plan for FY11 includes the following major action steps:

- *Initiate community emissions inventory.*
- *Adopt ambitious emissions reduction targets and action plan.*
- *Establish a LEED-based sustainability standard for new development projects within the City jurisdiction.*
- *Supply the energy needs of all city government facilities with 100% renewable energy through the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs).*
- *Promote greater use of car pooling and public transit by city staff.*
- *Encourage greater city staff participation in energy efficient practices.*
- *Conduct two outreach workshops.*
- *Pursue other grant resources to support activities addressing energy efficiency.*
- *Continue to pursue legislation for a home energy loan program for residents to make energy efficiency improvements. If legislation passes, pursue development of the program.*
- *Pursue participation in Sustainable Maryland Program.*
- *Promote greater use of car pooling and public transit by city staff.*
- *Encourage greater city staff participation in energy efficient practices.*

- Conduct two outreach workshops.
- Install bicycle racks in city parking garage.
- Pursue other grant resources to support activities addressing energy efficiency.
- Explore feasibility of loan program for residents to make energy efficiency improvements.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

The City collects yard waste from residents throughout the year. In the spring, residents can gather yard waste in paper bags or reusable containers. In the fall, the City uses leaf vacuums for collection. Branches, brush and sticks are also collected from residents and recycled into wood mulch. Each year over 1,500 tons of vegetative yard waste (leaves, grass, weeds) is collected from residents. The City also processes an additional 1,500 to 2,000 tons of leaves tipped by other surrounding municipalities. All of the material collected is recycled through the City's composting program to produce Smartleaf® compost.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The Committee for a Better Environment conducts regular activities including cleanups and workshops. The following is CBE's event calendar since 2012:

- March 2012 – Shade Gardening
- April 2012 – Earth Day Stream Clean-Up on Narragansett River
- September 2012 – Film: "Unwasted" with Panel Discussion
- October 2012 – Wildlife Gardening and Plant Swap
- March 2013 – "All about Composting"

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

The Public Works Department is open Saturdays in April and October for residents to drop off bulky trash items as well as electronics and yard waste for recycling. Starting in 2009, donation groups were invited to participate to help divert residential discards including clothing, household items, and surplus or salvageable building/remodeling materials. Participation varies during each event, but 25 to 50 residents have donated items during the open weekends. To continue waste diversion efforts, the City began a move-out donation event in May 2010, targeted at University of Maryland students living off-campus in College Park, however all residents living in downtown College Park are encouraged to participate.

At our own facilities, the Green Team encourages City employees to minimize use of paper cups and plates and disposable plastic utensils; reuse and/or recycle office paper; think twice before printing documents; and reuse office supplies such as file boxes and file folders. The Green Team is piloting a “Lug a Mug” program to encourage staff to bring a reusable mug to City events.

Recycling

The City introduced single stream recycling in September 2008. The recycling rate at that time was 18% but has continued to increase to 23%; in 2010, 6,154 tons of refuse was collected and of that amount 1,420 tons was recycled. In addition, the City has a permanent electronics collection and recycling program and collects between 20 and 30 tons of electronics from residents each year either through curbside collection or drop-off recycling events.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The City is also a member of ICLEI, an international association of local governments who have made a commitment to sustainable development. As part of our involvement with ICLEI, the City’s Committee for a Better Environment completed a Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory for City government operations in 2009.

The City’s Capital Improvement Program also includes a Green Initiatives project with \$50,000 in funding. The first project is Level I Energy Audits of four City buildings. Based on the Audit results, improvements will be made to facilities to improve energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy

College Park continues to pursue its sustainability efforts by offsetting 100% of its electricity usage through wind power in the form of renewable energy credits (RECs). The wind power purchase goes beyond the initial strategic plan goal to offset the electricity usage for all city facilities. Instead, it offsets electricity usage for all City streetlights in addition to each of the City’s municipal facilities, including City Hall, Davis Hall, Youth and Family Services, and the Department of Public Services portion of the Calvert Rd. School. The City will continue to purchase 100% renewable energy at least through FY 2013.

Transportation

Employee Commute

The City of College Park encourages the use of mass-transit by employees and provides City staff with the opportunity to purchase Metrochecks pre-tax.

Fleet Vehicles

The City has one hybrid vehicle in its fleet – a Toyota Prius and a bicycle, which is available for use by staff for short trips taken during the business day.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The City has installed rain gardens to capture stormwater runoff at locations throughout the City, including Duvall Field – a City recreational facility. The Committee for a Better Environment held two rain barrel workshops in 2009 and 2011.

Profile Updated April 2013



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

