

Prince George's County

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

august 2014

County receives more than \$1 million in energy grants

Green Scene

newsletter



Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

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,

Here at DoE we operate under several guiding principles. They are:

1. We will be environmental leaders in the State and region by FY16;
2. We will work as a team;
3. We will innovate;
4. We will partner; and
5. Our programs will be engaging and fun.

In this issue, you will see examples of No. 4, that "we will partner." This is a key principle for us because the challenges facing us are too large and complex for one government agency to meet alone. Government has strengths and weaknesses, and it is incumbent upon us to find ways to compensate for our weaknesses by leveraging the strengths of others.

In this spirit, we are excited to partner with our sister agency, the Office of Central Services (OCS), to win more than \$1 million in grants for energy upgrades throughout the County. OCS oversees County buildings, facilities and our vehicle fleet, so they are a welcome partner in our work for energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

We are also excited to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Trust on managing our new grant programs. The Trust is a State-chartered nonprofit organization that oversees the disbursement of millions of dollars for environmental restoration, conservation and outreach, with most of their funding coming from sales of the Chesapeake Bay license plate (it's never too late to get yours). They bring decades of expertise in grant solicitation, application management, oversight and financing, as well as a deep knowledge of environmental issues. Furthermore, they have dispersed millions of dollars in Prince George's County and have close connections to our communities.

Finally, we thank you for your partnership. Please share this newsletter with your friends, family and networks, sign up for our programs or have us come and speak at your church, school or community meeting. Drop us a line anytime, we look forward to working with you even more.

In partnership,

Adam Ortiz
Director

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

For more information, please contact the Communications Office at (301) 883-5952.

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www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/environmentalresources

COUNTY RECEIVES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN ENERGY GRANTS

Grants support development of energy efficiency projects and upgrades throughout the County

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) in partnership with the Office of Central Services (OCS) has received more than \$1 million in grants on behalf of the County, through the Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) Grant Program. The grants include \$400,000 to support the installation of energy efficiency upgrades within offices and facilities throughout the County and a \$643,000 grant for the development of energy projects.

"DoE is excited to receive these funds that will assist us in bringing more sustainability to our everyday government operation, after all, we must practice what we preach," stated Adam Ortiz, DoE Director. Erica Bannerman, Energy Manager with OCS added, "Enhancement projects such as ENERGY STAR lighting and HVAC upgrades, in conjunction with other projects such as solar farms and electric vehicle charging station installation will greatly benefit the County and make it cleaner, greener and healthier."

Through these grants, DoE and OCS will educate residents about energy efficiency, achieve climate action planning objectives and clean energy technology goals and partner with sister agencies to enhance energy efficiencies throughout the County. The grants will also expand the development of policies, plans and performance of projects that contribute to reducing petroleum usage, and increase the use of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

The Maryland Smart Energy Communities Grant Program is an initiative of the Maryland Energy Administration. The grant program is funded by the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which has committed \$4 million to the development and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy/transportation projects.

For more information about the County's Sustainable Energy Program, contact County Click 3-1-1.



CHESAPEAKE BAY PARTNERS SIGN NEW WATERSHED AGREEMENT

EPA Region III head Shawn Garvin and DoE Director Adam Ortiz, talking with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy in June at the Annapolis Waterfront following the signing of the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement. Administrator McCarthy thanked Ortiz for the leadership Prince George's has shown on its stormwater programs. Ortiz communicated that County Executive Baker is a big fan of hers and would like to have her back in the County for some upcoming announcements.

COUNTY OFFERS GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

DoE and The Chesapeake Bay Trust have partnered to provide two funding programs for stormwater and community greening projects in the County. The Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program is designed to reduce nutrient and sediment loads to the County's waterways, while engaging residents in stormwater issues. The grant is open to nonprofit, community, faith-based organizations and other groups. Awards range from \$20,000 to \$200,000 for water quality projects and \$5,000 to \$50,000 for citizen engagement/educational projects. All projects will be conducted in Prince George's County, excluding the City of Bowie. For more information, contact Grant Manager

Sadie Drescher at (410) 974-2941, ext. 103 or [click here](#). Deadline to apply is Sept. 18, 2014 at 5 p.m.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust will also administer the County's Rain Check Rebate Program, which offers incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install practices that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce runoff quantity, and improve local streams and rivers. The program provides eligible applicants the opportunity to receive rebates for installing approved stormwater management practices covered by the program. Awards range from \$2,000 for residential property owners; \$20,000 for commercial properties, multi-family dwellings, nonprofit and not-for-

profit groups. Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, contact Grant Manager Natalia Sanchez at (410) 974-2941, ext. 114 or [click here](#).



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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DoE Associate Director

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COUNTY LAUNCHES NEW ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SOFTWARE

New SAP Project will improve customer service, reduce costs, provide better work efficiency

The County recently launched Wave 1 of the SAP Project—an enterprise resource planning software that integrates various business functions into a consolidated suite of applications. The acronym SAP is the name of the company that developed the ERP system. It stands for "Systems, Applications and Products" in data processing. Wave 1 focuses on the implementation of three business components including finance, budget and procurement.

An ERP system such as SAP will increase efficiencies, reduce costs and enhance service to County citizens, staff and other key stakeholders.

This software solution enhances the County's financial controls and functions including accounts receivable, accounts payable, general ledger, fixed assets, grants management, funds management, project accounting, cash receipts and inventory.

The procurement component of the SAP Project provides employees and vendors with improved methods for securing goods and services through the Internet. The "funds management" or budget component includes fund accounting information and budgetary control activities. SAP replaces Legacy systems and meets State and Federal accounting and auditing standards.

The new software technology enables effective Countywide access to strategic information, streamlined organizational roles and business processes, and provides more innovative and efficient approaches to work.

Wave 2 of the SAP Project is scheduled to launch in January 2015. Three additional incremental Waves are expected to roll out after that.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Rodney C. Taylor
DoE Associate Director

3750 Brown Station Road
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CAT MEOW LUAU FINDS HOMES FOR 20 PETS

Adoption event brings Hawaii to the County

There was a limbo contest, hula dancing, leis for cats and adults and lots of good ole fun at the Animal Management Division's Cat Meow Luau on Aug. 15 and 16. Thanks to the many pet lovers who attended, 20 cats and kittens were able to find new forever homes.

"There is no doubt this event was a success," says Associate Director Rodney Taylor. "We couldn't be more pleased with the turnout and we invite everyone to join us at the next event to get their hula on!"

During the event, all adoption fees were discounted to \$5 which covered all new adoption services including shots, spay/neuter and microchip operations.

As successful as the event was, there are still many cats and kittens, as well as other pets still waiting for their chance to find a great home. To help them, make sure you visit AMD's next Cat Meow Luau being held Aug. 29 and 30 at the Animal Services Facility located at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro.

For more information about the Cat Meow Luau, call (301) 780-7201 or CountyClick 3-1-1.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Rain Check Rebate Program turns one

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Since its launch a year ago, the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program has experienced continued interest in the program from County residents and property owners. The Department of the Environment (DoE) is currently working in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to offer financial incentives that will assist County residents, businesses and property owners to install beneficial environmental practices that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce runoff quantity and improve local waterways. Stormwater runoff occurs when rain (or snowmelt) flows over the land picking up pollutants such as oil, grease, sediment and nutrients that make their way into local streams and rivers.

In the past year, the program has received nearly 100 applications, of which 34 have been approved. So far, \$25,000 in rebates have been awarded to support 19 stormwater management practices throughout the County. Eligible practices supported by the program include rain barrels and rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement installation, cisterns, green roofs and tree planting.

Prince George's County is committed to improving the quality of life for its communities by promoting green solutions to stormwater runoff. The Rain Check Rebate Program provides a mechanism for County property owners to assist us in this process. Shown here are examples of practices County residents recently added to their properties including a rain barrel and permeable pavement. For more information about the Rain Check Rebate Program, contact CountyClick 3-1-1. To apply for a rebate grant contact, Grant Manager Natalia Sanchez at (410) 974-2941, ext. 114 or [click here](#).



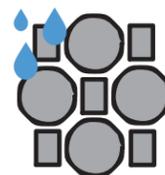
CISTERNS



GREEN ROOFS



PAVEMENT REMOVAL



PERMEABLE PAVEMENT



RAIN BARRELS



RAIN GARDENS



URBAN TREE CANOPY

MARKING THEIR TERRITORY

Storm drain medallions help prevent pollution in the town of Berwyn Heights

SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

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From paint and oil to bottles and cans, the message is clear: whatever ends up in a Berwyn Heights storm drain ends up in the Anacostia River. New medallions installed above 231 storm drains located in the town of Berwyn Heights serve as constant reminders not to litter and to report acts of pollution.

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE), in conjunction with the Berwyn Heights' Department of Public Works, installed the medallions throughout the Town's stormwater inlets. In an effort to extend this important environmental message to Prince George's County youth, the Green Team of Berwyn Heights Elementary School also helped install the medallions.

Located between the cities of College Park and Greenbelt, the Town of Berwyn Heights is the sixth oldest municipality in Prince George's County with a population of 3,100. Indian Creek, which winds through the town, is one of 13 tributary streams and creeks that make up the Anacostia River Watershed. Berwyn Heights is the second municipality after the City of Hyattsville to mark all their storm drains with the blue and green medallions.

Special thanks is given to Udomah Ohiri and Alfred Titus-Glover of the DoE Sustainable Initiatives Division for their hard work and coordination of the medallion installation.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Roger E. Merritt, Jr.
DoE Associate Director

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THE END OF THE ROAD

County collects thousands of scrap tires from local farmers

Tire disposal is complicated. It's illegal to burn or bury them, and getting rid of them can be tricky and expensive. But, thanks to the Maryland Scrap Tire Program, it's less burdensome for Marylanders to safely dispose of used and worn tires.

Established initially to assist citizens in the proper disposal of used tires and to clean up old tire dump sites, the Maryland Scrap Tire Program has traditionally focused on car tires. In an effort to increase the collection of large size tires throughout the State, the program is shifting focus and working to promote the collection of agricultural tires from farmers.

To support these efforts, Prince George's County recently participated in the Program's Agricultural Scrap Tire Drop-off event. Through this free service to County farmers, approximately 3,000 tires were collected at drop-off sites located at Parker Farm in Clinton and the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill in Upper Marlboro.

Funding for the project comes from Maryland's Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment. An 88 cents recycling fee, tacked onto each tire bought in Maryland, supports the fund. Proceeds from the Maryland Scrap Tire Fund are used to clean up illegal tire dumps and organize citizen drop-off days. Since its inception in 1994, Maryland's Scrap Tire program has recovered more than 10 million old tires from illegal stockpiles, and collected hundreds of thousands more at free citizen drop-off events.



THIS ISN'T YOUR GRANDFATHER'S LANDFILL

Creating new materials, recovering energy from landfill waste

From large dump trucks to medium-size trash trucks to small pickup trucks, approximately 1,100 tons of trash is delivered by these vehicles daily to the Prince George's County landfill located in Upper Marlboro. However, the days of simply dumping and burying your trash are long gone.

Nature, in its infinite wisdom, reuses everything. And, the Resource Recovery Team at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill mirrors this masterful routine every day. To help reduce waste into the County landfill, the Resource Recovery Team sorts through and separates from the municipal solid waste, a wide range of items including car batteries, electronics, yard debris, tires, scrap metal, carpet padding, rigid plastics, cardboard and metal. These items are successfully diverted from the landfill and processed into new materials.

You can help the County and the Resource Recovery Team by bringing these items to the Electronics Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site located at 11611 White House Road in Upper Marlboro. Electronic items accepted include laptops, fax machines, printers, computer monitors and TVs. Household hazardous waste products include paint, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides. The acceptance site is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday through Friday. For more information about the Acceptance Site, [click here](#).

In addition to creating new materials, the County landfill also produces a renewable energy—landfill gas—which is a byproduct of decomposing waste. The gas consists of methane and carbon dioxide, and is recycled into electricity that is used to heat the Prince George's County Correctional Center located in Upper Marlboro. A five-mile, underground steel pipeline transports gas from landfill to the Correctional Center. Since 1987, this valuable service has helped the County save millions of taxpayer dollars, meet and exceed Federal air quality standards, and fulfill a commitment to provide alternative energy solutions through innovative projects.

Another example of renewable energy produced by the landfill is the conversion of sunlight to electricity. At the Brown Station Road Landfill, soon-to-be-installed solar panels will span several acres of closed portions of the landfill. The solar farms will help decrease the County's energy cost, improve its carbon footprint and provide electrical service to County homes and buildings.

For more information about the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill, the Electronics Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site, and the Solar Farm Project, contact CountyClick 3-1-1 or [click here](#).



NEW URBAN WATERSHED RESTORATION TRAINING COURSE

Prince George's Community College to offer a 5-week course about developing and growing green businesses

DoE, in partnership with Prince George's Community College, the Low Impact Development Center and OCS Supplier Development and Diversity Division will sponsor a 5-week noncredit Urban Watershed Restoration Contractor Training Course to explain basic information on the maintenance of best management practices (BMPs) used for the County's Rain Check Rebate Program. The course runs Sept. 15 – Oct. 20 at Prince George's Community College. For more information or to register, contact Prince George's Community College at 301-336-6000 or [click here](#).



URBAN WATERSHED RESTORATION Contractor Training Course

What you need to know!

New This Fall!

Prince George's County Community College is offering a 5-week noncredit Urban Watershed Restoration course to explain basic information on the maintenance of best management practices (BMPs) used for the County's Rain Check Rebate Program.

Now you can learn the Program's requirements for permits, planning, design, construction and maintenance.

The Urban Watershed Restoration course is sponsored by Prince George's Community College in partnership with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment and Low Impact Development Center. The program is endorsed by the Chesapeake Landscape Council.

COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:

Construction, Operations and Maintenance of:

- ▶ **Low impact development**
- ▶ **Bioretention basics**
- ▶ **Permeable pavers**
- ▶ **Cisterns**
- ▶ **Rain barrels**
- ▶ **Pavement removal**
- ▶ **Green roofs**
- ▶ **Tree canopy**
- ▶ **Prince George's County Procurement**
- ▶ **Business Development**
- ▶ **County-based Business Program**

For more information or to register, contact Prince George's Community College at 301-336-6000 or visit http://www.pgcc.edu/Programs_and_Courses/course_detail.aspx?courseID=6442468826&programID=6442462358

**COURSE RUNS
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014
THROUGH
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

GREEN BULLETIN



Prince George's County is sponsoring the 4th annual Clean Up, Green Up event on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014. County residents, schools, businesses and community organizations are encouraged to take part in this initiative by conducting neighborhood plantings and beautification activities.

To register, [click here](#) to fill out registration form and return by Friday, September 12, 2014. Completed registration forms may be scanned and e-mailed to SVannaseng@co.pg.md.us or returned to the following address:
**Department of Public Works and Transportation
Office of Highway Maintenance
8400 D'Arcy Road
Forestville, Maryland 20747
FAX: (301) 499-8525**



COMMUNITY SHRED

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 6
8AM-11AM**

Prince George's County will sponsor the NBC4 Allstate Community Shred event at Prince George's Community College on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The free event is open to the public and will be located on the college campus at 301 Largo Road, Parking Lot B in Largo.

Participants can bring up to five archive boxes or trash bags of their personal documents to the event and are encouraged to arrive early to avoid long lines. All vehicles must be in line by 11 a.m. at the intersection of Prince Place and Campus Way South in order to discard their items. No documents will be accepted by walk-in.

All shredded documents are recycled by Shred-It and all cardboard boxes are recycled at the County's Materials Recycling Facility. More than 31.5 tons of cardboard have been salvaged from the past shred events at Prince George's Community College.

For more information on the NBC4 Allstate Community Shred Event or other recycling initiatives, **CountyClick 3-1-1**.

LOOK FOR THE GOOD

Spread positive energy in the workplace



Taking an active role to create a positive workplace is a worthy investment of time and energy. Keep in mind that it only requires one person to be the “change agent” and the power of a positive mind set has the potential to enhance your well-being and facilitate professional growth and development. Take a moment to assess your own resources and those of others around you. Here are a few ideas that can help you strengthen and build positivity in your workplace.

Embrace and foster team building

Work is sometimes better accomplished in teams. Even though you have a specific job function and you belong to a specific department, you are unified with other organization members to accomplish set objectives. The results of your teamwork contribute to the overall success of the organization.

Show gratitude

Recognize others for their contribution. Routinely expressing gratitude can set a positive tone of deep respect among co-workers. Remember, two simple words—thank you—have a significant and lasting impact on work-life happiness.

Focus on your strengths

Utilize your talents in the workplace. It helps build self-confidence. Make every attempt to incorporate the

areas in which you excel into your everyday work life. If you supervise others, help facilitate this process for them as well.

Balance negatives

As human beings, we sometimes have the tendency to dwell on negative information. You may find yourself focusing on things that occur in the workplace, some of which you have no control. Build your inner resilience by refocusing your energy on successes when you are faced with disappointment or stress.

Practice “flexible” thinking

When considering a new challenge, be sure to consider possible obstacles and generate alternative pathways to effectively manage them. This exercise builds feelings of hopefulness in the face of an unexpected turn of events.

Look for success stories in increments

Oftentimes we focus on lofty, larger goals that may take an extended amount of time to accomplish. Identify and celebrate incremental goals along the way to help bolster you and your co-workers’ energy levels and maintain focus.