

winter 2022

**LET'S CLEAR
THE CURB**



**WASTE DIVERSION
& RECYCLING
AWARDS**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

GREEN SCENE 2022
newsletter

**THE DOE YEAR
IN REVIEW**



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the winter edition of YOUR Department of the Environment's (DoE) Green Scene newsletter. This edition reflects and recaps our achievements over the last year in our Animal Services Division (ASD) Resource and Recovery Division (RRD), Sustainability Division (SD), and Stormwater Management (SMD).

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, you will read how RRD launched a new curbside bulky trash collection program for residents receiving County-contracted waste collection services that allows a two-item bulky item pickup along with regular trash collection. You'll also learn about RRD's annual virtual Waste Diversion Awards that recognize outstanding individuals, businesses, and schools in Prince George's County committed to ensuring our environment remains safe and healthy. We highlight our SMD and learn more about their completion of nine (9) Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) water quality restoration projects. You'll see how SD supported and led the way in drafting the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan in tandem with the Climate Action Commission (CAC). The CAC's final Climate Action Plan sets a countywide 50% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal by 2030. The GHG reduction target is to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 50% below 2005 community-wide greenhouse gas emissions levels, aligning with State of Maryland emission reduction goals. The Plan also provides recommendations on how Prince George's County can become resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change and make an equitable transition to renewable energy. And finally, you'll see that the ASD unveiled a new shed donated by one of its rescue partners to store humane traps and other equipment to assist the facility in caring for our feline friends in the trap, neuter, vaccinate and return (TNVR) program.

In celebration of Black History Month, we feature local African American environmentalists who make a significant difference in the protection and development of comprehensive environmental programs to help maintain the quality of our environment.

Our Environmental Calendar reminds us of significant events during the winter months. It includes everything from National Polar Bear Day to National Water Day and reminds us there is always something to learn and celebrate about our environment!

Our Department of the Environment (DoE) will enthusiastically carry out its mission of "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," on behalf of all of our County residents, businesses and partners.

Thank you for your continued support and happy reading!


Andrea L. Crooms
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.

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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.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR 2022

FEBRUARY 2

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on the 2nd of February, to raise global awareness about the high importance of wetlands for people and our planet.



FEBRUARY 5

NATIONAL WEATHERPERSON DAY

National Weatherperson Day is observed on February 5th which commemorates the birth of John Jeffries who was born in 1744 and is one of America's first weather observers.



FEBRUARY 27

NATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY

National Polar Bear Day brings to the forefront the plight of Polar Bears while bringing awareness and educating the world about the issues these animals are facing.



MARCH 18

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY

Global Recycling Day is celebrated globally to promote the importance of recycling in preserving our natural resources.



MARCH 20

SPRING EQUINOX FIRST DAY OF SPRING!

Spring Equinox, known as the first day of Spring, will occur on March 20th this year. On this day the length of day and night is nearly equal in all parts of the world.



MARCH 22

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

International Day of Forests is held each year on March 22nd to raise awareness about the importance of preserving and restoring forests throughout the world.



MARCH 22

WORLD WATER DAY

World Water Day has been observed since 1993 on March 22nd to celebrate water and bring awareness to the billions of people who do not have access to safe water.



MARCH 23

WORLD METEOROLOGIST DAY

World Meteorologist Day is celebrated on March 23rd to commemorate the founding of the World Meteorologist Organization.



BLACK HISTORY MOMENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) is featuring African American Environmentalists from the Washington region during this year's Black History Month. Included is a list of game-changers whose advocacy and accomplishments have made a tremendous environmental impact in our community.



Josephine Butler

Josephine Butler was born on January 24, 1920, in Brandywine, Maryland, where her parents were sharecroppers, and her grandparents were enslaved. She attended Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro and Strayer College. Butler suffered from typhoid and her family moved from Brandywine to Washington, D.C. so she could receive better medical treatment. She would remain in D.C. and became a leader in environmental activism. Butler served as a community health educator for the American Lung Association in D.C., where she educated thousands of children about air pollution before the movement for environmental justice and change existed.



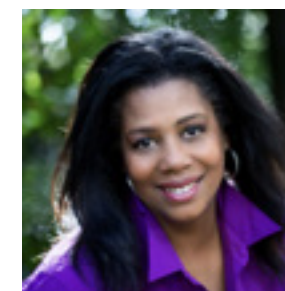
Leslie Fields

Leslie Fields, Esq. has over 30 years of experience in federal, state, and local environmental justice and policy. She is a graduate of Cornell University and the Georgetown University Law Center and is the current Sierra Club's National Director of Policy Advocacy, and Legal. She is the former international director of Friends of the Earth-US in Washington, D.C., and is currently an adjunct law professor at Howard University School of Law.



Christopher Bradshaw

Christopher Bradshaw is an African American social justice entrepreneur whose expertise is using social innovation through the food system to grow meaningful community economic development within marginalized communities. Bradshaw is also the founder of Dreaming Out Loud, a social enterprise created to produce economic opportunities for the Washington, D.C. metro region's marginalized communities through building a healthy and equitable food system.



Rue Mapp

Rue Mapp is the Founder and CEO of Outdoor Afro, a national not-for-profit organization with offices in Oakland, CA, and Washington, D.C. Rue oversees a carefully selected and trained national volunteer leadership team of more than 100 men and women who represent 56 cities around the US, and shares opportunities to build a broader community and leadership and nurture a community of black outdoor enthusiasts.

LET'S CLEAR the CURB

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ORGANICS

NEW BULKY TRASH COLLECTION PROGRAM

Prince George's County is proud to announce a faster and improved curbside bulky trash pickup. This new service allows residents who receive County-contracted trash and recycling collection services to set out **two (2) bulky items or two (2) tightly secured bags with small household items** per week **NEXT** to their trash can on their regular collection days. **NO APPOINTMENTS ARE NEEDED!** Residents who **only pay** for bulky trash services will continue to schedule through PGC311.

The new service started the week of Monday, February 14, and is one of the County's Clear the Curb Waste Collection programs designed to help keep Prince George's County clean, healthy, and sustainable. All collection services are provided to residents receiving County-contracted services or who pay a fee for bulky trash removal. These services include regular trash, recycling, food scraps composting (organics), yard trim, and the improved bulky trash collection program. **Some items, such as refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, and scrap tires will still need to be scheduled for pickup through PGC311.**

Residents are reminded to adhere to their current Homeowners Association (HOA) or civic association rules and regulations regarding trash and recycling placed in public areas.

For information on acceptable materials, FAQs, and more, visit mypgc.us/clearthecurb.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE VISITS STAFF TO SAY THANK YOU

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks recently visited the Brown Station Road Landfill to say thank you to Resource Recovery Division (RRD) and Animal Services Division (ASD) staff who worked on-site throughout the pandemic. Over 130 staff were in attendance. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event was held outdoors.

The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks told staff that even during a challenge as the pandemic, their performance and dedication to serving the residents was excellent and commendable. She was also given a tour of the landfill. County Executive Alsobrooks also thought it was amazing to see the abundance of Bald Eagles and other birds the waste attracts and acknowledged that the smell was minimal.



County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and
DoE Director Andrea L. Crooms



RESOURCE RECOVERY YEAR IN REVIEW

Equipment Upgrades at Materials Recycling Facility

After a six-month overhaul, the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment (DoE) unveiled the completion of equipment upgrades at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) last August. The upgraded system allows recyclable materials to be processed more efficiently, will save the County time and money, as well as reinforce DoE’s mission to recycle as many uncontaminated materials in our waste stream as possible.



DoE partnered with Van Dyk Recycling to redesign and retrofit the facility with a new state-of-the-art sorting system. The MRF opened its doors in October 1993 as a 65,000-square foot facility. 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. Last year, the Facility processed more than 70,000 tons of recyclable materials.

Improvements included 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. Another improvement replaced the old star screen, used to separate paper and containers. An elliptical screen replaced the star screen and helps 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 was installed, as well as 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.

As a leader in waste diversion, the County’s goal is to recycle as many components from the waste stream as feasible, minimize dependency on the landfill, and make recycling easy and convenient with less contamination. Residents are reminded to only recycle plastics with resin identification numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 as listed on the bottom or back of the material. To see a list of acceptable items collected in the County’s recycling program, visit bit.ly/wastetoolkit.

WASTE DIVERSION & RECYCLING AWARDS

The Department of the Environment (DoE) and Keep Prince George’s County Beautiful (KPGCB) held their annual Waste Diversion and Recycling Virtual Awards Ceremony last December. The ceremony recognizes County individuals, businesses, schools, and other entities who demonstrate exceptional achievements in recycling and waste diversion to advance the mission of DoE and KPGCB.

HERE ARE THE WINNERS:

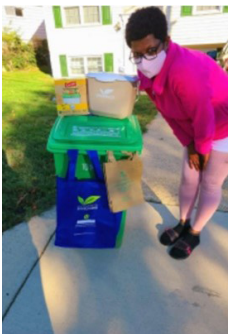
Mike Johnson/Town of Morningside - Individual

Mike Johnson oversees the Public Works Department for the Town of Morningside. He has been diligent in eliminating cigarette butt litter in his town by procuring and delivering cigarette butler containers to businesses and installing them in various areas at the Town Hall.

The Keep America Beautiful Cigarette Litter Prevention Program, now in its 19th year, is the nation’s largest program aimed at reducing cigarette litter. Since its inception, the program has been implemented in more than 1,800 U.S. communities.



Mike Johnson Cigarette Butler



Marcia Watson - Volunteer/Individual

Marcia Watson displays exemplary environmental stewardship in efforts to assist the County in satisfying its waste diversion goal. Ms. Watson ensures her neighbors that are in need, have their organics and recycling materials placed curbside every week. Ms. Watson is a true representative of a community leader with an amazing level of environmental awareness.

FoxChase One Homeowners Association - Volunteers

To address litter and other illegal dumping in and around the community, FoxChase One Homeowners Association (HOA) partnered with the Sustainable Maryland Program and the Environmental Finance Center of the University of Maryland and established a ‘Green Team’.



The Green Team drafted a simple waste reduction plan to reduce illegal dumping and manage community waste issues. The plan included two litter and waste reduction events in 2021 including Community Cleanup Day in June and Litter Pick Up Day in September.



Rivertowne Commons Management- Commercial Business Awards

Rivertowne Commons Management & Maintenance responded enthusiastically to the latest County regulations that require commercial businesses to add recycling containers to their waste collection system. Rivertowne Commons went above and beyond by installing 30 recycling containers throughout the property – one placed by each regular waste bin. Rivertowne Management monitors for contamination daily and separates trash from recyclables when necessary. Recycling amounts are recorded through the haulers and reported to the County.

Tanger Outlets - Commercial Business

Tanger Outlets Shopping Center which handles over 6.5 million customers annually and a daily average of over 17.8 thousand customers installed an energy efficient, state-of-the-art Big Belly Recycling/Trash system throughout its center.

Containers are easily identifiable and large enough to support the shopping centers multitude of visitors. The containers collect Single Stream recycling to include glass bottles, plastics, and paper products.



Mega Farmers Market - Commercial Business Award

Managers at the Mega Farmers Market actively collaborate with the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment (DoE) Recycling Section to facilitate outreach events inside the store’s main entrance, as well as placing display stands inside the store. Additionally, the Mega Farmers Market also supports the America Recycles Day initiative by encouraging residents to pledge to commit to Recycle Right.

Mitchellville Exxon, Bowie Shell, Oxon Hill Sunoco, Glenn Dale BP- Commercial Business Award

Station Managers Mumtaz Mustafa of Mitchellville Exxon and Sam Eid of Bowie Shell were recognized as leaders in their industry by implementing user-friendly recycling systems for customers. Oxon Hill Sunoco, and Glenn Dale BP were also recognized for their programs as a model for other stations to follow.



University of Maryland Dining Services - Education

The Department of Dining Services in the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD-DS) has developed a robust waste reduction, recycling, and composting program. The University is strategic and transparent in its goals to minimize waste, provide quality food, and continue to improve both its customer service and environmental stewardship.

UMD-DS has a strong partnership with the Food Recovery Network, a student organization that collects and donates leftover food. Through this partnership, leftovers from events, dining halls, and sporting events are diverted from waste and donated to homeless shelters in Washington, D.C. and MD.

Good Tidings is the campus’s full-service catering program run and operated by UMD-DS. Good Tidings offers the choice between disposables or porcelain plates, stainless steel flatware, and glassware for events. Through this initiative, campus events now generate much less waste.



Community Forklift

Donations of unwanted materials are donated to Community Forklift to be cleaned, repaired, and made available for reuse. Items that would go to the County’s landfill or illegally dumped, provide resources to improve local housing, support local organizations (including schools, community gardens, nonprofits, and local municipalities), and neighbors in need of necessities (air conditioners, refrigerators, or other appliances) for free.



AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

For the second year, the Department of the Environment's (DoE) Recycling Division, in recognition of America Recycles Day (ARD) 2021, partnered with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments Recycling Committee (COG) and Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KAB), the first KAB affiliate in the State of Maryland, to collect the most pledges in the region to commit to recycling more.

This year, through the dedicated efforts of partners, including the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center and PGCPS, the County garnered more than 700 pledges, the most ever received through this cooperative effort.

Messages encouraging all County residents, students, and County employees to make a pledge to recycle, via the ARD website, were disseminated through the County's social media networks, global email, and the public school's email system.

These collaborative efforts and the ongoing commitment of our community toward environmental stewardship serve to make us all Prince George's PROUD!



ANIMAL SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW

Animal Services Division Receives Generous Gift! *Shed donated to House Humane Traps and Equipment*



A shed to house humane traps and equipment was donated to the Department of Environment's (DoE) Animal Services Division (ASD) by Alley Cat Rescue (ACR) and Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Return (TNVR) organizations.

The official unveiling of the shed took place earlier in November with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by ASD at the Animal Services Facility & Adoption Center in Upper Marlboro, MD. The director of DoE Andrea L. Crooms said, "the donation of the shed allows our ASD and its TNVR partners to house additional humane traps and equipment to

allow us to be more proactive and effective. We are so grateful for the partnerships and the shed donation."

Through TNVR cats are humanely trapped, spayed, neutered, and vaccinated. In addition, the tip of one ear is painlessly removed to indicate the cats are part of a TNVR program. The cats are then returned to the communities where they live, ending the cycle of producing kittens.

Animal Fostering Program

Animal Services Division (ASD) continues to grow its foster program which saves animals' lives by placing them into a loving home on a temporary basis. Becoming a foster pet parent gives a little TLC to those pets who need it most. Some foster animals include sick or injured animals, underaged kittens, and animals who thrive better in a home setting.

Virtual foster training is available monthly to those who are interested in the program. The trainings provide guidance as well as best practices on how to bring a new pet into your home.

If interested in learning more about the foster program and training sessions, please contact our **Foster Coordinator, Marilyn Perez, at 301-780-7202 or e-mail MPPEREZ@co.pg.md.us.**



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
MPPEREZ@co.pg.md.us
301-780-7202



FOSTERING SAVES LIVES

COLD WEATHER TIPS FOR YOUR PET

Keep your pets safe when the temperature drops

Cold weather can pose serious threats to the health of your four-legged family members, which is why it's recommended to keep your pets inside. But when you do take them out for a walk or the potty, the Prince George's County Animal Services Division encourages pet owners to closely monitor their exposure to winter elements throughout the season and to remember the law.

If your dog stays outdoors in cold weather, Prince George's County law requires the following:

- All domestic animals except livestock are prohibited from being kept outdoors when the effective outdoor wind chill index is 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A doghouse of the proper size must be dry, draft-free, and raised off the ground.
- A wind flap attached to the doghouse to keep cold air out and warm air in.
- Bedding that is non-absorbent such as straw or wood shavings to help keep the dog warm.
- Routinely check your pet's drinking water to make sure it is not frozen and use a secured container to prevent tipping.

Some tips pet owners should consider during cold weather:

- Keep kittens and puppies under 6 months, and small or short-haired dogs inside.
- Increase the amount of their food; outdoor dogs need more calories in the winter to produce body heat.
- Never let your dog off their leash in the snow or ice; they can become disoriented and lost, even in a familiar place. Be sure your pet has an ID tag, microchip, and sturdy leash.
- Wipe your pet's paws after an outing with a wet cloth to remove any ice or chemicals used to melt snow on sidewalks that can irritate their paws. Salt can irritate or burn, as well as cause vomiting and in some pets can even cause seizures. Antifreeze has a sweet, attractive smell to pets and can be deadly if ingested.
- Keep your pets indoors during freezing temperatures. If left unattended outdoors they can get frostbite or become disorientated and freeze to death. Hypothermia can result from extended exposure to cold and is a life-threatening condition.
- Do not leave your pet in a closed car in the winter because it can be just as deadly as in the summer.
- If you have bunnies who live outside, make sure they have a warm, dry hutch with plenty of bedding that is out of the wind. Water is important too as is some extra food. Cover the hutch with a tarp.
- If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on your car hood before starting the engine to give them a chance to escape. Cats like to seek shelter from the cold and can be under the hood of your car.

For more information about pet care, visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com or contact the Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center at (301) 780-7200.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT YEAR IN REVIEW

The Stormwater Management Division (SMD) completed nine (9) Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), water quality restoration projects in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirement within the year 2021. Below are highlights of some of the key projects completed by SMD.

Tinkers Creek Stream Restoration

SMD partnered with GreenVest - Petro JV on the Tinkers Creek Stream Restoration Project. The project is located in Clinton and Temple Hills, MD, on both private and public land (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)).

The project is the largest stream project in Prince George's County, MD, and one of the largest in the State. This exciting and beneficial project will restore over 40,662 linear feet of stream in three stream corridors of the Piscataway River watershed yielding over 813 impervious acres restored. The project uses natural stream channel design techniques to improve bank stability. Additionally, this project was awarded 4.5 million dollars of grant funding through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The project achieved the following Nutrient Load Reductions: Total Nitrogen (TN) - 12,024.03 lbs./yr.; Total Phosphorus (TP) - 1,616.16 lbs./yr.; and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) - 4,077,732.00 lbs./yr.



Bear Branch Stream Restoration



SMD partnered with the City of Laurel, and Villages Wellington Community Association to implement the Bear Branch Stream Restoration Project. The project is located in the City of Laurel (Prince George's County) on both private and public land. This exciting and beneficial project restored 3,438 linear feet of Bear Branch Watershed; yielding 341.9 of impervious acres restored.

The primary goal of this project was to reduce in-stream sedimentation associated with active stream bed and bank erosion. In addition, the project reaches to provide water quality improvements in fulfillment of the County's MS4 permit requirements and to reduce the sediment supply into Laurel Lakes and associated maintenance efforts.

The project used natural stream channel design techniques to improve bank stability. Additionally, this project was awarded \$1.75 million dollars of Grant Funding through the Maryland

Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The project achieved the following Nutrient Load Reductions: TN - 247 lbs./yr.; TP - 224 lbs./yr.; and TSS - 50,000 lbs./yr.

Black Swamp Creek Stream Restoration



Black Swamp Creek Stream Restoration, located at 17910 Aquasco Road in Brandywine, discharges to the Patuxent River Lower watershed. The project restored 14,810 linear feet of the stream and resulted in 296.21 acres of impervious acres restored for the County’s NPDES MS4 Permit. The project also achieved the following Nutrient Load Reductions:

Total Nitrogen	1,111 lbs.
Total Phosphorus	1,007 lbs.
Total Suspended Solids	223,640 lbs.

Flood Control and Drainage Improvement Projects

SMD plans, designs, and constructs flood protection and drainage improvement projects that focus on severe threats to residential, habitable structures. SMD has completed four (4) flood control and drainage improvement projects within the year 2021. Below are highlights of some of the key projects completed by SMD.

Franklin Avenue Storm Drain Improvement



The project is located in the Lanham-Seabrook area. To mitigate drainage issues due to poor drainage and flooding after minor rain events, SMD installed a system of approximately 1,550 feet of storm drainpipe with 11 inlets and three (3) manholes that outfall into a Folly Branch Tributary. This project provided protection from flooding for 12 private properties, five (5) commercial properties, and one Community Association property in Glenn Estates Community. The project was completed in December 2021.

NPDES MS4 Regulatory Inspection and Compliance

SMD is responsible for the inspection and compliance of: all privately owned Best Management Practices (BMPs); Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE); water quality complaints; County and municipal Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP); and outfall sampling. Below are highlights of regulatory inspection performed by SMD in the year 2021.

Regulatory Inspection Category	Number of Inspection Performed in FY 2021
• Private BMP Inspection Program	1,717 BMPs
• IDDE Inspection program	
• Outfall Screening	152 Outfall Screening
• Commercial and Industrial Visual Survey	129 Visual Surveys
• Water Quality Complaints	3 WQ Complaints
• SWPPP Inspection Program	61 SWPPP

BMP Inspection Program



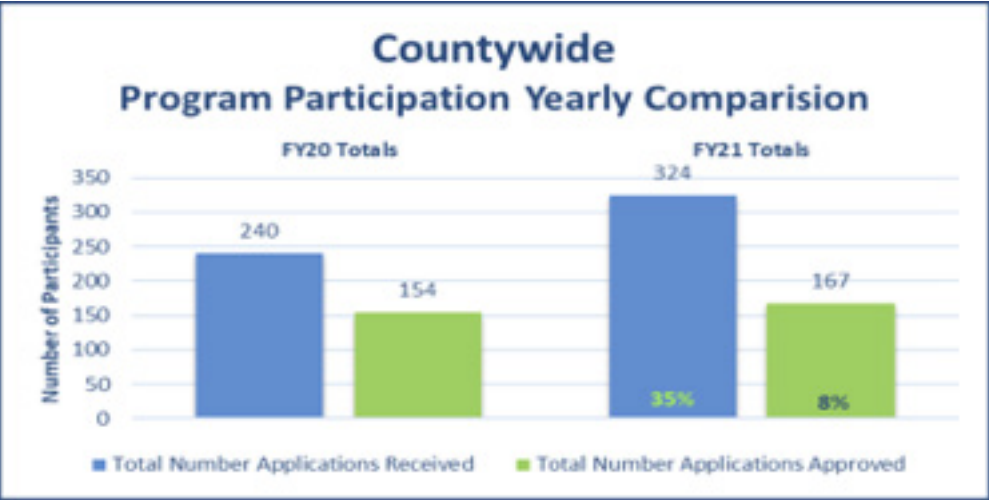
IDDE Inspection Program



Rain Check Rebate and Stormwater Stewardship Programs

Prince George’s County initiated the Rain Check Rebate (RCR) Program in 2013 and it has become a great incentive for County property owners that are interested in installing approved stormwater management practices on their properties. The program provides eligible applicants the opportunity to receive rebates for installing approved stormwater BMPs and obtain fee reduction credit on the Clean Water Act fee included in their tax bill.

The overall program performance in the FY 2021 reporting year was 167 approved applications, 325 actual number of best management practices (BMPs) installed, and \$150,784 in rebates awarded, resulting in 1.81 acres of Impervious Area Restoration, a 20% decrease from the previous year.



BMP Type: Cistern



BMP Type: Pavers



BMP Type: Rain Barrel



BMP Type: Rain Garden

In addition to RCR, the County’s Stormwater Stewardship Grant (SSG) Program funds on-the-ground restoration activities that improve neighborhoods, improve water quality, and engage Prince George’s County residents in the restoration and protection of the local rivers and streams of Prince George’s County. During FY 2021, the County awarded a total of 11 SSGs, which includes municipalities, non-profit organizations, and schools. The total amount awarded during FY 2021 was \$585,429.

SUSTAINABILITY YEAR IN REVIEW

Beautification Initiative



Despite the continued restrictions of COVID-19, communities across Prince George’s County have remained vigilant fighting against litter and illegal dumping. The Department of the Environment (DoE), in partnership with sister agencies of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), the Department of Permit, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), were able to assist the County Executive’s Fall 2021 ‘Growing Green with Pride’ efforts that resulted in 119 cleanup sites, 2,964 volunteers, 1,720 plants installed, the planting of 217 trees, 273 shrubs installed, 1,230 flowering perennials and ornamental grasses installed, 10,000 daffodil flowering bulbs installed, and 1,554 bags of mulch installed. Faithful neighbors across the County collected over 24.4 tons, or 48,800 pounds of litter and debris on community roads. Our Spring 2021 Growing Green with Pride efforts resulted in 62 communities participating, as well as four municipalities, nine schools, and over 1,300 youth and adult volunteers were able to remove over 40,000 pounds of litter.

Prince George’s County Draft Climate Action Plan Process

From January of 2021 through September of 2021, the Climate Action Commission (CAC) maintained an intensive working group meeting schedule to draft the Prince George’s County Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP). Throughout this drafting process, DoE served as the support staff to the CAC, leading a team of climate action consultants and guiding the workflow process. During the summer of 2021, DoE hosted three community meetings to enable public feedback. In tandem with the public meetings, the Commission working groups continued refining the CAP’s Priority Recommendations, plan implementation steps, and incorporating overall community feedback into the CAP draft. The CAC approved the Draft CAP by unanimous consensus on October 22, 2021. The CAC’s final Climate Action Plan sets a county-wide 50% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal by 2030. The GHG reduction target is to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 50% below 2005 community-wide greenhouse gas emissions levels, aligning with State of Maryland emission reduction goals. The Plan also provides recommendations on how Prince George’s County can become resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change and make an equitable transition to renewable energy.



The Commission publicly released the Draft CAP for a 30-day public comments period from November 1-December 1, 2021. The Draft CAP and a Supplemental Public Comments Report, which compiled comments from the 30-day public comment period, were officially submitted to the County Council and the Office of the County Executive on January 14, 2022. To view the Plan, please visit mypgc.us/climateactionplan.