



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.

Town of Emmitsburg



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Local Government
Member since February 2015

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

On October 20, 2014 the Town of Emmitsburg passed Policy 2014-01 (Sustainable Procurement Policy) stating the town's intention to pursue environmental stewardship through materials, products or services purchased/used. The policy also acknowledges the Town's commitment to sustainability and reducing energy consumption. The policy can be viewed here:

http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov/community_outreach/sustainable_community/town_of_emmitsburg_sustainable_procurement_policy.php

As stated in the Sustainable Procurement Policy (Policy 2014-01), "the Town of Emmitsburg recognizes its responsibility to minimize negative impacts on human health and the environment while supporting a diverse, equitable, and vibrant community and economy. The Town recognizes that the types of products and services the Town buys have inherent social, human health, environmental and economic impacts, and that the Town should make procurement decisions that embody the Town's commitment to sustainability."

Environmental Team

The Town has a "Green Team" certified through Sustainable Maryland. The team consists of ten members including the Mayor, the Town Clerk, several passionate town residents, and local business leaders. The group meets quarterly. The goal of the team is to leverage the skills, expertise, and life experience of team members to develop policies/plans, implement programs, and assist with educational opportunities that

support the creation of a sustainable and environmentally friendly community. The Green Team seeks to engage all community members and is currently promoting the team to add more members, thus making sustainability a community effort.

The Green Team has also created a 3-year action strategy with goals, guiding principles and actions which can be viewed here:

https://sustainablemaryland.com/certification/participating-communities/certification-report?tx_sicert_certification%5Baction%5D=show&tx_sicert_certification%5Bcertification%5D%5B_identity%5D=102&tx_sicert_certification%5Bcontroller%5D=Certification&cHas h=eeb2137cece5138e69ec7b5c8bccd9d6

Annual Environmental Goals

On August 19, 2013, the Town of Emmitsburg passed Policy 2013-03 (Alternate Energy policy), which requires the Town to “reduce conventional centralized electricity generation serving local government buildings by meeting 20% of those buildings’ electricity demand with distributed, renewable energy generation by 2022.”

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

On October 20, 2014, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners adopted a Sustainable Procurement Policy (Policy 2014-01) committing the Town to consider environmental factors such as toxicity, waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, depletion of natural resources, and impact on biodiversity when purchasing materials, products, or services.

Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects

In 2020, Emmitsburg partnered with the Land and Cultural Preservation Fund/DBA Stream Link Education to accelerate recovery and restoration of natural resources by implementing non-point source pollution control projects. A forest buffer of 3,300 native trees have been planted at the Town’s wastewater treatment plant on 11 acres of agricultural land and denuded streamsides along two important Monocacy River tributaries.

Waste

Composting

In 2017, the Town of Emmitsburg began providing low-cost compost bins to residents. Compost bins are sold for \$20 each and we have sold 60+ since June 2017 when the program started. Outreach and information guides are distributed to promote the Town’s effort to reduce solid waste reaching landfills and incinerators. This is part of

the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot plan to teach the community about the benefits of composting and help protect the environment.

Recycling

The Town of Emmitsburg operates a yard waste and recycling center for convenient drop off of recyclable materials for residents at the Town's wastewater treatment plant. Drop off is available on the first and third Saturday of each month. The Town also holds community recycling events for paper, paint, and electronics.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

Natural Fertilizer Storage: In 2016, the Town of Emmitsburg began a contract with Denali Water for the storage of natural liquid organic chicken residuals at the Town's wastewater treatment plant. The residual fertilizes farm fields in lieu of toxic chemical fertilizers and also provides a use for the liquid residual created at chicken processing/packaging plants after the chicken is packaged. According to University of Georgia, it takes approximately 1,000 gallons of water to package 1,000 pounds of chicken. Denali Water works directly with chicken processing/packaging plants by removing the liquid residual after the packaging process is complete, then stores the liquid residual at the Town's lagoon until farmers are ready to put the fertilizer on their fields in the early spring and late fall. The lagoon holds approximately 4 million gallons. Denali Water works directly with the farmers who wish to use the residual fertilizer in lieu of chemicals by delivering the fertilizer from the Town's property to the farmers. The lagoon is overseen by the Town's eight Department of Public Works employees, who ensure the property is up kept for fertilizer storage and is accessible by trucks bringing the fertilizer in/out of the property.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

Policy 2013-02

In 2013 the Town passed the Electrical Energy Efficiency Policy, which declares the Town's intent to reduce electricity consumption, partner with the Maryland Energy Administration, and enroll as a Maryland Smart Energy Community.

LED Lights

At the end of 2013, the Town replaced all its streetlights with LED high energy efficient bulbs. This has reduced the Town's kWh usage in the street light accounts by 40% and reduced the Town's overall electrical use by 9.5%

Maryland Smart Energy Community

In 2014, in recognition of its efforts in energy reduction, Emmitsburg was named a Maryland Smart Energy Community by the Maryland Energy Administration. As part of the program, the Town has to establish an energy consumption baseline and develop a plan with the goal of reducing energy consumption of town-owned buildings by 15% within five (5) years of the baseline year.



Renewable Energy

The Town of Emmitsburg has two solar fields. The first 1.109 megawatt field was completed in April 2014. The second 1.295 megawatt solar field was installed in August 2015. Both fields generate 250,000 kilowatts a month or 3 million kilowatts a year. All major Town accounts, as well as the new waste water treatment plant facility, are powered by 100% renewable energy. Since installation in 2015, Potomac Edison invoice costs have decreased by 50%. In addition, several energy bill line item charges no longer apply. Emmitsburg expects to produce over 94% of government electrical needs through renewable solar energy.

Transportation



Efficient Fleet Vehicles

Emmitsburg has a strict policy of high-quality maintenance of its vehicle fleet. It also makes every effort to replace older less fuel efficient vehicles. The Town also attempts to maintain a two man-to-one truck effort in order to reduce vehicle use.

Electric Vehicle Usage

The Town of Emmitsburg purchased a fully electric vehicle, a Chevy Bolt, in 2019 to benefit the environment. Electric cars help improve air quality, lower CO2 emissions and reduce the demand for fossil fuels. The use of an electric car as a Town vehicle shows support for renewable energy and promotes use in the community.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

On May 23, 2019, Emmitsburg officially opened public electric vehicle charging stations. These stations are free for the public to use. Four level two AC charging stations are located behind the Emmitsburg Community Center at 300A South Seton Avenue with a charging time of two to four hours for a full charge. This charging station helps the community transition to electric car usage, provides a convenient option for drivers, and promotes the Town's sustainability policy.

Customer Travel

The Town of Emmitsburg has been installing sidewalks to connect all areas of the town, improve walkability and reduce reliance on vehicles. 122 ADA complaint sidewalk curb ramps were installed and 8 different sidewalk connections were constructed totaling 3,170 feet. These curbs and sidewalks allow residents to walk safely from one end of town to the other where businesses and restaurants are.

Water

Water Conservation

On April 11, 2017 the Town of Emmitsburg and Kershner Environmental Technologies installed an LG Sonic Algae and Biofilm Control system on Rainbow Lake. Rainbow Lake supplies drinking water for the Town of Emmitsburg. The new algae control system will help eliminate algae, which has been a significant problem for the Town. The algae clogs the filters/pumps in the water treatment plant and requires a substantial amount of water to clean the algae out of the system.

The new algae control system is powered by solar energy and will use low non-toxic frequencies to collapse gas vesicles in the algae cell before it can float to the surface and become a significant problem. The system will not harm animals, fish, birds, pets, or other aquatic plants. The Town estimates water savings of 642,250 gallons a month (50% of current average usage) and cost savings totaling about \$19,385 a year from the reduction of chemicals. Chemicals are predicted to reduce by the following: chlorine (-10%), coagulant (-20%), soda ash (-20%), and green clean pro (no longer needed). In addition, there are numerous other savings such as a reduced reliance on the town's well system and electrical savings.

Stormwater Management

Public Education and Outreach

In 2020, as part of the Town of Emmitsburg's Stormwater Management Program, a Public Education Outreach Plan was implemented to distribute educational materials to the residents in order to help reduce the discharge of pollutants caused by stormwater runoff. The Town created a reporting tool for residents where water quality complaints are filed and addressed. Educational materials on stormwater are distributed regularly to the public through Town's website, local government cable channel, Facebook, YouTube, and newsletters.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

In 2018, Emmitsburg was issued a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit by the Maryland Department of the Environment to manage stormwater runoff. This requires the implementation of six minimum control measures, as well as treating stormwater from 20% of the Town's impervious surfaces through best management practices (BMPs).

Street Sweeping

Emmitsburg has increased street sweeping throughout the Town to once a month. This removes debris and pollutants to improve water quality from stormwater runoff.

Rain Barrels

In August 2019, Emmitsburg started a rain barrel program to teach the community about stormwater runoff's direct connection to the health of local streams, ponds, lakes, and the Chesapeake Bay. Compost bins are sold for \$40 each and we have sold 106+ since August 2019 when the program started

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



Frederick County Leadership in Sustainability Award

On May 20, 2015 the Town of Emmitsburg was presented with the Frederick County Leadership in Sustainability Award. The award recognizes Emmitsburg for its leadership in solar energy, lighting efficiency, pedestrian/bike accessibility, and sustainability comprehensive planning.

Gold Leaf Award, International Society of Arboriculture

In October 2018, the Town of Emmitsburg was nominated for and awarded the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Award. The ISA is an international non-profit organization that serves the tree care industry. The award recognizes Emmitsburg for our outstanding Arbor Day activities.

Tree City USA Certification

The Town of Emmitsburg achieved and has maintained Tree City USA status since 2019. This certification recognizes that the Town meets the four core standards of sound

urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

Profile Updated April 2022



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

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

