



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 Ocean City



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<http://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/engineering/environment/sustainable-ocean-city/>
www.OceanCity.Green

Local Government
Member since June 2016

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

The Town of Ocean City is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. We will strive to improve our environmental performance over time and to initiate additional projects and activities that will further reduce our impacts on the environment.

Our commitment to the environment extends to our customers, our staff, and the community in which we operate. We are committed to:

- *Comply with all applicable environmental regulations;*
- *Prevent pollution whenever possible;*
- *Train all of our staff on our environmental program and empower them to contribute and participate;*
- *Communicate our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community; and*
- *Continually improve over time by striving to measure our environmental impacts and by setting goals to reduce these impacts each year.*

Signed by Doug Miller, City Manager

Environmental Team

The Coastal Resources Legislative Committee/Green Team was developed to be able to bring environmental programs policy projects and legislation to the attention of the group to be discussed and vetted. This group is the first stop for projects and ideas or issues that need to go to the City Council for consideration. Our committee has citizens from various organizations including Coastal Bays Program, Ocean City Surf Club, Hotel Motel Restaurant Association, Chamber of Commerce, Health Department, Assateague Coastal Trust, and Town Department of Community Development and Engineering. This group was expanded to be the required "Green Team" for the Sustainable Maryland Certification Action. It meets bi-monthly. The Adopt-Your-Beach program was first introduced to this group and has since been sanctioned by the committee and council. The Committee continues to introduce new and innovative ideas and programs such as the Lights on Bike, alley lighting, staw-less summer and other source reduction programs, in addition to applying for Bike Friendly Designation, and an expanded adopt your street program that works with the Courts with for community service hours.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The Town of Ocean City has bi-annual clean ups, one in the spring around Earth Day and the other in September that corresponds with International Coastal Cleanup Day. We have been doing this for over 18 years. During the fall clean up we actually have a tally sheet that the volunteers fill out to quantify the debris and trash that they collect. This information is then forwarded to the Ocean Conservancy to be included in the worldwide tabulation. This effort helps us focus our attention on the pollution sources and target the particular management practice to the appropriate industry. We have between 50 and 100 individuals at each cleanup.

The Town has also sponsored the Dune Patrol for over 20 years. This program is a volunteer effort where individuals or groups are assigned to a specific block and become the caretakers of the areas. They are given permission to enter the dunes and are provided supplies to help aid with the effort. This program is being supplemented by a program just recently developed by the Ocean City Surf Club called Adopt-Your-Beach. This program has expanded and the entire town has been adopted. This program will be using the same tabulation forms that are used for the International Coastal Cleanup. They provide a minimum of four clean-ups a year along with any ongoing efforts that the group will be holding. The data collection is also available to the Town of Ocean City in order to focus our prevention measures for target pollutants.

The Town has designated the Ocean City Boardwalk as a no smoking zone. This has led to a problem of people disposing of their cigarette butts in the street prior to reaching the boardwalk. We have obtained a grant from the health department to install cigarette butt containers at the ramps prior to the boardwalk. We will be installing them this spring. The second step is the collection of the butts. They will be collected and stored at the public works yard to be packaged and mailed to TerraCycle by volunteers and community service individual. TerraCycle recycles the cigarette butt in to pellets that are combined with other plastics to make shipping pallets or plastic lumber.

Ocean City is a 30-year member of the Tree City USA program. A program offered by the Arbor Day Foundation. Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, improve water quality, among many other benefits.

The Town has been working on a Litter Free OC campaign for the last few years. This is a multi-organization effort to help change behavior and encourage responsible behavior when it comes to littering. We have created a brand and have numerous outreach efforts to spread the word and educate the residents and visitors. Increased advertisement with posters, stickers, and billboards. Working with the schools to encourage the students to sign an anti-litter pledge and participate in community cleanups. We have also focused on increased enforcement of our town litter ordinance. This program is to continue for many years.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The Town of Ocean City completed the contracted energy audit and is in the implementation and assessment phase. We have developed a baseline assessment of our energy use and have obtained our Carbon Footprint. We have installing LED lighting throughout the town and will be implementing the other actions including HVAC system improvements, occupancy sensors and improvements to building envelopes.

We are in receipt of Year 1 Annual Report on the assessment of the savings implementing the action in the Energy Audit recommended. The implemented measures reduced energy consumption and saved the Town \$375,007 which was \$119,381 dollars more than projected.

Renewable Energy

The Town of Ocean City purchases approximately 25% of its power through a Solar PPA. For the remaining 75% of our energy needs, which we purchase from a retail supplier, 35% is required to come from renewable sources. In calculating our total use of renewable energy: 35% of this 75% energy purchased comes to 26.25% renewable; adding the 25% covered by the Solar PPA comes to a total of 51.25% of our energy usage coming from renewable sources.

The town also partnered with Constellation Energy in building [Gateway Solar](#), a 10-megawatt solar energy project that became active 2018. It includes over 30,000 solar panels on 113 acres in the county. Ocean City uses 3.5 megawatts of the generated energy.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The Town of Ocean City has a three-fold stormwater management program. The Town is delegated the authority to review and approve the development plans for compliance to the State's stormwater management program. We ensure that all new development meet the new and re-development criteria. This includes reduction of impervious surfaces and treatment for the first 1" of runoff. We focus mainly on Environmentally Sensitive Design such as pervious surfaces and landscape infiltration. We also have a retrofit program for our existing stormwater infrastructure throughout the town and provide ESD to the MEP on all city projects. We collect mitigation fees and critical area program fees when development only meets the minimum design standards. They have an option of paying a Fee-In-Lieu, which is set aside in a deferred revenue account that is used as seed money for grant opportunities and funding sources for town and private stormwater water quality projects. Some of the projects that we subsidize are rain barrels, alternative surfaces, rain gardens, beach planting, BayScape, outfall retrofits, and cost-share ESD retrofits to name a few. We have utilized mitigation fees for in-kind match for a FEMA grant to install Back-Flow preventers in the storm drain to prevent street flooding. The developers, Town and private citizens are all involved in the efforts to improve and protect the waters surrounding the Town so crucial to our economy.

Recycling

The Town of Ocean City has been partipating with TerraCycle to recycle cigarette butts. We box up the collected cigarette butts and send them to

TerraCycle where they use the fiber filters to make planks. We have also purchased benches made from the recycled wood planks.

The Town has created a used motor oil recycle program. We established a drop off location and have a business pick up the oil and they re-process.

<https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/public-works/recycling/>



Composting

A local entrepreneur has developed a coalition of restaurant that participate in a composting effort. <https://www.goqgreenwithoc.org/composting-in-ocmd>. This is a grassroots group. The Town has ventured into an agreement with the coalition and are paying them the same rate for the food waste that we pay to send trash to the Trash to Energy Company. This program has grown from a small pilot project to over 10 restaurants.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



The Town of Ocean City has participated in the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program since 2016. We are currently at a “Bronze” level and are aspiring to the “Silver” level in the next recertification.

The Town is also a 30-year member of the Tree City USA program.

Profile Updated September 2022



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

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

