

Prince George's County

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

YEAR IN REVIEW
december 2014



The Top 14 of 2014: Year in Review

Green Scene

newsletter



The DoE Mission

The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.

DIRECTOR'S *Corner*



Dear Friends,

There is much to be proud of and thankful for as we look back at this past year. With your help, Prince George's County is quickly becoming the most innovative environmental County on the east coast. With the thoughtful and determined help from residents and staff, we have put in place fun and engaging programs to make our County healthy, clean and beautiful. We are planting more trees, we are engaging more schools, we are adopting more animals, and we are installing more rain barrels and recycling more than ever before.

But, we haven't even hit our stride yet. Every day we are learning, adapting and innovating. Every week we are engaging more partners in new ways. Our problems are not new, but our solutions are ever evolving and improving. In these pages, you can see the fresh approaches we're taking; but, this is no reason to relax. It is motivation to keep our momentum growing. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

We are also thankful for the contribution of two giants in the environmental field who have retired from DoE after a tremendous career: Dr. Mow-Soung Cheng and Larry Coffman. Together, the two of them revolutionized environmentalism and the way that we approach clean water. They were the first to understand how urban and suburban areas contribute to clean water as they developed the nation's first raingardens... actually, they coined that phrase. Because of their work we will achieve clean water and healthy seafood from our waters in a couple of generations. We cannot thank them enough for their service to our County and to environmental protection.

Have happy and safe holidays and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Adam Ortiz
Director

INSIDE *this issue*



**THE STORMWATER
STAR: DoE CELEBRATES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR LARRY
COFFMAN**

3

11 Top 14 in 2014: Year in Review

15 Community Outreach: 2014 Year in Review

17 Top Social Media Posts of the Year



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The Green Scene newsletter is a monthly publication of the Department of the Environment. We welcome story suggestions, photos and special event articles.

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www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/environmentalresources



THE STORMWATER STAR!

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
CELEBRATES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LARRY COFFMAN



A STAR IS BORN

He started his career in stormwater management at the young age of 12. After 40 years of dedicated hard work and service, Larry Coffman is retiring from his position as Deputy Director of the Department of the Environment. On his last day, DoE sat with Larry to recount the beginning, middle and end of his career.

DoE How did your career in stormwater management begin?

LARRY I grew up in Adelphi, Maryland. In my neighborhood, there was a lot of gang activity and to keep me out of trouble, my father put me to work. He was the foreman at a construction company that performed work on storm drains. I laid grades and assisted with other special projects. In college, I decided to take a different path and studied chemistry and biology. I was going to be a doctor and help cure cancer. After graduating, I landed an interview with the National Institutes of Health, which went very well. During the interview, a scientist took me on a tour of the laboratory in which I would be working. That laboratory turned out to be a morgue and my job was to remove the cadavers' livers for testing. I knew immediately that job wasn't for me and, needless to say, I did not take the job and joined the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) as a laboratory supervisor.

DoE What was life like at WSSC?

LARRY My career in stormwater management really began to take off. I worked in the Stormwater Unit as a Project Manager for the WSSC Environmental Restoration and Flood Control Program. During my 13 years at the Commission, I conducted watershed planning and procurement, contract administration and budget preparation.

DoE What came next?

LARRY In 1987, I joined the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (now known as the Department of the Environment— DoE). I served as the Associate Director and oversaw the development of the Department's innovative urban stormwater management programs and activities.

1

Larry's world-renowned work in comprehensive watershed planning and restoration, flood control regulation and remediation, water and sewer programs, education, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance has been recognized by numerous federal agencies, organizations and universities.

2

Out of 2,500 local governments, the County's NPDES Stormwater Permit Program received first place honors in the 1998 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Excellence Awards for its pioneering work in environmentally sustainable low impact development (LID). More than 20 individual initiatives were developed through the Program under his leadership, from public outreach to environmental restoration to urban retrofitting.

STEPPING OUT ON HIS OWN

DoE What were the next steps in your career?

LARRY After 17 years with the Department, I left to establish an environmental consulting firm specializing in LID training and development. I've worked with dozens of local jurisdictions to help them develop and implement LID programs. I've also conducted national LID workshops and training seminars for a variety of clients including the EPA, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. State Department and the Federal Highway Administration. I've also traveled internationally and supported LID projects in China and New Zealand.

3

His firm, LNSB, LLLP Stormwater Services provides guidance to regional, state and local governments, watershed groups and other environmental organizations on the development of education and outreach programs, professional technical training and comprehensive program development for NPDES permit compliance, restoration of impaired receiving waters and design manuals.

THE COMEBACK

In 2012, upon the request of newly appointed DoE Director Adam Ortiz, Larry returned to serve as the Deputy Director of DoE. As work began to restructure the Department, Larry assisted in the organization of DoE's divisions, goals, programs and functions. He helped to negotiate the County's MS4 consent order with the EPA, developed a trash disposal partnership agreement with Joint Base Andrews and consulted on the County's resource recovery strategy. Larry also assisted with the development of the Animal Advocate & Stakeholders Steering Committee, sought funding alternatives for the Animal Management Division and assisted with rewriting of the animal code.

DoE Why did you come back?

LARRY I wanted to give back to the County. I owed the County more than just being an employee.

DoE How did you achieve your success?

LARRY Success is not achieved in a vacuum. It's the DoE team that really makes everything happen; they make the lasting impact. I just came up with the ideas. For example, the Clean Water Partnerships initiative was an idea that started with me, but it's become a mission embraced by the County.

4

Larry's most notable accomplishments since returning to DoE is the development of the Clean Water Partnerships (CWP) initiative. A first-of-its-kind program, it maximizes the strengths of the public and private sectors to treat polluted runoff from 8,000 acres of existing impervious surfaces by the end of the decade. This public-private partnership pilot program with Corvias Solutions encompasses \$100 million in green infrastructure projects. The program will link County businesses with training and education programs at Prince George's Community College, local organizations and existing government programs to build a stormwater management workforce and mentor-protégé networks within the County.

“Prince George's County has made significant strides in its efforts to restore our local waterways and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. This partnership puts us in the forefront of creating clean, green and healthy communities and emphasizes the need for collaborative strategies to provide new solutions in the area of stormwater management.” **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE RUSHERN L. BAKER, III**

DoE What are your retirement plans?

LARRY To have fun!

DoE Have you accomplished all of your goals?

LARRY Yes! I just wanted to help solve problems and help people; I think I've done that.

With his background in the construction industry and training in chemistry and biology, Larry realized that conventional stormwater projects that pipe runoff pollution directly into streams were major causes of toxic waters because they worked against nature. Larry and his team at the County reintroduced mother nature to stormwater management by developing and installing the nation's first 'bioretention' projects, including raingardens, where stormwater runoff is diverted into landscaped natural areas where pollutants are filtered and broken down using ecology. In fact, Larry and the County team invented and coined the word "raingarden."

NATIONAL AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

Larry is a scientist, educator and inventor with degrees in biology and chemistry from Lehigh University. He served on the Water Environment Research Federation's Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee and is a former member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Urban Water Resources Research Council. He's also served on numerous committees for the restoration of the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. Larry is considered one of the nation's leading experts on LID technology for aquatic ecosystem protection and restoration.

He is the author of numerous design manuals, technical papers and articles on stormwater management including the first national Low Impact Design Manual for the EPA. Larry is also the co-founder and former board member of the Low Impact Development Center – a national non-profit organization that provides planning, design, research, training and consultant services on integrated urban stormwater management. Following is a list of his national awards and publications.



Larry with Rufus Lusk (left). Rufus is the owner of the Port Towns Shopping Center, which was home to the first raingarden installed on a shopping center property in the U.S. This rain garden helps keep runoff from going into Dueling Creek and the Anacostia River.

NATIONAL AWARDS

1992 EPA National Second Place Award, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "The Use of Innovative Technologies in Controlling Stormwater Discharge"

1993 Technology Achievement Award, Public Technology, Inc., "GIS-Based Flood Management Models"

1994 Excellence Award for the Bioretention Design Manual, ASLA, Chesapeake Bay Chapter.

1995 Exemplary Systems in Government Award, Urban & Regional Information Systems Association, "GIS Applications on Stormwater Management"

1996 Special Achievement Award, National Association of Counties, "Innovative GIS Applications to Automate the Stormwater Programs"

1997 Innovations in American Government Award, The Ford Foundation and Harvard University, "GIS Applications to Stormwater Programs"

1997 Special Achievement Award, National Association of Counties, "GIS-Based Tool for Nitrogen Loading From Septic Systems Stormwater Programs"

1998 Chesapeake Bay Communities Award, U.S. EPA, "Protecting the Chesapeake Bay and Its Rivers and Streams"

1998 First Place National Excellence Award, U.S.- EPA "The Outstanding Stormwater Management Program"

1999 Distinguished Achievement Award, Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, "Using GIS to Assess Septic System Impacts to the Patuxent River"

1999 Distinguished Achievement Award, Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, "Inglewood Rain Garden Demonstration Project"

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Prince George's County, Maryland. Department of Environmental Resources. "Low Impact Development Design Manual, Site Design", EPA / PGC, 1999.

- Prince George's County, Maryland. Department of Environmental Resources. "Low Impact Development Guidance Manual, Hydrologic Analysis", EPA / PGC, 1999.

- Cheng, M.S, Coffman, L.S. and Clar, M.L., "Low Impact Development Hydrologic Analysis", Prince George's County, Maryland, 2001.

- Coffman, ET. al., "Kettering Demonstration Project – Final

Report Public Education and Public Participation", Prince George's County, 1998.

- "Low Impact Development an Alternative Stormwater Management Technology", Harvard Water Sensitive Design Conference, 2001.

- "Low-Impact Development Design: A New Paradigm for Stormwater Management, Mimicking and Restoring the Natural Hydrologic Regime", ASCE, 2000.

- Cheng & Coffman "Comparison of Hydrological Responses from Low Impact Development with Conventional Development", ASCE, 2003.

- "Feasibility Study for the Use of Low Impact Development for Wet Weather Flows in Urban Areas", US EPA, 2001.

- Weinstein, Neil A., Mow-Soung Cheng and Larry Coffman. "Low Impact Development Applications for Urban Wet Weather Flow", Novatech, 2001.

- Weinstein, Neil A., Mow-Soung Cheng, Larry Coffman, and Michael Clar. In publication. "Low Impact Development Hydrologic Analysis and Design." The 25th Annual Conference on Water Resources Planning and Management. American Society of Civil Engineers, 1998.

“ I was thrilled to have Larry return to Prince George's County Government as DoE's Deputy Director. He promised to help get DoE going in a fresh and progressive direction. He did that and more. Larry is the leader in stormwater field. More than anyone, Larry is responsible for rediscovering nature's 'technology' and making it work in our modern society for clean water. Thank you for your dedication as an environmental leader and public servant, and doing so much to change our world for the better. ”

ADAM ORTIZ | DIRECTOR

“ Larry brought tenacity to DoE. A focus to get things done outside of the realm of ordinary thinking that advanced us to a higher level. With his leadership, we have excelled and been nationally recognized for innovative stormwater projects, as well as animal management and waste management projects. I wish him nothing but the best! ”

MICHELLE RUSSELL
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

“ Larry truly valued working hard to implement stormwater management techniques. However, he also understood the importance of getting people in the community back to work. He found a way to combine his efforts to improve the environment with meeting additional needs of the community, and getting people who are in need of work involved in the effort to help save our environment. ”

DAWN HAWKINS-NIXON
ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES DIVISION



FAREWELL LARRY



“ Larry is well known for his innovative thinking and creativity. One example of that is his ability and determination to break down barriers and push government beyond its routine and established levels of operation. It is because of Larry's vision and drive that DoE is being looked upon within the region and the nation as the leader in stormwater restoration and economic development. It has been an honor to work with one of the best in the industry and I wish him all the best in the future! ”

JEFF DEHAN
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

“ Larry brought very unique and innovative thoughts from his experiences in the public and private sectors that helped enhance the Department of the Environment. Ultimately, through his Clean Water Partnership initiative, Larry has helped to make Prince George's County a trendsetter from both a regional and national perspective. ”

ROGER MERRITT
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

“ I thank Larry for his leadership at the Department of the Environment and oversight of the DoE Animal Management Division. His innovative thinking and brilliant ideas have helped us move to another level in our organization. We hate to see him leave, but we know that life has new endeavors for him and I wish Larry well in all that he does. ”

RODNEY TAYLOR
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ANIMAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

FEBRUARY



1

County Reaches Highest Recycling/ Waste Diversion Rate at 59.55%

The County moves from 11th to 3rd in the state for recycling

APRIL/MAY



2

DoE Relaunches Tree Releaf Grant Program to Turn the County Green with Trees



2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

MARCH



3

Roblee Drive Project Protects Streambank and Preserves Water Quality

Retaining wall constructed to stabilize critically eroded streambanks after hurricanes and tropical storms severely impact property in Upper Marlboro.

JUNE/JULY

4

A New Name, A New Look and A New Focus on Our Environment

Prince George's County renames environmental agency Department of the Environment.



AUGUST

5

County Receives More Than \$1 Million in Energy Grants

The grants include \$400,000 to support the installation of energy efficiency upgrades within offices and facilities throughout the County and \$643,000 for the development of energy projects.



6

Happy Anniversary!

The Department of the Environment's Rain Check Rebate Program turns one.



7

New Urban Watershed Restoration Training Course

Prince George's Community College offers a 5-week course.

SEPTEMBER

8

DoE Launches Clean Water, Clear Choices Program

New program enhances County residents' knowledge of sustainable environmental practices and includes hands-on, do-it-yourself classes and workshops that focus on stormwater pollution and rain barrel installations.



9

County, Churches and Nonprofits Rejoice in New Initiative to Save on Stormwater Fees

New program provides groups with incentives to go green.



OCTOBER



Talkin' Trash...and Composting

9

The Prince George's County Composting Pilot Project takes center stage at BioCycle magazine's East Coast Conference 2014.

DoE Receives \$375,000 Grant to Retrofit County Office Complex

10

U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-Md) and U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin present grant to help reduce stormwater pollution in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

12

Prince George's County Leads Way with Clean Water Partnerships

The public-private partnership with Corvias Solutions encompasses \$100 million in green infrastructure projects.

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW



13

County's Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility Makes Global Impact

DoE hosts a group of environmental officials from the Republic of Turkey learn how to put landfill gas to use.



14

Spay-a-Day Keeps the Litter Away

DoE Animal Management Division receives \$49,500 grant to provide free spay and neuter surgeries to 365 County pets.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Notice of Public Meetings: Anacostia River Watershed TMDL for Trash

“All I Want for Christmas is You” Pet Adoption Event

Electronics “eCycling” Recycling Event

Pet Adoption at Crunchies!

America Recycles Day – Pledge Drive

Pet Photos with Santa

Animal Management Division Fall Festival

Clean Up, Green Up!

Edmonston Day 2014

Potomac Piranhas Hackathon

Greenwood Forest Neighborhood Association Meeting

47th District Family Picnic

Alternative Compliance Program Kick-Off!

Plug In: Empowering through Education, Information and Networking

Latino Environmental Agenda Meeting

Value of Trees Presentation

Rain Check Rebate Program Presentation

BayWise: Choosing the Right Landscape

Rain Barrel Workshop

Hispanic Festival

Adopters Reunion

National Night Out

Stormwater Audit

Comprehensive Community Clean Up – Birchwood, Oxon Hill

Comprehensive Community Clean Up – Tantallion South, Ft. Washington

Colmar Manor Sustainability Workshop

The Prince George’s County Public Schools Back-to-School Fair

18th Annual Port Towns Day

Council Chairman Mel Franklin’s 4th Annual District 9 Family & Friends Day

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Animal Management Division Animal Yard Sale

Mount Rainer Community Fair

Watershed Restoration Plans Public Meeting

Benefit of Trees



Terrariums and the Water Cycle

DoE at the Prince George’s County Fair

Cat Meow Luau

Introduction to Pet Fostering

Clean Water, Clear Choices

NBC4 and Allstate Community Shred

Adopt-a-Dog Month

BioCycle Magazine East Coast Conference

Collective Empowerment Conference

Environmental Action Council

Christmas Tree Recycling Collection

Harmony Hall Homeowner Association

Electronics Recycling Acceptance Site

Alice Ferguson Foundation’s 9th Annual Trash Summit

Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site

Vehicle Show Cause Hearings

Low-Cost Wellness & Vaccine Clinic

Animal Shelter Volunteer Orientation

Pet First Aid & CPR Class

Urban Watershed Restoration Training Course

Commission for Animal Control Hearings

Tow Hearings

Pet Loss Grief Workshop

Mulch Madness

Christmas in April

Seat Pleasant Day

Tree ReLeaf Program Presentation

WSSC Childrens Water Festival

Marlborough Day

Pet Adopt-a-Thon

Bowiefest

Maryland Department of the Environment Clean Water Innovations Trade Show

Watershed Protection and Restoration Program

Port Towns Day

Beautification Awards
 Jay Walker Community Day
 Maryland Scrap Tire Program
 Volunteer Neighborhood Clean Up Program
 Spay Spot Clinic
 Clean Water Partnership Launch
 Suburban Maryland Spring Home and Garden Show
 Anacostia Watershed Society's 5th Annual Earth Day Clean Up & Celebration
 Prince George's County Public Schools Green Team Meeting

Arbor Day

Governor's Roundtable Discussion on Urban Trees
 Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council
"Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest
 Flood Awareness Month
 Storm Drain Stencil, Medallion and Mural Program
 Environmental Site Design

Green Business Certification Program
 Behnke's Open House
 Spring Greening Fair
 Council Member Eric Olson Community Meeting
 Daisyfield Neighborhood Watch Meeting
 Baltimore Works
 Black Swamp's 5th Annual Plant Swap and Sale Grow it Fest!
 Chillum Ray Citizens Day
 Chillum Ray HOA Meeting
 The World Bank Corporate Healthy Homes Expo

Tree ReLeaf Grant Program Kick Off

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Landfill Methane Outreach Program
 Citizen Environmental Group
 Clearview Manor Neighborhood Association (Birchwood City)
 Capitol Heights Day
 Community Forklift
 District Heights Civic Group
 Earth Day at USDA
 Marlboro Meadows Home Owners Association Meeting
 Earth Day Celebration
 Career Day at Hillcrest Heights Elementary School



Cheverly Day
 Fire Department Citizen Advisory Committee
 Reducing Stormwater Through Baywise Practices Presentation @ First Baptist Church of Glen Arden
 Earth Day Celebration @ U.S. Food and Drug Administration
 Stormwater Practices Presentation @ George Washington University

Green Man Festival

Healthy Homes Exposition

Pet Parenting Class

District I Community Coffee Roundtable
 Great Outdoors America Week at Bladensburg Park
 Greater Baden-Aquasco Citizen Association
 District IV Community Coffee Roundtable
 Henderson Neighborhood Watch

Scrap Tire Amnesty Day

Laurel Civic Association
 Drainage Presentation @ Lincoln Vista Community
 Rain Check Rebate Program Presentation @ Prince George's County Forestry Board
 Sustainable Generation Meeting
 Prince George's County Green Launch Event
 Great American Cleanup
 Pine Plains Civic Association Meeting
 Bladensburg Waterfront Clean Up
 Progressive Cheverly Forum
 Rain Check Rebate Program Presentation @ Baden Library

College Heights Civic Association

Camp Springs Neighborhood Watch

Rain Check Rebate Program Presentation @ Reid Temple AME Church

Seabrook Neighborhood Watch

Community Partners Meeting

Compost Workshop
 Rain Check Rebate Program Presentation @ Temple Hills Neighborhood Watch
 West Lanham Hills Citizen Association
 Woodbridge Crossing Homeowner Association (Laurel Senior Center)
 Behnke's Garden Party

TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS of the YEAR



FAVORITE FACEBOOK SHARE

Congratulations to County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III on his selection of a 2014 Civic Leadership Awards for his outstanding community leadership in Prince George's County. To read more and to view the other County leaders selected for this award; see here: <http://thecommunityfoundation.org/blog/2014-civic-leadership-awards-honor-four-leaders-who-are-making-prince-georges-county-stronger/>

705
PEOPLE REACHED

TOP FACEBOOK POST

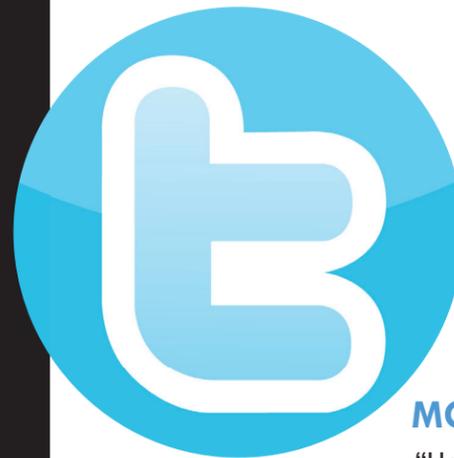
676
PEOPLE REACHED

Learn how you can save GREEN by being GREEN through the Alternative Compliance Program.

www.thesentinel.com/pgs/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=941%3A nonprofits-work-with-county-to-avoid-paying-rain-tax&Itemid=766

YOUR FAVORITE TUESDAY TIP

207
PEOPLE REACHED



MOST RETWEETED @PGCSPROUT POST ON TWITTER

"Help the environment and shred your personal documents during the #communityshred on Sat, 12/6 from 8-11a @pgccnews!"

355
PEOPLE REACHED

MOST FAVORITE @PGCSPROUT POST ON TWITTER

"Do something green...consider buying an electric vehicle!"

#TuesdayTips! #SecondNature!

881
PEOPLE REACHED