

summer 2021

**WELCOME
ANDREA L. CROOMS**



**CLIMATE
ACTION PLAN**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

GREEN SCENE 2021
newsletter

**PETS IN
HOT WEATHER**



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



It is the height of summer here in Prince George's, and I am so excited to be joining the Department of the Environment team as the Acting Director. We have such amazing natural wonders in our backyard, and as we move forward from all we've been through this last year, I am taking the opportunity to explore every corner by land and stream. We have made great strides protecting our rivers, preserving our forests, and keeping our communities clean and green - but there is so much more to do together.

The team has been working hard on fighting litter and illegal dumping, implementing stormwater and flooding controls, upgrading the recycling facility, beginning the compost collection pilot - and so many other projects to support the County Executive's "Quality of Life" Proud Priority.

In this issue, you'll learn about a new way to track litter in your community, how to keep your pets safe this summer, some actions you can take to help protect your home from flooding, and much more! You will also learn more about our Climate Action Plan process. I invite you to join our August virtual meeting and be a part of planning a resilient future for our County.

I hope you and your family can take some time this summer to enjoy the beauty our County has to offer in parks, trails, and rivers, as well as visit a local farmer's market or winery and see the bounty our environment provides.

DoE is dedicated to fighting for a clean and healthy environment with educational programs and activities and being leaders in recycling, sustainability, stormwater management, and animal services. We are here to serve you this summer and every season.

Together, as Prince George's Proud, we will keep our County clean & green.

Andrea L. Crooms

Acting Director

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The Green Scene newsletter is a quarterly 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.

Public Information Officer:
Linda Lowe

Public Information Officer:
Brittani Garner

Public Information Specialist:
Judith Hall

Citizen Services Specialist:
Jorhan Santana

Graphic Artist:
Kenan Langston



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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.

WELCOME ANDREA L. CROOMS

ACTING DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Andrea L. Crooms, a life-long advocate for the environment, an attorney, economist, and climate scientist with 20 years of leadership experience in environmental regulation and climate change mitigation, has been named the Acting Director for the Department of Environment (DoE).

Before joining the County, Andrea worked at the U.S. Department of Energy for 11 years, serving in multiple leadership roles at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), where they planned, developed, and implemented programs in renewable power, water and wastewater, procurement, sustainable transportation, weatherization, waste and recycling, landfill waste-to-energy, and building energy efficiency.

In addition to EERE, they served with several other federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and in local government as a public defender.

Acting Director Crooms has a Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky, a Master of Science in Energy Management and Engineering from the New York Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in Natural Resources Management from the University of Delaware.

Andrea is married and has two dogs. One was adopted locally, and the other was brought home from Morocco, where they spent 15 months working with the local and national government to institute animal wellness and protection practices, fund trap-neuter-release programs, and invest in clean energy. In addition, they also have three cats, all from local shelters. Andrea enjoys hiking, camping, planting, and drinking at the local area's wineries, breweries, and distilleries.

ANNUAL BEAUTIFICATION SURVEY

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and the Department of the Environment are committed to making our communities greener and cleaner for residents, business owners, and visitors. Over the past few years, we've conducted a short survey on how the County is working to improve residents' environment and quality of life through its Beautification Initiative. That's because we believe your opinion is worth it! We want every Prince Georgian to be "Part of It, Proud of It, and to Keep Our County Clean and Beautiful." To learn more about how you can join the fight to keep our County clean and beautiful and the Beautification Campaign, visit www.pgcproud.com.



SUMMER



CALENDAR

JULY

- 10 Animal Services Division Fostering Orientation**
For more information contact Foster Coordinator Marilyn Perez at (301) 780-7202
- 11 World Population Day**
- 15 Rain Check Rebate Program & Grant Opportunities Webinar**
7:30 p.m. To Register - <https://bit.ly/RCR-Webinar>
- 21 Animal Services Division Fostering Orientation**
For more information contact Foster Coordinator Marilyn Perez at (301) 780-7202

AUGUST

- 4 Animal Services Division Fostering Orientation**
For more information contact Foster Coordinator Marilyn Perez at (301) 780-7202
- 12 International Youth Day**
- 19 Climate Action Plan Community Meeting #3**
For more information, visit mypgc.us/climateactionplan
- 21 Animal Services Division Fostering Orientation**
For more information contact Foster Coordinator Marilyn Perez at (301) 780-7202
- 21 National Honey Bee Day**

SEPTEMBER

- 4 National Wildlife Day**
- 21 Zero Emissions Day**
- 22 World Car-Free Day**

MARYLAND LOCALLY GROWN *Summer flowers*



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Summer ENVIRONMENTAL READING

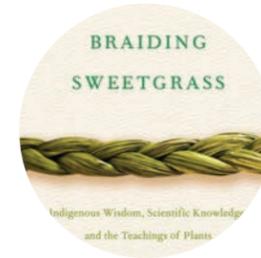


The state of Maryland is known for its beautiful summer flowers. Everything from hydrangeas to the official State flower – the Black-eyed Susans – Maryland offers various vibrant, sturdy flowering plants that provide a beautiful landscape.

To find out more about Maryland flowers, visit the University of Maryland Grows website at marylandgrows.umd.edu.

Here is a sampling of summer flowers to plant in your Maryland garden.

- Aster
- Black-eyed Susans
- Coreopsis
- Dahlias
- Hydrangea
- Lavender
- Lisianthus
- Marigolds
- Mint
- Zinnia



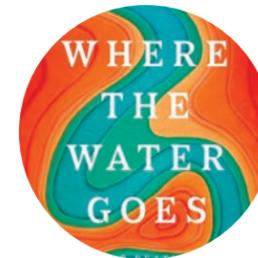
BRAIDING SWEET GRASS
by Robin Wall Kimmerer



TURNING THE TIDE ON PLASTIC
by Lucy Siegle



BOTANY OF DESIRE
by Michael Pollan



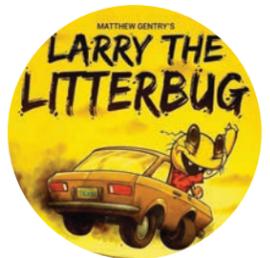
WHERE THE WATER GOES
by David Owen



FINDING THE MOTHER TREE
by Suzanne Simard



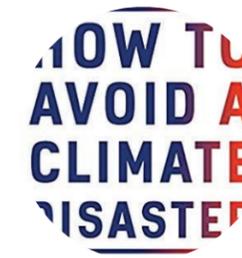
WE ARE WATER PROTECTORS
by Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade



LARRY THE LITTERBUG
by Mathew Gentry



THE NEW CLIMATE WAR: THE FIGHT TO TAKE BACK OUR PLANET
by Michael E. Mann



HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER: THE SOLUTIONS WE HAVE AND THE BREAKTHROUGHS WE NEED
by Bill Gates



SPACE SKUNKS: A CHILDREN'S BOOK ABOUT SAVING EARTH
by Josh Potler and Garon Levine



DoE RECOGNIZES ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

LOCAL ADVOCATE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

DoE celebrates the hard work and dedication of some of our hometown environmental heroes, from helping fellow neighbors or volunteering in cleanups to forming organizations or fighting litter in their communities. If you're an environmental hero, we would love to spotlight your story. Email your story to jhall@co.pg.md.us, and you could be highlighted in our next newsletter.



Lore Rosenthal

Lore Rosenthal became an advocate for the environment when she desired to live her life more “simply.” A 13-year resident of Prince George’s County, she began learning about “sustainable” living through reading and became inspired to make a difference in her life, as well as for the community where she lives.

Her motivation came in 2006 when she read Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth” and learned about global warming and climate change. From that blueprint, The Greenbelt Climate Action Network was born.

Born in Baltimore, MD, she is the daughter of a German immigrant. Ms. Rosenthal’s mother taught her that an individual could make a difference. She attended Baltimore City public schools and went on to study at an Ivy League University. She continued her studies in Deaf Education. After 10 years teaching deaf children, she became an adult

educator, first in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program for deaf adults, later in an interpreter training program.

More recently, Ms. Rosenthal has turned her interest to educating adults about climate change, sustainable lifestyle solutions, and systemic changes we can all be a part of. Her commitment to making a difference has resulted in her initiating projects on community, municipal, County, and State levels. These include the DC Metro Pachamama Alliance, Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Howard County Climate Action, and the Greenbelt Climate Action Network. She also supports statewide advocacy projects like the Greenbelt Community Solar, the Greenbelt Neighborhood Compost Project and the Maryland Compost Advocacy Coalition.

Ms. Rosenthal believes an individual can make a difference. “In this day and age, personal lifestyle changes are no longer enough. However, if an individual can bring together a local group of interested residents to accomplish something together, the sky is the limit.”

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY RECEIVES 37TH CONSECUTIVE

TREE CITY USA AWARD



This spring, the Arbor Day Foundation named Prince George’s County a Tree City USA award winner. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Prince George’s County has achieved this recognition for 37 years in a row. The County gained Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.



In 1985, Prince George’s County began the tradition of involving an entire elementary school in celebrating Arbor Day. However, with COVID restrictions still underway, the County partnered with the City of Hyattsville and Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation to plant 42 native trees and shrubs at the 38th Avenue Neighborhood Park. Socially distant volunteers made quick work of the project and got pollinator plants to take home. This planting activity provided the opportunity to experiment with biodegradable tree shelters made from Acacia wood because the park experiences heavy deer pressure.

For more information on future County Arbor Day celebrations, visit the Prince George’s County Beautification Committee website at pgcbeautification.com. For more tree-related information and activities, visit the Prince George’s County Forestry Board Facebook Page at facebook.com/pgcforestryboard. To get trees in your community, contact the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) Right Tree, Right Place Program at trees@ndc-md.org. If you’re interested in securing trees for your community, contact Carole Barth, DoE Tree Conservation Program Manager, at cabarth@co.pg.md.us. For more information on how you can receive money back for planting a native tree in your yard, visit Rain Check Rebate Program at cbtrust.org.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN NEEDS PUBLIC INPUT

Have you noticed more stormy events? Maybe you've just felt that it was hotter earlier this year? Whether it's climbing temperatures, extreme storms, heatwaves, droughts, or more, climate change is not a future problem - it is a NOW problem.

On record, 2020 was the hottest summer in Prince George's County, and this summer, we could see an increase in record-breaking temperatures. With more frequent and intense storm events, climate change will exacerbate flooding Countywide. These 100-year-events are becoming everyday issues.

In the spring of 2020, the Prince George's County Council unanimously passed a Council Resolution (CR-007-2020) mandating a Climate Action Commission (CAC) to develop a Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County by September 30, 2021.

Two public meetings have been held, seeking input from residents on key focus areas like increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy, reducing County waste, preparing communities for flooding issues, and much more! The last community meeting will be held in August.

Prince George's County is ready to act, but we need you! As members of our community, this is an opportunity for you to give your input and influence the focus of the County's Climate Action Plan. Together we can implement community-wide actions to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To learn more about climate change and get updates on the next public virtual meeting, visit mypgc.us/climateactionplan.

You can also visit the [Climate Partners website](#) to learn about some of the key focus areas for collecting community input and climate action topics on our Climate Action Plan Virtual Open House.



LEARN TO BE FLOOD SMART

As floods become more frequent and severe with climate change, protecting your home becomes even more crucial. Assess your risk and make sure you are prepared for the worst if flooding occurs. Learn more by visiting bit.ly/befloodsmart.

Be FloodSmart

Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster and they can happen anytime...anywhere. Floods occur in all 50 states and you can be a victim of flooding, even if you live miles away from water. During Flood Awareness Month in Prince George's County, learn more on what causes flooding and how to protect your home.

What causes flooding? In just a few hours, hurricanes and summer thunderstorms can bring heavy rain, which can lead to severe flooding.

How do you protect your home?

- Alert Prince George's**
Whether you live in a high, moderate or low risk area, everyone is at risk for flooding. The County offers a notification service that sends you a text or email in the event of a major flood. To sign up, visit alert.mypgc.us. For additional floodplain information, contact Salman Babar at (301) 636-2060.
- Purchase flood insurance**
Remember, most homeowners insurance does not cover floods. Flood insurance can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program, which offers Prince George's County residents up to a **25% discount**.
Just one inch of water in an average sized home can cause **\$25,000** worth of damage. Buy insurance before the water starts to rise! It takes 30 days after purchasing flood insurance for the policy to go into effect.
Over 20% of flood insurance claims come from moderate-to-low risk areas.
- Make a flood plan**
Know evacuation routes and keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place.
- Know if you live behind a LEVEE**
It's important to understand the risk to life and property associated with residing behind levees located in the Anacostia Watershed. Residents who live behind levees are encouraged to understand their risks and prepare accordingly. To learn more, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Web site at www.fema.gov.
- Help prevent local flooding**
Keep trash and debris away from storm grates and inlets.

Source: www.floodsmart.gov
Source: "NIP: A Real Estate Professional's Guide to Discussing Flood Insurance," FEMA P-2002, March 2020

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION LAUNCHES FIRST SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT IN PATUXENT WATERSHED



Before

On April 18, 2019, DoE's Stormwater Management Division (SMD) partnered with the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) on the Cedar Haven Fishing Area Shoreline Restoration Project. The project is located in Eagle Harbor, MD, on the western bank of the Patuxent River. As part of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, DoE pursued the first shoreline stabilization project along the County's tidally influenced waters to control erosion and increase habitat benefits.



After

This exciting and beneficial project restored approximately 760 linear feet of shoreline using a hybrid living shoreline restoration technique. The design included a vented rock sill structure placed offshore with a filled and planted marsh on the landward side of the sill. Rock sills intercept waves and break their energy to reduce erosional forces on the shore. In contrast, lower sill vents allow cyclical tidal flushing and access fauna between the marsh and river. In addition, the project stabilized the banks by grading and planting to reduce further the likelihood of erosion and installation of a selective tree canopy to allow adequate sunlight to penetrate the marsh planting area for marsh vegetation establishment. Overall, the established marsh and stabilized banks with an offshore protective sill will reduce nutrient and sediment

loads to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay while also improving habitat and accessibility to the community for recreation opportunities such as fishing and kayaking/canoeing.

The water quality improvements this project provided will help the County meet its NPDES MS4 permit impervious area treatment goals and local watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Chesapeake Bay TMDL pollutant reduction targets. The project resulted in a total of 51.02 Impervious Acres Treated (IAT) NPDES MS4 credits and a reduction of over 184 tons per year of sediment.

The project also supports County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' initiatives promoting County-based small businesses and workforce development. The Cedar Haven Shoreline project utilized professional local businesses and contractor services to support the design and construction of the project and return an estimated \$300,000 of budget expenditures to County-based small and located business enterprises.

The project was completed on October 26, 2020, and will be monitored for five years. The stakeholders included M-NCPPC and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

As the Contract Project Coordinator, Gabriel Redding has been instrumental in the construction phase of the project. Mr. Redding's professionalism, construction operations, and management expertise have helped forge this project, bringing intelligent solutions and resources to keep the project ahead of schedule and under budget while maximizing design value and impervious surface restoration credits to the County.

PET FOSTERING A WIN FOR EVERYONE

The Prince George's Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) animal fostering program allows persons who are unable to commit to a long-term adoption the opportunity to care for an animal on a short-term basis. This program helps save an animal's life!

The process to become a foster parent is just three easy steps. Complete, sign and return the Foster Care application and agreement; attend a foster orientation and schedule a home visit.

The dates for the summer fostering orientations are:

Saturday, July 10th at 10am

Wednesday, July 21st at 4pm

Wednesday, August 4th at 4pm

Saturday, August 21st at 10am

If you are interested, please reach out to our foster coordinator Marilyn Perez at 301-780-7202 or mpperez@co.pg.md.us or contact the Adoption Staff at 301-780-7201.



FOSTERING

The Animal Services Division Foster Program helps meet the needs of animals that are too young or immature for adoption, injured or recovering from surgery, require special care due to illness or pregnancy, or just in need of a second chance! For anyone who may not be able to commit to owning a pet for 10-15 years, fostering allows you to care for an animal on a short-term basis.

REASONS TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT:

- Provide companionship, a sense of purpose and fulfillment, and fun!
- Create space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals.
- Help save an animal's life!



Contact:
Marilyn Perez
Foster Coordinator
MPPERAZ@co.pg.md.us
301-780-7202

FOSTERING SAVES LIVES



PETS IN HOT WEATHER

Each summer, thousands of cats and dogs die from heat exhaustion, often resulting from being left in a hot car. In the time it takes to buy a carton of milk, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach over 160 degrees – even when the windows are left slightly open. Follow these tips to help protect your pets in hot weather.

Limit exercise on hot days

Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On sweltering days, limit activity to early morning or evening hours. Be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets, who typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating. Minimize your pet's trip in your vehicle, and never leave one in a car, even if the windows are partially down.

Don't rely on a fan

Pets respond differently to heat than humans do. Dogs, for instance, sweat primarily through their feet. And fans don't cool off pets as effectively as they do people.



Provide ample shade and water

Any time your pet is outside, make sure they have protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.

Cool your pet inside and out

Whip up a batch of quick and easy do-it-yourself pupsicles for dogs. And always provide water, whether your pets are inside or out with you.

Keep your pet from overheating indoors or out with a cooling body wrap, vest, or mat. Soak these products in cool water, and they'll stay cool (but usually dry) for up to three days. If your dog doesn't find baths stressful, see if they enjoy a cooling soak.

Watch for signs of heatstroke

Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and unconsciousness.

Animals are at particular risk for heatstroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease. Some breeds of dogs—like Boxers, Pugs, Shih Tzus, and other dogs and cats with short muzzles—will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat.

How to treat a pet suffering from heatstroke

Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck, and chest, or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take them directly to a veterinarian.

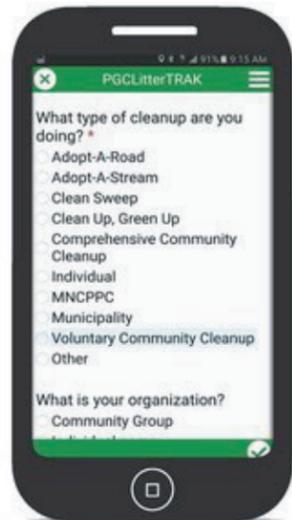
Another hot weather tip, prepare for power outages before a summer storm takes out the power in your home. Create a disaster plan to keep your pets safe from other temperature-related trouble.

LET'S KEEP TRACK – USE PGCLitterTRAK

PGCLitterTRAK is a smartphone application developed by DoE to assist County residents, community organizations, and businesses in reporting trash and debris collected during individual and group clean-up events. To learn more, visit mypgc.us/litterfree.



PGCLitterTRAK is a smartphone application (app) that can be used by community groups and individual citizens that are interested in reporting their efforts to reduce litter in their communities.

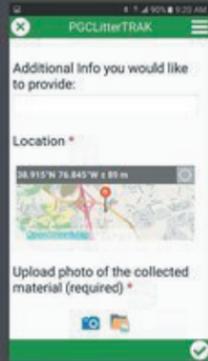


This is the PGCLitterTRAK app

This easy smartphone app will take you through a series of questions that will allow us to collect data on your contribution towards a cleaner, greener Prince George's County.

Go to www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2607/PGCLitterTRAK to sign up

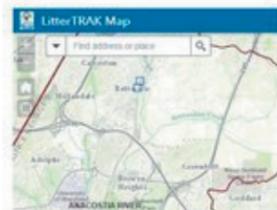
PGCLitterTRAK uses your phone to pinpoint the location of your litter cleanup.



Before you submit your PGCLitterTRAK information, you must upload a picture of your collected material.

Finally...

Data collected from PGCLitterTRAK goes into an online map for reporting and analysis. The County then gets an accurate snapshot of all the work we're doing removing litter from our neighborhoods!



CURBSIDE BULKY TRASH COLLECTION

Items that are too big to fit in your trash bin won't be hauled away in your regular curbside trash collection. Schedule your curbside bulky trash appointment today by calling PGC311 or visiting bulkytrash.princegeorgescountymd.gov.

Accepted items and more information can be found at bit.ly/PGCbulyacceptable.

CURBSIDE BULKY TRASH COLLECTION IS BACK!

Residents can now schedule appointments for **AUGUST**.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

CALL: 311 OR

VISIT: BULKYTRASH.PRINCEGEORGESCOUNTYMD.GOV.



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive



FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTING PROGRAM



The Prince George's County Food Scraps Composting Program began its Countywide expansion on July 12, 2021. Approximately 800 households received collection materials, including a 32-gallon wheeled cart, a 2-gallon kitchen mini bin, a How-To Guide, a refrigerator magnet, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

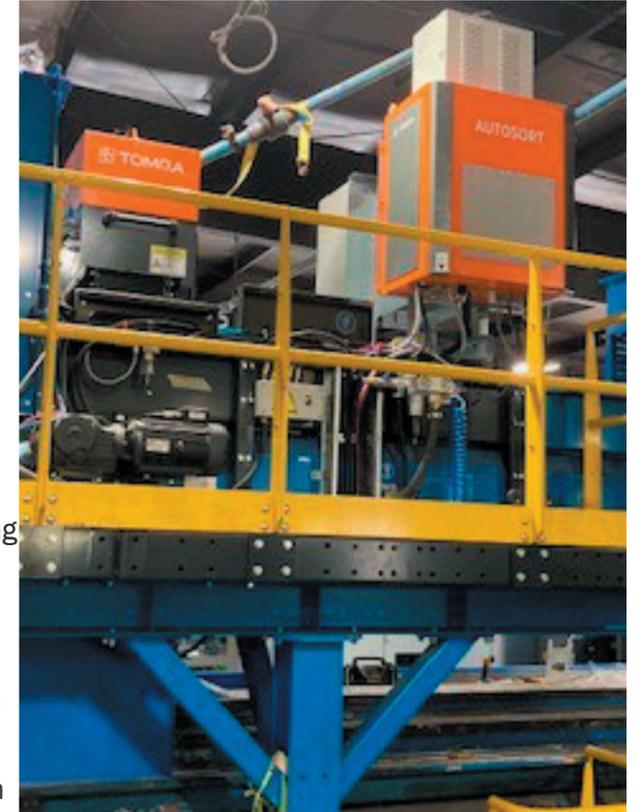
Residents who opted in the program can now mix their food scraps with their yard trim for the weekly Monday yard trim curbside collection. The food scraps must be placed inside the Organics cart. Only residents who opted-in and received the appropriate program materials may put food scraps curbside for collection. Plastic bags are not accepted.

The County is planning to broaden the program through additional expansions in fiscal year 2022. For additional information about food scraps composting visit mypgc.us/compost or email us at pgccomposts@co.pg.md.us.

MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY UPGRADES

Prince George's County is transforming the sorting equipment at its Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Capitol Heights. The County has partnered with Van Dyk Recycling to redesign and retrofit the facility with a new state-of-the-art sorting system. The last updates to the sorting equipment at the MRF were made in 2007 when the County transitioned to a single stream to collect recyclable materials.

The upgraded system will allow recyclable materials to be processed more efficiently, saving the County time and money. Improvements include enhanced sorting components, consisting of three new TOMRA optical sorting units, to separate plastics into distinct product categories, such as #1 PET plastic, #2 HDPE (colored and natural), and #5 Polypropylene. Before the upgrades, the County was producing one type of mixed plastics, which consisted of #'s 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7. Plastics may be broken out into three different categories with the new equipment, making them more valuable in the marketplace.



Another improvement is replacing the old star screen, used to separate paper and containers. An elliptical screen will replace the star screen and help separate what is known as 2D, paper, and cardboard from the 3D containers. These changes will substantially reduce contamination in the paper stream. In addition, a new magnet used to attract metals will be installed and a new Eddy current for sorting aluminum. Overall, these improvements will serve to separate the individual commodities better and increase the revenues received from their sales.

The upgrades began in February 2021 and are scheduled to be completed in August. For more information, please contact the Materials Recycling Facility at 301-324-4762. Watch a video of the existing system by visiting vimeo.com/403011619/b6641d3791. For additional information, visit Maryland Environmental Service at menv.com/service/recycling/

Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program and Grant Opportunities Webinar



Learn how you can
receive rebates
and grant funding
for projects that improve
our communities
and keep our waterways
clean and healthy!

For more information, contact
Nguyen Le at nle@cbtrust.org
or 410-974-2941 x110



July 15, 2021

7:30pm

Register at
<https://bit.ly/RCR-Webinar>

