GREEN SCENE



Prince George's County

ENVIRONMENT OF THE



Dear Friends, At the launch of the Port Towns Ecodistrict (see article), the County, in partnership with local municipalities and businesses packaged, branded, and helped uplift a part of the county that has already accomplished so much. Hosted by Community Forklift, a key flagship green business, we were at the center of a network of local entreprenuers who know that businesses can make money as well as make our environment better. There are times when the government leads, but more often than not, we are listening to and supporting others in our neighborhoods who are doing good things, and adding value through various resources to be even more effective together.

But sometimes it is the government that takes a lead. Our new LitterTRAK app is a game changer in how the county is able to track and deploy resources to clean up litter in our community, and is the brainchild of several innovators on our Sustainability Team, including Catherine Escarpeta, Tiaa Rutherford, and their supervisor Dawn Hawkins Nixon. For many years we have been working with neighborhoods to step up the campaign against litter, but now we have technology on our side.

You will also notice that we have changed the names of some of our divisions. What's in a name? Well, by using the right language, we focus our identity, and therefore, our behavior in a better way. For example, our newly-named "Resource Recovery Division" is a better reflection of what our identity is than the "Waste Management Division"...since our County, at a 65% diversion rate is more in the business of recovery than waste.

Thank you for being with us on this journey. We value your feedback, participation, and partnership immensely.



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.



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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 Specialist: Lauren Kinard

Graphic Designer: **Kenan Langston**

Graphic Design Intern: **Courtney Chase**

PORT TOWNS ECODISTRICT LAUNCH

Demonstrating both innovation and commitment to neighborhood level enhancement, the launch of the Port Towns EcoDistrict Projects provides a unique opportunity to bring to central Prince George's County a replicable model of a successful community and economic development that will showcase dynamic green industries featuring sustainable practices.

At the launch briefing held on June 5, Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Infrastructure, Barry Stanton shared congratulatory remarks with event attendees and noted that "the Port Towns EcoDistrict will focus on becoming a regional leader in recycling, reuse and repurposing of building and organic waste; promote the transformation of industrial space; and, create leading edge facilities supporting the development of green and sustainable businesses."

The environmental rejuvenation brings renewed economic growth to the County, new businesses, new jobs and new residents. At the same time, it will exhibit the best practices of a sustainable, livable community, and contribute to the reduction of landfill waste, conserve and preserve natural resources through the use of innovative building products, promote material reuse, and produce crops and livestock for food through small plot urban farming.

"The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) is proud to be in partnership with





several sister-County agencies including the Economic Development Corporation, Department of Public Works and Transportation, the Redevelopment Authority and the Revenue Authority. This is also an amazing opportunity for the the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Port Towns Community Development Corporation, the Town of Bladensburg and Community Forklift—an anchor business in the Port Towns dedicated to the very ideals upon which the EcoDistrict Project is founded," said DoE Director Adam Ortiz.

Co-founder and owner of Community Forklift, Nancy Myer addressed event participants and applauded the efforts of County officials to "enhance the industrial, historical and natural elements of Port Towns through the establishment of an EcoDistrict. This initiative also fosters the expansion of the initial vision of Community Forklift and catalyze the improvement of sustainable community mobility through improved connectivity including road safety, bike paths and pedestrian walkways."

Congratulatory remarks were also provided by the Honorable Mayor Tracy Farrish Gant of the Town of Edmonton and the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

For more information on the Port Towns EcoDistrict, visit environment.mypgc.us.











PGC LITTERTRAK EARNS BEST IN CATEGORY NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mobile litter apps recognized for helping to keep Prince George's County litter free

Prince George's County has been recognized with a 2017 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the launch of two mobile software applications (apps) designed to track and report tonnage of litter captured, removed and prevented in communities and local waterways. The national awards program honors innovative County government programs that enhance services for residents. PGCLitterTRAK (used by community groups and individual citizens) and LitterTRAK (used by County officials) were selected as the overall best in the category of County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability.

NACo President Bryan Desloge said, "counties overcome complex challenges, provide essential services and constantly do more with less. We applaud these Achievement Award-winning counties for outstanding efforts to improve residents' quality of life."

"Litter is a nuisance in our community and has a direct effect on our quality of life in Prince George's County," says DoE Director Adam Ortiz. "These mobile apps assist in our fight for a litter-free County and receiving this national recognition confirms our commitment to crafting creative solutions that help keep our County clean."







PGCLitterTRAK and LitterTRAK were developed to assist the County in its Litter Reduction Programs and various partnerships that include:

- Clean Sweep a coordinated inter-agency led effort to clean up communities in the Anacostia River Watershed and TNI areas that will contribute to the achievement of the mandated trash reduction rate of 170,628 pounds per year in the Anacostia River Watershed.
- Clean Up Green Up an annual initiative designed to keep communities cleaner and greener with neighborhood plantings and beautification activities held twice a year throughout the County.
- Comprehensive Community Cleanup a program designed to revitalize, enhance and help maintain unincorporated areas of the County by providing a concentrated focus of County cleanup and maintenance services to a community over a 2-week period.
- Volunteer Neighborhood Community Cleanup a community-sponsored volunteer program geared toward small, medium and large-sized communities that includes neighborhood and stream cleanups. Interested communities are provided with technical assistance and materials such as trash bags, gloves, and roll-off containers when available.

- Storm Drain Stenciling a community program that helps prevent water pollution by stenciling inlets to neighborhood storm drains.
- •Source reduction projects to reduce incidents of littering such as installation of trash and recycling receptacles.
- Trash capture devices that increase capacity to remove litter in waterways which can be maintained by volunteer groups.
- Stream level trash monitoring and land-based trash surveying to provide actual measures of trash load reduction and gauges impacts of implemented measures.
- Stream cleanup services that increase the County's capacity to remove litter from physically challenging waterways and bank areas.

NACo will recognize the award-winning counties at its 2017 Annual Conference and Exposition July 21–24 in Franklin County, Ohio. Visit www.naco.org to view a complete list of winners.

PGCLitterTRAK app is available by registration through the PGCLitterTRAK user sign-up form. For more information on how to get involved in the fight for a Litter-Free Prince George's County, contact Tiaa Rutherford, Litter Reduction Program Manager, at (301) 883-6226.



STRATEGIC SERVICES

DIVISION



FOREVER EVOLVING

Four years ago, County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III re-established the Department of Environmental Resources and named it Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE). In those 48 months, DoE has enhanced its focus, streamlined environmental objectives, and become the leader in several environmental issue areas in the State of Maryland and in the region. Partnerships have been forged with community leaders, environmental enthusiasts and County residents to continue the great work that fosters a clean, healthy, green and beautiful Prince George's County.

"As we approach our four-year anniversary as the Department of the Environment, and in keeping with our ongoing effort to be more closely aligned with our goals, it is my pleasure to announce the name changes of some of our Divisions. These name changes have been developed in collaboration with DoE Associate Directors. Their leadership and the dedication of DoE employees has collectively helped evolve our thinking practices and performance. I graciously thank them all for their hard and good work as DoE moves into the future," said Director Adam Ortiz.

Starting July 1, 2017, Administrative Services, Animal Management, Sustainable Initiatives and Waste Management, will undergo name changes. The Stormwater Management Division name will remain the same. The following provides an overview and greater insight into the new division names.

Strategic Services Division (formerly known as **Administrative Services**)

The core mission of this Division is to ensure efficient and compliant core services to our other DoE Divisions ensuring smooth operations, and an enjoyable and productive workplace. This requires an embrace of innovation, technology and strategic thinking for the medium and long term direction of DoE.

Animal Services Division (formerly known as **Animal Management)**

This change in title reflects a shift from seeing animals as a nuisance that must be "managed" to our core mission, which is making sure that animals in the County are well-cared for, healthy and find loving, forever homes.

Sustainability Division (formerly known as **Sustainable Initiatives**)

This new name reflects the Division's broader mission: planning, developing and implementing programs that protect local bodies of water, air, natural resources and built communities to enhance the quality of life in Prince George's County. These programs may include, but are not limited to, new initiatives such as litter control, tree plantings, public education and energy.

Resource Recovery Division (formerly known as Waste Management)

The Waste Management Division was established in the 1970s, in an era before recycling and composting, when everything was sent to the landfill. Now, the County leads the State of Maryland in waste diversion and recycling and nearly twothirds of all discarded material is treated as a "resource" that we invest in "recovering." Resource recovery is now our prevailing practice as reflected by this name change.

For more information on DoE, its Divisions, programs and initiatives, visit envionrment.mypgc. us.





ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION

BEING KIND

The DoE Animal Management Division (AMD) announced the winning entries of the 24th annual "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest during a special awards ceremony held at the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro.

Twenty-two creative posters, designed by student artists in kindergarten through sixth grade, were honored during the ceremony. Through this contest, Prince George's County recognizes elementary school students for their poster designs supporting good pet care and kindness to animals.

"We are extremely honored to host this annual event. Each year, our poster contest receives thousands of entries from students using their artistic talents to illustrate responsible pet care. Selecting 22 is tough, but we enjoy reviewing all the posters and sharing these outstanding illustrations with County residents," said AMD Assistant Associate Director Terri Littlejohn.

Showing their support, principals, teachers and parents of the honorees attended the ceremony, which included welcoming remarks from JoAnne Brown, AMD volunteer coordinator and humane educator, who also presented a proclamation declaring May 7-13, 2017, "Be Kind to Animals" Week. Special thanks were given to Ms. Mary Jacobs, and Mr. Roger & Judy McClain for their generous contribution and ongoing support of the contest and awards ceremony.

Grand prize honoree Kate James, a sixth grader at Beltsville Academy, focused on ending animal cruelty through her creative award winning poster. Kate

received a \$100 gift card and a commemorative prize bag. Honors were also presented in first, second and third places, which included \$75, \$50 and \$25 gift cards respectively and commemorative prize bags. This year, student honorees also received a Webkinz stuffed animal. Students can adopt a "virtual pet" version of their Webkinz and care for their pet online.

For more information about the "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest and Awards Ceremony, visit environment. mypgc.us.



ANIMAL SERVICES —

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Grand Prize

\$100 gift card and commemorative gift bag

• Kate James, 6th Grade, Mrs. Foster, Beltsville Academy

First Place

\$75 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)

- Elizabeth Sardo, Kindergarten, Ms. Wilkening, New Hope Academy
- Brad Urbiztondo, 1st Grade, Ms. Duterte, Cooper Lane Elementary
- Katie Brown, 2nd Grade, Mrs. Rowland, University Park Elementary
- Hannah Washington, 3rd Grade, Ms. Everett, Robert R. Gray Elementary
- Joselyn Paz, 4th Grade, Mrs. Gibson, Calvertson Elementary
- Sofia Jackson, 5th Grade, Mrs. Burck, St. Mary's School of Piscataway
- Nevaeh Louis, 6th Grade, Ms. Fletcher, Robert R. Gray Elementary

Second Place

\$50 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)

- Hannah Christenson, Kindergarten, Mrs. Calabrese, St. Matthews Early Education Center
- Zoe Cuadra, 1st Grade, Mrs. Wilson, St. John's School
- Jon Kristoff Cruze, 2nd Grade, Mr. Mendoza, Cooper Lane Elementary
- Jilliana Giacchino, 3rd Grade, Mrs. Pinchotti, Beltsville Academy
- Chimamanda Uzoefona, 4th Grade, Mrs. Jones, Gleen Dale Elementary
- Shayna Lopez Ramirez, 5th Grade, Ms. Gerber, Riverdale Elementary
- Casey McGee, 6th Grade, Mr. Hamnett, St. Pius X Regional School

Third Place

\$25 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)

- Santiago Sieiro, Kindergarten, Mrs. Ahrens, Beltsville Academy
- Selina Ramirez, 1st Grade, Mrs. Arellano, Cooper Lane Elementary
- Kimberly Quintania, 2nd Grade, Mrs. Richardson, Beltsville Academy
- Kayla Salinas-Margoth-Munoz, 3rd Grade, Mrs. Pinchotti, Beltsville Academy
- Benjamin Brensinger, 4th Grade, Mrs. Browne, Pointer Ridge Elementary
- Christian Nicole Garcia, 5th Grade, Mrs. Smith, Oaklands Elementary
- Reghan Worley, 6th Grade, Ms. Farmer, Excellence Christian School











STORMATER MANAGEMENT

BUILDING GREEN

As part of a County-wide effort to reduce stormwater pollution, DoE identifies poor areas of stormwater filtration and restores "gray" infrastructure into natural, "green" areas that improve water quality while providing flood protection, habitat for wildlife and cleaner air.

IVISION

DoE's Stormwater Management Division (SMD) is using innovative environmental site design (ESD) to install green stormwater treatment practices such as rain gardens and bioswales in retail and industrial parking lots, along County-maintained roads and in residential communities.

Environmental site design encompasses an assortment of techniques, structures and practices that work together to mimic the continuous and natural movement of water on, above and below the Earth's surface. ESD includes retaining natural features such as drainage patterns, soil and vegetation; and, integrating stormwater treatment into the landscape to slow down and filter rain water, remove harmful pollutants and minimize the use of gray infrastructure.

Many ESD projects employ small scale stormwater management practices that incrementally reduce the amount of pollutants entering local waterways. DoE recently completed a gray infrastructure retrofit in Landover Hills. This retrofit uses vegetation, soils, and other ESD practices that work together to mimic the natural water filtration to create healthier, safe and aesthetically pleasing environments.

At the redesigned site, a forebay slowly filters the stormwater and removes pollutants such as bacteria, heavy metals, pesticides, oil and sediment. Bioretention facilities and curbside cuts help capture and treat the first inch of stormwater, which is then stored in the depressed surface of the site until it filters through a layer of wood mulch followed by a special bioretention soil. Initial filtration of stormwater through these layers removes chemicals, trash and debris before the water is released into the public stormdrain system and continues to local water ways.

In addition to improving water quality, projects such as this one contribute to the County's goals of increased flood mitigation while delivering environmental, social and economic benefits.

To learn more about the County's efforts to reduce stormwater runoff pollution and DoE's Clean Water Program, visit environment.mypgc.us.



RESOURGE RECOVERY

DIVISION

AWARD RECOGNITION

Prince George's County is the recipient of a 2017 State Employee Risk Management Administration (SERMA) Safety and Risk Management Award. The award, presented during the 2017 SERMA Conference, recognizes State agencies and their employees for working safely, promoting safety and encouraging safe work practices at all levels of employment.

In the Group Awards category, the Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), which is managed on behalf of DoE by the Maryland Environmental Service, is the recipient of the Health & Safety Award of Excellence. This award recognizes the MRF's ongoing efforts to enhance safety policies, employee safety awareness, prevent accidents or injuries, develop and implement solutions for workplace hazards, and improve overall health and safety within the workplace.

Specifically, the County MRF was recognized for its development of a Job Hazard Analysis identifying specific employee tasks, and training focusing on safe practices and proper equipment operation. MRF employees assisted in developing a Health and Safety Plan, and upgrades to personal protective equipment were completed and employees were trained on proper usage, limitations and maintenance of the protective gear.

The County MRF, which opened in October 1993, is a 65,000-foot facility processing 250 tons of single-stream recycling materials daily. For more information about the MRF, visit environment.mypgc.us.













SUSTAINABILITY

DIVISION

CIVIC DUTY

The Suitland Civic Association is working for a greener and healthier Prince George's County. With support from a grant through the County's Rain Check Rebate Program, the Association installed 30 rain barrels at homes within the Suitland community.

The grant also assisted the Association with hosting rain barrel workshops, which provided residents with guidance on the installation and use of the new rain barrels; hiring and training Suitland residents to install rain barrels throughout the community; and, producing a how-to-video on rain barrel installation at homes and businesses.

The Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program provides grants to residential property owners and commercial businesses for the installation of various stormwater management practices that help improve water quality, reduce stormwater runoff quantity, and improve local streams and rivers.

Grants up to \$4,000 are available to homeowners and grants up to \$20,000 are available to business owners. The Chesapeake Bay Trust partners with Prince George's County to review grant applications, eligibility status and final grant approvals. There are several practices that qualify for the grants through the program including installing rain barrels or cisterns, planting trees or rain gardens, pavement removal, and permeable pavement and green roof installation.

Since its launch in 2013, the Rain Check Rebate Program has fostered the installation of 72 rain barrels and seven cisterns, the filtering of 16,715 gallons of stormwater, the planting of 206 trees and 7,500 native plants, the removal of 15,748 square feet of impervious surfaces, and the installation of 13,093 square feet of pervious pavers and 12,408 square feet of rain gardens.

For more information about the Rain Check Rebate Program, visit environment.mypgc.us or www.cbtrust.org.



SUSTAINABILITY —



WE'RE TREE-MENDOUS!

For the 33rd consecutive year, Prince George's County received the "tree-mendous" Tree City USA award for its commitment to effective urban forest management. The award is given by The Tree City USA® program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities for more than 135 million Americans.

The award was presented at the County's annual Arbor Day Celebration held at the Glenn Dale Volunteer Fire Association and sponsored by the Prince George's County Beautification Committee (PGCBC). The committee partners with DoE, the Department of Public Works and Transportation, the Office of Central Services, MDNR's Forest Service, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Prince George's County Master Gardeners/University of Maryland

Extension, the Neighborhood Design Center, the Prince George's County Soil Conservation District, the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and Prince George's County Public Schools to conduct other greening and beautification activities throughout the County.

DoE Director Adam Ortiz reminded attendees of how valuable trees are to our environment and how they support our lives. "Trees help improve our air quality, reduce our energy consumption and help beautify our surroundings," he said. "By partnering with us to plant these trees and working with our partners, you are improving our environment for generations to come."

For more information on the County's reforestation programs and services, contact DoE's Sustainability Division at (301) 883-5834.

Visit www.flickr.com/photos/pgsprout to view more photos from the Arbor Day Celebration.













\$2.05 MILLION IN GRANTS AWARDED FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

DoE and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announced earlier this year the recipients of 23 grants for environment-friendly stormwater management and citizen engagement projects. Prince George's County neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and schools received support for projects that ranged from \$11,791 to \$500,000.

"The Trust is proud to be a partner with Prince George's County to distribute resources that engage residents and make a difference for our communities and the environment," said Dr. Jana Davis, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "We know that greener neighborhoods, cleaner streams and better natural resources all around are good for us, our businesses, our kids and our health. These grants offer everyone in Prince George's the chance to take action and do something to improve their own communities."

"The Department of the Environment congratulates the recipients of these stormwater management and citizen engagement grants. We're proud of the environmental stewardship displayed by these organizations, communities and educational institutions in Prince George's County, and their commitment to responsible programs that reinforce best environmental practices, educate and engage residents and reduce pollution and litter," said DoE Director Adam Ortiz.

Grants totaling \$2.05 million were awarded, supporting on-the ground restoration projects that treat and control stormwater, support municipalities in the County to meet pollution and education goals for cleaner water, support and use County-based businesses, and provide citizen awareness and engagement to protect the County's natural resources. These projects include diverse communities and residents, and strongly support County goals for environmental education. Established in 2014, the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program focuses on water quality programs that achieve nutrient and/or sediment reduction from stormwater, citizen engagement projects that aim to involve residents and businesses in efforts to improve local watersheds, removing trash from streams, reducing pet waste, planting trees, engaging youth and supporting faith-based organizations throughout the County.

Honorees of the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program include:

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake; \$51,010: To develop and implement faith-based "train the trainer" sessions for ten congregations and provide technical assistance for twenty congregations to implement the Alternative Compliance Program options two and three.

Neighborhood Design Center; \$27,363: Provide technical assistance services for future applicants in year four (FY18) of the Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship grant program.

THE GREEN PAGE



Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; \$60,189: To implement the Score Four Students, Schools, Streams and the Bay program that will engage 209 Northwestern High School (Hyattsville) students and 540 Accokeek Academy (Accokeek) students in watershed investigations and action projects.

Greenbelt Homes, Inc.; \$101,935: To implement stormwater management practices in the neighborhood and engage the City of Greenbelt residents in watershed restoration.

Anacostia Riverkeeper; \$200,000: To implement the first "trash trap" in Prince George's County. This device will collect and remove trash from the stream, educate the community about the trash trap and its installation in the Arundel Canal, and provide one year of maintenance.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc.; \$33,322: To lay the groundwork for a future Prince George's County RiverWise program.

REAL School Gardens; \$ 100,000: To train and support students and teachers at three elementary schools in Prince George's County to use outdoor classrooms, engage students and provide meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs).

Town of Cheverly; \$121,833: To design, engineer, and construct four micro-bioretention practices and plant trees at Boyd Park in the Town of Cheverly.

End Time Harvest Ministries; \$16,415: Provide citizen engagement using a rain garden planting event for the Wellness Ambassadors, students and citizens that will learn how local actions can improve the community health and clean local streams.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund; \$11,791: To provide citizen engagement, outreach to the Latino community and to implement the Latino River Festival.

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission; \$250,000: To implement stormwater management practices, plant trees, remove invasive species and engage citizens at up to seven parks and community centers in the Anacostia watershed.

Clean Water Fund; \$42,402: To provide a social marketing campaign for homeowner stormwater management and Rain Check Rebate outreach in the Town of Capitol Heights, Maryland.

People for Change Coalition; \$44,151: To provide outreach that will increase the homeowner association engagement in the Rain Check Rebate program.

The Low Impact Development Center, Inc.; \$60,000: To develop a master plan in the Port Towns area that outlines the stormwater solutions in a concept plan that will be used to implement the projects.

DuVal High School; \$26,207: To implement a high visibility rain garden at DuVal High School in Lanham.

University of Maryland College Park; \$135,000: To develop a Prince George's County Pet Waste Education Campaign that will provide outreach, citizen engagement, pet waste station installations and develop an assessment management tool.

People for Change Coalition; \$68,432: To implement a pet waste campaign that includes education and outreach for the citizens, pet waste station installations and maintenance and monitoring.

Anacostia Watershed Society; \$500,000: To launch the Prince George's County Conservation Green Earth program—an innovative pilot program, which combines stormwater management projects with meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs), teacher professional development, integration of environmental material into curriculum, provides training for teachers and maintenance staff and implements small practices on school grounds.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund; \$29,497: To provide citizen engagement for the Latino community and Latino-serving organizations in the Anacostia watershed through workshops, demonstration projects and an outdoor activity.

CENTRO DE APOYO FAMILIAR; \$30,333: To provide citizen engagement to the Latino community and faith-based community organizations through workshops and training seminars. This project will support the Alternative Compliance Program options two and three.

People for Change Coalition; \$41,130: Provide technical assistance for four faith-based organizations. This project will support the Alternative Compliance Program options two and three.

Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation, Inc.; \$50,000: To develop a pilot tree planting program for residential properties and neighborhoods.

Prince George's Green; \$50,000: To increase tree canopy in the County through partnerships with municipalities, citizens and businesses, and test innovative outreach efforts to enhance tree plantings on private residential properties.