Harford County Government

220 South Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-638-4707
www.harfordcountymd.gov
Local Government
Member since April 2010

Management and Leadership

☑ **Environmental Policy Statement**

Energy and Resource Management Policy (Policy 02-10-06)

Harford County Government's commitment to energy efficiency and resource management

> *Harford County Government seeks to create a culture of energy and resource awareness, management and conservation supported and reinforced from all County employees to ensure success and sustainability; to develop an energy and resource management plan; to educate all County employees and to encourage sustainability in all County activities; to develop metrics, track and report on progress; to adopt a continuous vigilance of energy and resource management among all as well as to recognize and reward successful sustainable activities. The Energy and Resource Management Policy will guide the County to achieve the highest standards in sustainability.*

To increase energy and resource efficiency, Harford County Government's goals are to:

1. *Reduce per square foot electricity usage in County Government owned buildings 3% per year, resulting in a 15% reduction by 2018 from the 2012 baseline as defined in the Energy and Resource Management Plan.*

2. *Reduce on-road fuel usage in County Government owned vehicles 4% per year, resulting in a 20% reduction by 2018 from the 2012 baseline as defined in the Energy and Resource Management Plan.*

☑ **Environmental Team**

The County Executive established the Energy Management Steering Committee, otherwise known as the Green Team, in 2008 to advocate best management practices that promote energy and cost savings measures within each department of the County Government.

Membership is made up of representatives from various County Government organizations. The Team has two subcommittees: Green Education and Outreach and Green Actions. The Team meets bimonthly to coordinate activities, review progress, and develop new initiatives and the subcommittees meet monthly.

☑ **Annual Environmental Goals**

Energy Efficiency - Reduce per square foot electricity usage in County Government owned buildings 3% per year, resulting in a 15% reduction by 2018 from the 2012 baseline as defined in the Energy and Resource Management Plan.

Fuel Efficiency - Reduce on-road fuel usage in County Government owned vehicles 4% per year, resulting in a 20% reduction by 2018 from the 2012 baseline as defined in the Energy and Resource Management Plan.

☑ **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

Procurement of Recycled Products policy (03-10-06) establishes guidelines for the procurement of environmentally-preferable products (EPP) and waste reduction.

☑ **Environmentally Preferable Products and Services**

DPW Division of Highways & Water Resources reviews and approves all required Erosion & Sediment Control Plans and Storm Water Management Plans for compliance with Maryland environmental statutes and regulations. DPW also conducts enforcement inspections of construction activities for compliance.

Planning and Zoning reviews development activities for compliance with forest conservation, historic and agricultural preservation, natural resource

district and floodplain regulations as well as the County's Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program. In addition, the Department of Planning and Zoning develops the Harford County Master Plan, combined with the Land Use Element Plan to provide direction for addressing future growth, revitalization, the provision of adequate public facilities, economic development and the preservation and protection of natural resources, agricultural lands and historic resources.

☑ **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

Environmental Conservation & Stewardship Poster Contest: Harford County Government's Sustainability Office and the Harford County Public Schools' Resource Conservation Program partner annually to sponsor the Conservation and Preservation Poster Contest. The poster contest challenges students from grades kindergarten to 12th grade to create original art work to inspire others to efficiently use and reuse our resources.

Arbor Day – Annually Harford County Government celebrates Arbor Day with activities to highlight the importance of trees for a healthier and greener community. A goal of Harford County's Arbor Day activities is to inspire citizens to plant, celebrate and nurture trees.

Rain Garden at the Harford County Public Library - Abingdon Branch: The project is designed to intercept roof and parking lot runoff for treatment prior to discharge from the site. This will be done by diverting water flow into the rain garden and discharging the filtered runoff into the existing storm drain system or into the storm water management pond. Furthermore, this project serves as an educational tool to Harford County residents.

Bay-wise landscape certification – The University of Maryland Extension (UME) certified the landscape at the Harford County Courthouse in Mary 2009 as bay-wise. This landscape management program focuses on "better water quality through smarter gardening" and requires certification from a Master Gardener.

Waste

☑ **Solid Waste Reduction**

Environmental Services – DPW Division of Environmental Services encourages various solid waste reduction opportunities available to the community to reduce the amount of waste entering the landfill. Some of the programs include but are not limited to grasscycling, composting, yard trimming collection, used oil and antifreeze collection. In addition, the Division of Environmental Services tries to host at an annual Household Hazardous Waste Take-back Day.

Paperless Initiatives – several County Departments are working towards going completely paperless while every Department is evaluating ways to decrease paper usage in various capacities from eliminating extraneous mailings to e-signatures.

Purchasing Card (P-card) Program - using the P-card for purchase orders minimizes and possibly eliminates the need for paper invoices that are associated with purchase orders, as well as payment checks produced by the County to pay for these individual invoices. In addition to the operational savings, there are savings due to one payment per month for these type of procurements versus separate payments with individual envelopes to several vendors, as well as postage savings for the mailing of these checks.

Property Repurposing and Reuse - the surplus property management and auction process results in recycling/reuse of many items that would otherwise go to the landfill. This saves space in the landfill, generates revenue for the County, and saves taxpayer dollars. Prior to this process there was a once a year auction conducted at the surplus storage area; bidders were required to be present at the auction, and unsold items were discarded.

☑ **Recycling**

Recycling at the County Parks - Working with community partners, Parks and Recreation expanded the Ball Fields recycling partnership at the Harford County Public Schools' fields and the pilot Churchville Rec Center Recycling program to offer recycling to all County parks. The majority of discarded items collected from the parks are recyclable material, adding recycling capabilities is great way to divert unnecessary waste to the landfill.

Scrap Metal Recycling – The Scrap Metal Recycling Program encourages all Highway locations to recycle and coordinates with them to combine similar scrap metal types to increase the value returned for recycling.

Single Stream Recycling - DPW Division of Environmental Services initiated Single Stream Recycling in September 2010 which increased the amount of recyclable materials accepted whereby decreasing the amount of possible waste going to the landfills.

Clothing and Textile Recycling – the DPW Division of Environmental Services accepts for free clothing, belts, hats, handbags, curtains, towels, sheets, blankets, paired shoes tied together and other textiles for recycling at the Harford Waste Disposal Center.

Electronic Recycling – the DPW Environmental Services offers free recycling for small electronics at the Harford Waste Disposal Center.

For more information about the County's recycling program, visit www.harfordcountymd.gov/DPW/EnvAffairs

☑ **Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction**

Green Cleaning - Facilities & Operations custodial staff switched to non-toxic, biodegradable, non-petroleum based "green" cleaning products. No longer are harsh chemical cleaners used. Paper products such as toilet paper and hand towels are made with high recycled content. The "green housekeeping" techniques reduce exposures of building occupants and maintenance personnel to chemical contaminants that could adversely impact air quality and the environment as well as limits the environmental impact of cleaners and disposable products.

Water-based Traffic Paint - DPW Bureau of Highways Maintenance has changed from VOC traffic paint to non-toxic water-based paint for pavement markings and striping.

Energy

☑ **Energy Efficiency**

Harford County is striving to reduce per square foot electricity usage in County Government owned buildings 3% per year, resulting in a 15% reduction by 2018 from the 2012 baseline as defined in the Energy and Resource Management Plan.

As part of these efforts, Harford County is implementing several energy efficiency projects as well as enhanced operation and maintenance projects along with a community and employee education outreach program.

☑ **Renewable Energy**

Utilization of Alternative energy - Five solar powered roof ventilation fans were installed as part of the Equestrian Barn Roof Replacement. This will save energy while reducing heat build-up and removing moisture from the space. The use of alternative energy to power the ventilation fans allows Harford County Government to take the next step towards sustainability without compromising our ability to effectively serve the residents of Harford County.

Hydropower at Eden Mill Nature Center   The Eden Mill Nature Center's hydroelectric turbine project is exploring the restoration of the Mill's hydroelectric capabilities as a way to use renewable energy to power the Mill.

Waste-to-Energy Plant - The Harford Waste-to-Energy facility on located Magnolia Road adjacent to the Edgewood Area-Aberdeen Proving Ground provides renewable energy while reducing the volume of waste to be disposed of in landfills. The steam energy produced is sold to the US Army. In a typical year, the facility combusts approximately 115,000 tons of municipal solid waste while supplying approximately 460,000 thousand pounds of steam to the US Army for use on the installation. Some of the energy produced by facility is converted to electricity to meet some of the in-plant energy demand.

Geothermal HVAC systems – Geothermal HVAC systems were implemented in three County Government buildings - the Jarrettsville Branch Library, the Havre de Grace Activity Center and the Emergency Operations Center.

Transportation

☑   **Employee Commute**

Alternative Transportation Options - The Department of Community Services - Commuter Assistance connects County residents with commuting options. Harford Commuter Assistance helps those seeking a transportation alternative to the single occupancy vehicle. They also provide information about MARC trains, mass transit, and biking alternatives. Through Harford Commuter Assistance, drivers who are tired of commuting alone can take advantage of a free car and vanpool matching service. Commuters who register with Harford Commuter Assistance are sent a personalized list of other commuters who go in the same direction at approximately the same time. The program motto is "Commute Smart- A Clean Commute is a Clear Choice".

Teleworking – the teleworking program allows authorized employees to work from a remote workplace to enable employees to be more productive and to reduce employee turnover. The program enhances the County's efforts to employ and accommodate people with disabilities. In addition, teleworking supports the County's policy of reducing energy and resource consumption by decreasing the production of greenhouse gases emitted during an employee's commute to work as well as reducing traffic congestion.

☑ **Efficient Business Travel**

Destination Plans – destinations plans define the most efficient route between the destinations. Each plan saves time and fuel by increasing the efficiency of route for interdepartmental deliveries.

Webinars - in recent years, the County has made increasing use of online web-based training and webinars for employee professional development. The result has been a marked reduction in travel to offsite locations for training.

Connecting Remotely - Working with ICT and the Sustainability Office DPW Environmental Services arranged for a pilot webcam program.   Two webcams were purchased and installed at the two locations. Now rather than having to coordinate travel and operating schedules to allow for office meetings, the office uses web conferencing to facilitate more frequent communication between offices while supporting the County's green initiatives.

☑ **Fleet Vehicles**

Harford County is striving to reduce on-road fuel usage in County Government owned vehicles 4% per year, resulting in a 20% reduction by 2018 from the 2012 baseline as defined in the Energy and Resource Management Plan.

Water

☑ **Water Conservation**

It is Harford County's standard practice to use low flow / low flush plumbing fixtures in all replacement, retrofit, or new construction projects.

☑ **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

DPW Division of Highways & Water Resources reviews and approves all required Erosion & Sediment Control Plans and Storm Water Management Plans for compliance with Maryland environmental statutes and regulations. DPW also conducts enforcement inspections of construction activities for compliance

Other

☑ *USDN   - Harford County is member of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)*

DNR Sustainability Network – Harford County Government is a member of Maryland's DNR Sustainability Network

Buy Local Campaign – The County Executive's Division of Agriculture developed and execution of the Buy Local campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to raise the public's level of awareness about the availability of locally-grown food and other agricultural products. For more information on Harford County Agriculture, log on to www.HarfordFarms.com.

Profile Updated July 2014