

winter 2021

**PRESIDENT'S DAY
MOMENT**

winter 2021

**PRESIDENT'S DAY
MOMENT**



WASTE DIVERSION & RECYCLING AWARDS

The header graphic is split into two vertical panels. The left panel has a green background and the right panel has a blue background. A stylized green plant with three leaves is positioned at the top center, spanning both panels. The text 'DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT' is in yellow, all-caps, sans-serif font, centered across the top of both panels. Below this, the word 'GREEN' is in large, bold, white, all-caps, sans-serif font on the green background. The word 'SCENE' is in large, bold, white, all-caps, sans-serif font on the blue background. To the right of 'SCENE', the year '2021' is in large, bold, white, all-caps, sans-serif font. Below '2021', the word 'newsletter' is in a smaller, yellow, lowercase, sans-serif font.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

GREEN SCENE 2021
newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF
GREEN



THE ENVIRONMENT

SCENE 2021

newsletter



THE ENVIRONMENT

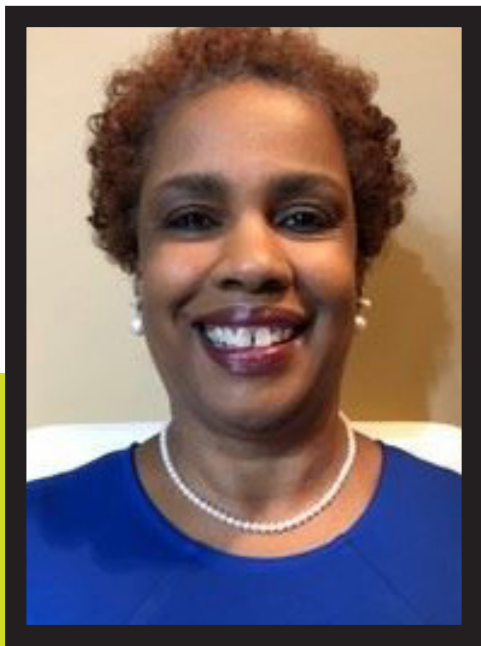
SCENE 2021

newsletter

2020 DoE YEAR IN REVIEW



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Hello 2021!

The new year ushered in recent changes for the Department of the Environment (DoE) as Director Joe Gill retired at the end of December after serving for two years in that role and as Deputy Director for the previous five years.

We will miss Director Gill, who was passionate about environmental issues and loved Prince George's County. His dedication to DoE and its staff is legendary, and we will always be grateful for his leadership. I'm sure you all join me in wishing him well!

I am currently serving as the Acting Director and am excited about the new challenges facing our county. We will continue to be environmental leaders and offer award-winning and innovative programs to provide excellent service while developing educational initiatives to enhance county residents' lives.

Our lives were forever changed when, in March 2020, Prince George's County Government offices were closed, and many employees began teleworking because of the pandemic. It was an adjustment, but our employees made every effort to guarantee our commitment, to residents, by providing quality service while developing new ways to do business in our new normal. Thank you to our essential employees including the field, convenience centers, landfill and animal services.

The 2021 Winter Green Scene newsletter highlights last year's programs and events while also focusing on this new year. Because of the pandemic, many of our meetings and events were virtual, including our 2nd Annual Waste Diversion Awards Ceremony. On December 9, 2020, the awards ceremony was a celebratory zoom event - so check out the list of Prince George's County award-winning environmental leaders in this edition of the Green Scene.

As we move forward in 2021, let's not lose focus. There is a lot of work to be done. Our work team and home team depend on all of us to pull our weight. However, we cannot do that if we are not in a healthy space. Take time to do a self-assessment on your mental, physical and emotional state. Remember, the "Best Team" equals the "Best You."

Enjoy the issue, and thank you for always keeping it Green!

Michelle W. Russell
Michelle W. Russell
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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environment.mypgc.us

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.



1

Get vaccinated.



2

Wear a mask.



3

Stay 6 feet from others and avoid crowds.



4

Wash your hands often.

Stay Updated: health.mypgc.us/coronavirus



Being "Proud to be Protected" means utilizing all of the tools we have to protect our families, friends, and neighbors from COVID-19.



COVID-19 VACCINE

Scheduling Process for Vaccine Appointments in Prince George's County

Anyone who lives or works in Prince George's County that wishes to receive the COVID-19 vaccine must fill out the County Health Department's pre-registration form:

<https://bit.ly/PGCVaccineForm>

When you are eligible to receive a vaccine based on the County's phased distribution plan AND appointments are available based on vaccine supply, the Health Department will send a link via email with instructions on how to schedule an appointment.

When the County enters future phases of vaccine distribution, individuals that have pre-registered will receive a notification that they are eligible, and as appointments become available, will begin to receive links to schedule appointments.



- Bring a form of photo identification to your appointment.



- If you are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine because of your job, make sure you bring proof of employment with you to your appointment.
- If you have insurance, please bring your insurance card with you to your appointment.



- Current COVID-19 vaccines require two doses. Make sure you schedule your appointment for a second dose right after your appointment for the first dose, and make sure you keep that appointment.



Stay Updated: mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine



MYTH VS FACT

HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County

KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

Proud
to be PROTECTED
Prince George's County

MYTH:
COVID-19 vaccines can give you the virus.

FACT:
COVID-19 vaccines do not give you the virus and do not include the live virus. The vaccines provide critical information to cells in our bodies to help fight the virus and build resistance to it if you are exposed to COVID-19 in the future.



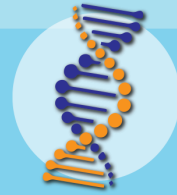
MYTH:
COVID-19 vaccines were rushed and are not safe.

FACT:
Vaccine safety standards were not compromised to expedite development and distribution. Robust clinical trials and safety reviews were conducted and show that the vaccines prevent infection, or serious illness from the virus, in up to 95% of vaccine trial recipients.



MYTH:
The COVID-19 vaccine will alter my DNA.

FACT:
Vaccines do not affect or interact with your DNA.



MYTH:
I cannot get the COVID-19 vaccine if I'm pregnant or breastfeeding.

FACT:
You are not excluded from getting the vaccine, but public health officials may request that you observe extra precautions after receiving the vaccine. You should consult a health care professional if you have questions.



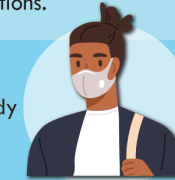
MYTH:
I do not have to wear a mask or practice social distancing once I'm vaccinated.

FACT:
The vaccine helps prevent you from getting sick with COVID-19, but it is not currently known if it prevents you from transmitting the virus to others. Stopping the pandemic requires using all the tools available like wearing a mask, washing your hands and social distancing.



MYTH:
I do not need to get vaccinated if I already had COVID-19.

FACT:
Currently, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19, and re-infection is possible. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have more data on how well the vaccines work.



MYTH:
I can't afford getting a vaccine for COVID-19.

FACT:
The COVID-19 vaccine is free for all residents, regardless of insurance coverage or citizenship status.



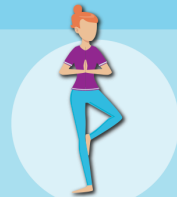
MYTH:
The government is tracking me through the vaccine.

FACT:
There are no tracking devices or microchips in the vaccines.



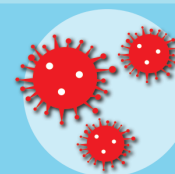
MYTH:
I'm young and healthy, I won't get sick from COVID-19.

FACT:
While COVID-19 disproportionately impacts minorities, senior citizens and individuals with underlying conditions, it can make you sick regardless of age, ethnicity/race or fitness level. The vaccine will help strengthen your body's ability to resist infection.



MYTH:
I will test positive for COVID-19 after receiving the vaccine.

FACT:
COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive for COVID-19.



LEARN MORE: mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine



MITO VS REALIDAD

HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County

CONOZCA LOS HECHOS SOBRE LAS VACUNAS CONTRA EL COVID-19

Proud
to be PROTECTED
Prince George's County

MITO:
Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 pueden contagiarle el virus.

REALIDAD:
No. Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 brindan información crítica a las células de nuestro cuerpo para ayudar a combatir el virus y desarrollar resistencia si se expone al virus en el futuro. Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 no le transmiten el virus y no contienen el virus.



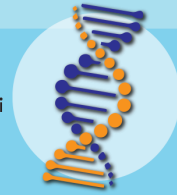
MITO:
El proceso de las vacunas contra el COVID-19 fue apresurado y no son seguras.

REALIDAD:
Los estándares de seguridad de las vacunas no se vieron comprometidos para acelerar el desarrollo y la distribución. Los científicos de todo el mundo trabajaron duro para abordar juntos este desafío global. Se llevaron a cabo ensayos clínicos sólidos y revisiones de seguridad que muestran que las vacunas previenen la infección o enfermedades graves causadas por el virus en hasta el 95% de los beneficiarios del ensayo de vacunas.



MITO:
La vacuna contra el COVID-19 alterará mi ADN.

REALIDAD:
Las vacunas no afectan ni interactúan con su ADN.



MITO:
No puedo recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19 si estoy embarazada o amamantando.

REALIDAD:
Las mujeres embarazadas no están excluidas de recibir la vacuna en este momento, pero los oficiales de salud pública pueden solicitarle que tome precauciones adicionales después de recibir la vacuna. Debe consultar con su médico, si tiene preguntas.



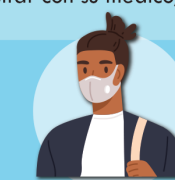
MITO:
No tengo que usar una máscara ni practicar el distanciamiento social una vez que estoy vacunado.

REALIDAD:
No es verdad. La vacuna ayuda a prevenir que usted se enferme con el COVID-19, pero actualmente no se sabe si le impide transmitir el virus a otras personas. Detener la pandemia requiere usar todas las herramientas disponibles, como usar una máscara, lavarse las manos y el distanciamiento social.



MITO:
No necesito vacunarme si ya tuve el COVID-19.

REALIDAD:
En este momento, los expertos no saben cuánto tiempo una persona está protegida de enfermarse nuevamente después de recuperarse del COVID-19. El CDC sugiere que aún se vacune debido a los graves riesgos para la salud asociados con el COVID-19 y porque en realidad, es posible una reinfección con el COVID-19. No sabremos cuánto tiempo dura la inmunidad producida por la vacunación hasta que tengamos más datos sobre qué tan bien funcionan las vacunas.



MITO:
No puedo pagar una vacuna contra el COVID-19.

REALIDAD:
La vacuna contra el COVID-19 es gratuita para todos los habitantes, independientemente de la cobertura de seguro o el estatus migratorio.



MITO:
El gobierno me está rastreando a través de la vacuna.

REALIDAD:
Eso es falso. No hay dispositivos de rastreo ni microchips en las vacunas.



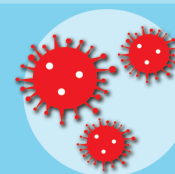
MITO:
Soy joven y saludable, no me enfermaré con el COVID-19.

REALIDAD:
Si bien el COVID-19 afecta de manera desproporcionada a las minorías, las personas mayores y las personas que tienen condiciones médicas, puede enfermarlo independientemente de su edad, etnia / raza o nivel de condición física. La vacuna ayudará a fortalecer la capacidad de su cuerpo para resistir infecciones.



MITO:
Daré positivo por el COVID-19 después de recibir la vacuna.

REALIDAD:
Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 no harán que su prueba del COVID-19 salga positiva.



APRENDE MÁS: mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine

PRESIDENT’S DAY MOMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, giving Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the state of California on June 30, 1864, marking the first time government set land aside to protect and preserve for public enjoyment. He also established the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide support for American farmers in 1862.

President Theodore Roosevelt during his presidency, protected 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reservations, 18 national monuments and five national parks to a total of 230 million acres, totaling almost 10 percent of land.

President Richard Nixon signed key legislation like the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act and created the Environment Protection Agency (EPA).

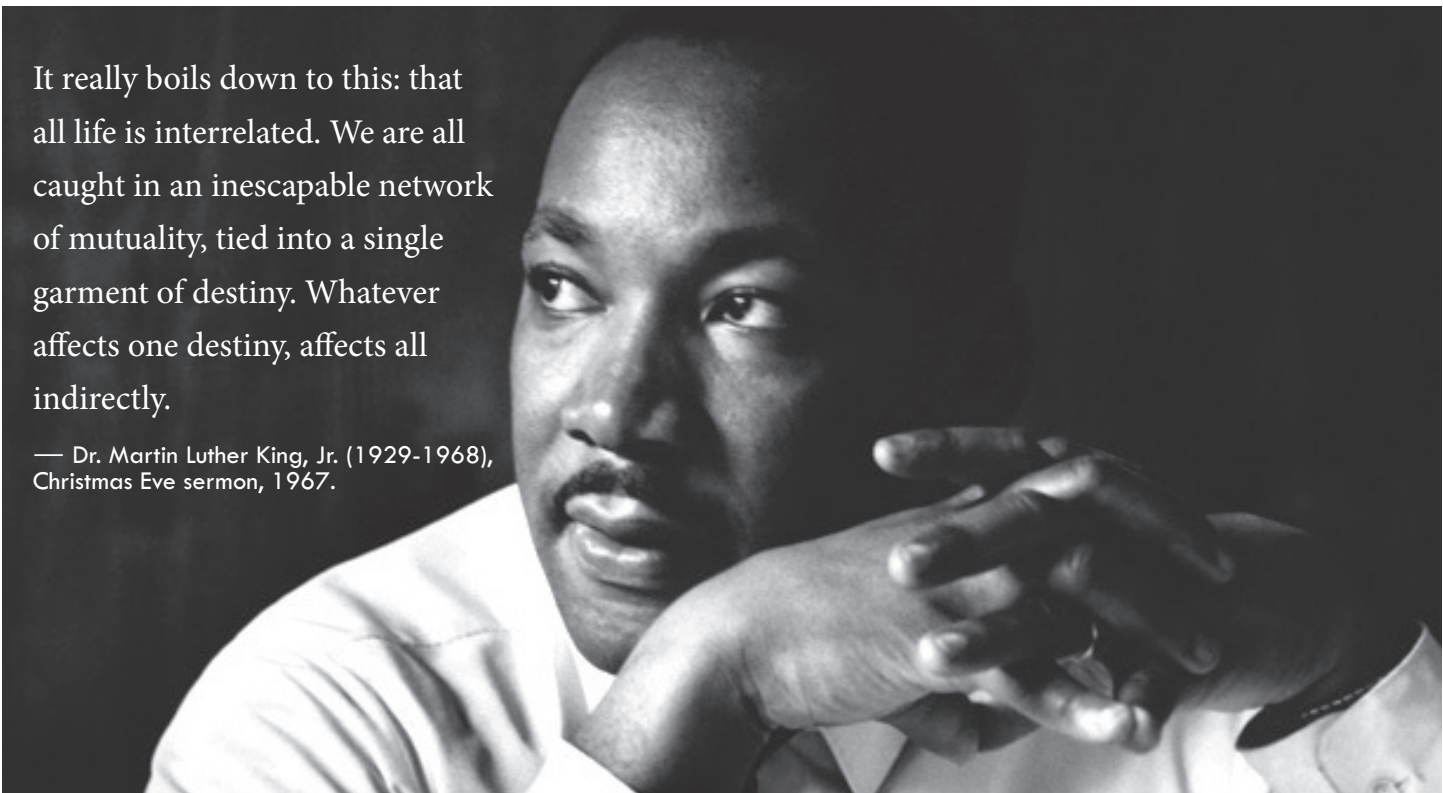
President Jimmy Carter was the first to have installed solar panels at the White House, as well as emphasizing the importance of transitioning away from foreign, non-renewable energy and signing legislation to support renewable energy.

President Barack Obama, to fight climate change put the first national limits on a leading source of Greenhouse Gas Emissions when he announced the Clean Power Plan in August 2015.

Woodrow Wilson created the National Park Service in 1916.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR STOOD TALL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly.

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), Christmas Eve sermon, 1967.

As we celebrate Black History month it is important to acknowledge Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy in his advocacy for environmental justice. Many historians believe Dr. King’s actions, not only led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; his work paved the way for environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

Dr King:

- Understood you could not achieve social justice without environmental justice.
- Fought for universal clean water, air and soil.
- Believed everyone should be entitled to the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards.
- Engaged directly with these values when he supported the sanitation workers’ strike in Memphis, Tennessee shortly before his death.

UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DATES

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. For more information - www.worldwetlandsday.org



FEBRUARY 27

INTERNATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY

International Polar Bear Day raises awareness of the challenge polar bears face in a warming Atlantic and focus on ways to help. The day is celebrated on February 27th each year. For more information - polarbearsinternational.org



MARCH 3

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

The United Nations designated March 3rd as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. For more information - www.wildlifeday.org



MARCH 14

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS

International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated on March 14 to raise awareness about the importance of rivers and climate change. For more information - internationalrivers.org



MARCH 18

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY

In 2018, Global Recycling Day was created to help recognize, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet. For more information - globalrecyclingday.com



MARCH 21

WORLD WOOD DAY

World Wood Day is an annual event that highlights wood as an eco-friendly and renewable materials and raises awareness of the important and value of wood and its responsible uses. For more information - www.worldwoodday.org



MARCH 21

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

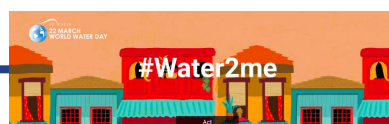
The International Day of Forests celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 as the International Day of Forests in 2012. For more information - un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day



MARCH 22

WORLD WATER DAY

World water day seeks to focus attention on the global water crisis and while celebrating water and raising awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. For more information - www.worldwaterday.org



MARCH 27

EARTH HOUR

Join millions of people around the world and switch off your lights in support of nature and our planet on Saturday, March 27, 2020 at 8:30 p.m. For more information - earthhour.org/take-part



2020 RESOURCE RECOVERY IN REVIEW

in-between the two Areas (area A and area B) without expanding the landfill footprint, allowing the County's landfill to continue to accept trash for an additional 25 to 75 years. Having this additional capacity saves the County countless money and generates much needed future revenue.

Significant machinery upgrades are being made to the Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), including the design and construction and ultimate installation of a Plastics Optical Sorter and Sorting Screen. The Optical Sorter is currently being built in Germany and is expected to be shipped, installed, and operational in 2021. The upgraded equipment will help mitigate the near-complete loss of revenue concerning bales of plastics since the China embargo was enacted in late 2015/2016. The new Plastics Optical Sorter will sort plastics by resin type. The new screen will filter out contamination, leaving "clean" plastic bales by type of plastic that can be sold at a profit, once again generating much-needed revenue for the County.

The 34-year-old gas line that carries methane gas from the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill to the Department of Corrections (DOC) and provides electricity to the Correctional Center has been decommissioned. A new gas line will be installed to continue supplying landfill gas to DOC, as the nearby Firing Range and other County facilities. In providing the landfill's methane gas to DOC, the County saves millions of dollars in utility costs!



Gabrielle Moore



Lesly Moreira

GWYNN PARK STUDENTS WIN AMERICA RECYCLES AWARD

In recognition of America Recycles Day, the Department of the Environment's Recycling Division partnered with Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) (the first KAB affiliate in the State of Maryland), Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), and the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments Recycling Committee (COG) to inspire environmental consciousness and make a pledge to take positive action.

This year, through the dedicated efforts of partners, including the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center and PGCPS, the County garnered more than 500 pledges, the most ever received through this cooperative effort. Additionally, both top prize winners are students in the County's public school system.

The first prize winner of an REI \$300 Gift Certificate and a K-12 \$500 gift certificate for the school's environmental club was Lesly Moreira of Brandywine. Lesly, a student at Gwynn Park High School, pledged to increase her recycling efforts. The second prize winner of an REI \$300 Gift Certificate, Gabrielle Moore, a Gwynn Park High School student, also pledged to increase her recycling efforts.

(continued on next page)

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 schools email system. All pledges were entered in a random drawing to win one of several prizes offered on the national and local levels. Prizes were made possible through sponsorships from various organizations; and the winners were drawn during COG’s December meeting.

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



Last December, DoE and KPGCB held their annual Waste Diversion and Recycling Virtual Awards Ceremony. The ceremony recognizes County commercial businesses, schools, and other entities who demonstrate exceptional achievements in recycling and waste diversion to advance the mission of DoE and KPGCB.

“This awards program is an opportunity for businesses, schools, and individuals to be recognized for their outstanding waste reduction efforts,” said former DoE Director Joseph P. Gill. “These groups help make a difference in the quality of the County’s environment today and the future.”

Chairman of the Board of Directors for KPGCB, John Neville, congratulates the winners for their commitment to keeping Prince George’s County beautiful. “We thank them for their efforts and accomplishments in protecting the environment, promoting sustainability, and conserving natural resources,” said Neville.

The following organizations were awarded for their outstanding waste reduction and recycling efforts and helping Prince George’s County reach its waste reduction goals. Congratulations to all!

The 2020 winners of the Waste Diversion and Recycling Virtual Awards:

Schools

- **Gwynn Park High School:**
The high school was recognized for its innovative approach to reducing food waste entering the landfill.
- **Laurel High School and Laurel Elementary School:**
Green Club students and advisors were honored for their innovative and ambitious composting projects. Each school team conducted multiple waste audits and sorted trash into compostable, recyclables, and landfill items.
- **Largo High School, DuVal High School, and Fairmont High School:**
These high school students participated in the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center recycle event pledge. Largo High School collected 359 pledges, DuVal High School collected 231 pledges, and Fairmont High School collected 151 pledges.



Non-Profits, Individuals, Education, Municipalities, and Commercial Businesses

- **First Baptist Church of Glenarden:**
Church leaders sought to learn best practices to ensure staff and members recycle right by implementing one of the best recycling programs in the County.

- **Trudy Rutland:**
Routinely volunteers in her neighborhood to clean walking trails, wooded areas, and overflow ponds. She encourages her neighbors to participate in keeping the community clean and green.
- **Randy Bolt:**
Was honored for dedicating over 21 years to composting while working for the Maryland Environmental Service at the Prince George’s County Organics Composting Facility. Over 500,000 cubic yards of compost were produced under Randy’s watch as the facility site manager over the last ten years.

- **Mr. Dylan Tuttle:**
This six-year-old environmentalist is passionate about the environment, recycling, and reusing. He has helped educate his neighbors, peers, and sometimes strangers to reduce waste. He has even introduced and convinced his grandmother to recycle.
- **Daryl Braithwaite/City of Takoma Park:**
Mr. Braithwaite spearheads the City of Takoma Park’s food waste curbside collection program. In the 2013 pilot program, 1,200 households volunteered to participate. Through a successful partnership with the Prince George’s County Organics Composting Facility, the food waste curbside collection program is now offered to all single-family homes in Takoma Park, with more than 300 tons of waste diverted annually.



- **Bill Guididas/University of Maryland, College Park:**
Under the leadership of Mr. Guididas, the Recycling and Waste unit at the University of Maryland, College Park supports the recycling & composting programs at the university. The university’s housekeeping program is Green Seal Certified, and all newly constructed buildings must meet LEED Gold Standards. The University of Maryland is a leader in creating a most effective closed-loop system from growing their food to consumption, by collecting food scraps and transporting it to the Prince George’s County’s Organics Composting facility to help create a soil amendment product called Leafgro Gold®.
- **Michael Beall/Town of University Park:**
The Town of University Park composting pilot program began in 2011 with 50 participating households. Since then, the program has grown to 340 households. In July 2020, during a global pandemic, University Park expanded the program to 78 households and added meat and dairy products to its list of acceptable items.



- **George Stephanos/City of Bowie Food Waste Collection Program:**
The Bowie Food Waste Collection Program currently serves 230 households and collects food scraps weekly. The City of Bowie has continued its collection of food scraps throughout the pandemic without interruption.





• **The City of Hyattsville Food Scraps Composting:**

The City of Hyattsville Food Scraps Composting Program experienced rapid growth from 40 participating residents in 2015 to rolling out citywide in 2020. Residents are now supplied with compost buckets, countertop containers, and biodegradable composting bags. Their food scrap collection is done weekly.



• **Gangster Vegan Organics:**

This business was recognized for its commitment to preserving the environment by recycling daily, using only glass and compostable products, and for its efforts to educate its customers on the importance of these practices to help keep and preserve our planet's natural resources.



Office of Community Relations and Humane Rescue Alliance donates Dog gift baskets

In partnership with the Prince George's County Office of Community Relations 12 Days of Giving Initiative and the Humane Rescue Alliance, the Animal Service Division (ASD) was able to provide gift baskets to the first 10 dog adopters in December 2020. Gift baskets included a 30-day food supply, food bowls, leashes, collars, toys, treats, and other dog-related items to enhance the bond between new adopters with their newest family members.



50 Doggie Gift Bags from Organization of Hope donated to ASD

Through a partnership with a DC nonprofit organization and the Organization of Hope, ASD received 50 doggie gift bags to assist families during the Covid-19 pandemic to keep them from surrendering their pets to the shelter under these difficult economic times. Gift bags included pet food, enrichment items such as toys and treats, doggie sweaters, and other pet items.



Bowie CLAW donates blankets and towels to ASD

ASD received hundreds of blankets and towels from the Bowie CLAW organization through their annual blanket drive. These supplies are essential during this pandemic period since ASD cannot receive any direct donations from citizens during this time.

(continued on next page)

ASD also established a partnership with Best Friends Animal Society, a national nonprofit animal welfare organization that conducts outreach with shelters to promote pet adoptions, rescues, and spay-neuter practices. The program assists and offers training opportunities for ASD to implement the Return to the Field Feral Cat Program.

ASD established partnerships with at least ten local Feral Cat groups to facilitate feral cats’ return to the field and educate the communities in caring for those cats.

Through the generosity and sponsorship of the Prince George’s County Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), ASD received three additional exercise pens erected immediately outside of the Restricted Kennel area for use by staff and volunteers who interact with non-adoptable dogs. ASD was also gifted the gravel flooring for those pens and our current pens by Chaney Enterprises, a local construction company, and three seating benches by Bowie CLAW.



New exercise pens donated by SPCA to ASD

In 2020, ASD was selected as the recipient of SunTrust/ BB&T Bank’s local philanthropic project and received a \$2,000 check. The donation was used to purchase exercise play equipment for the dogs to enjoy outdoors and several cat perches and cat poles for the friendly cats lounging in our Cat Condo.



ASD wins grant to purchase new cat perches and cat poles



2020 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION IN REVIEW

DoE is committed to improving the quality of life for its communities by promoting green solutions to stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff occurs when rain (or snowmelt) flows over the land picking up pollutants such as oil, grease, sediment, and nutrient, making their way into local streams and rivers. As part of that commitment, DoE developed innovative programs to provide opportunities and incentives to property owners, nonprofit organizations, and others to participate in local water quality improvements. Two of these programs are the Rain Check Rebate Program and the Stormwater Stewardship Grant program.

Rain Check Rebate Program

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/313/Rebates>

The Rain Check Rebate Program allows property owners to receive rebates for installing ‘Rain Check’ approved stormwater management practices. Homeowners, businesses, and nonprofit entities (including housing cooperatives and churches) can recoup some of the costs of installing practices covered by the program.

Join others in your community who are installing ‘Rain Check’ approved stormwater management practices that improve stormwater runoff quality and reduce stormwater runoff quantity, as well as the health of our local waterways.

FY 20 Rain Check Rebate Program Performance

- BMPs installed: 416
- Rebates awarded: \$161,877



Rosewood Drive in Greenbelt (Councilmanic District 4)

Below is an example of a homeowner removing 220 sq. ft. of impervious concrete and installing 317 sq. ft. permeable pavers.



What this funds: Seven types of stormwater practices are eligible for rebates: rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs.

Rebate amounts: The total maximum rebate amount for the lifetime of the property is \$4,000 for residential properties and \$20,000

for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. An applicant may complete multiple projects until the total maximum rebate amount is met. In addition, each of the seven practices supported by the Rain Check Rebate Program has its own rebate allowance based on the type and size of the project. Projects whose costs exceed the rebate allowance per practice or maximum rebate amount for the property must have separate funding to pay for the difference.

Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2837/Stewardship-Grant-Program>

- FY 20 Stormwater Stewardship Grants. DoE projects awarded a total \$979,056 in grants, over 14 awards to Non-profit Organizations and local municipalities in FY20.

In 2014, the County, through DoE, entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (“CBT” or “Trust”) to develop and implement the Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship and Rain Check Rebate Programs. The Trust is a State agency established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1985 to promote public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of water quality, aquatic and land resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The Trust is authorized to provide grants to nonprofit organizations, community associations, civic groups, schools, or public agencies for citizen involvement projects.

Program Purpose

The Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program (PGCSSGP) funds on-the-ground restoration and program activities that improve communities and water quality and engages County residents in the restoration and protection of local waterways.

Eligible Recipients

Funding is made available to all qualified tax-exempt or other 501(c) nonprofit organizations, municipalities, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, community associations, civic groups, homeowners, and businesses.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities include water quality improvement, citizen awareness and engagement, technical assistance to churches, tree planting, environmental education and trash reduction in the Anacostia. Programs must be implemented in Prince George’s County.

Project Highlights from Awardees of the Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program



DoE representative Sudhanshu Mishra (left), and principal of New Hope Academy Joy Morrow (right of sign), pose with students in front of one of their rain gardens.

This project was funded through the Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program. This program supports applicants seeking to carry out environmentally-conscious projects focused on stormwater management and citizen engagement efforts.

New Hope Academy is a K-12 school located in Landover Hills. It was approved for a grant to construct two rain gardens on their school parking lot to combat the large amounts of stormwater runoff that the school experienced on its parking lot.

The construction of the two rain gardens engaged New Hope Academy students and students from one of their project partners, the University of Maryland. The rain gardens totaled 250 square feet and included native trees and plants. The students enjoyed the opportunity to be outdoors, learn about reducing pollution impacts, and help green their environment.

**End Time Harvest Ministries FY20 Stewardship Grant Recipient
Water Quality Education and Outreach**

End Time Harvest Ministries (ETHM) received a grant for \$31,163 for their Port Towns Youth Council (PTYC) Wellness Ambassadors to educate Port Towns community members about stormwater runoff issues and solutions and the County’s Rain Check Rebate (RCR) Program. Their current project timeline is from February 19, 2020, to June 1, 2021.



To date, Rev. Gail A. Addison and the ETHM Wellness Ambassadors have taken multiple steps to learn about the Rain Check Rebate Program and prepare for presentations to the community to promote the program.

ETHM Student Ambassadors participated in extensive training and presentation sessions about the Rain Check Rebate Program (RCR), stormwater management practices, eligible practices, rebate amounts, and the application process. They also learned about the Anacostia watershed, stormwater management, and available resources such as the RCR Program. Using what they learned, the Ambassadors developed a script and PowerPoint slides to use for their presentations to the community.

The Ambassadors conducted the first presentation at Councilmember Dannielle Glaros’ Virtual Connections Forum on November 12, 2020.

The Ambassadors plan to conduct approximately four more virtual presentations for this project. These presentations are in the planning phases in partnership with the Port Towns communities. The project timeline and number of presentations may be adjusted due to the impacts of the pandemic.

Rev. Addison and the Ambassadors are excited and proud to share information about the RCR Program and ensure they are doing it well. Grantees such as End Time Harvest Ministries are the best messengers to share information with their community/peers, so there is value in this work, and we appreciate their efforts.

**2020 SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION IN REVIEW**

Big Belly



Big Belly solar-powered dual trash and recycling stations intercepted over 26,100 gallons of litter at bus stops across the County in calendar year 2020.

Bench Signage & Bus Wraps



The Sustainability Division (SD) funded the countywide anti-litter marketing campaign, which launched January 2020 and includes bus wraps, Big Belly, bench signage, and social media ads.

The Sustainability Division completed a new series of anti-litter activity books for K–8 students and will partner with Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and PGCPs to make these books available through recreation center outlets and integrate books into lesson plans.

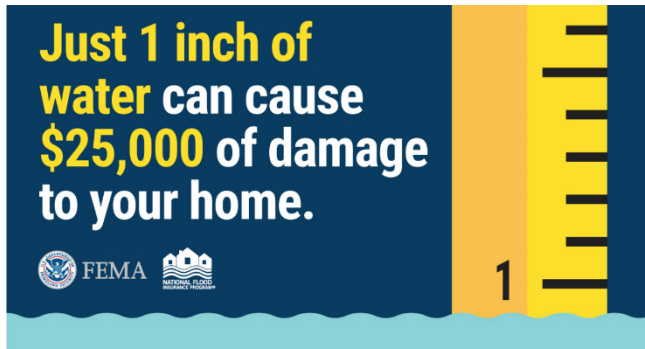
SD planted more than 100 trees in communities to expand the urban tree canopy, air and water quality improvement, and neighborhood beautification.

With the Prince George’s County Climate Action Commission, SD is tasked with developing a climate action plan by September 2021. Division staff serve as project managers having oversight for consultant services and the plan development process.

Sustainability Division investigated over 800 constituent service requests (CSR) for flooding and sinkholes on private properties and identified solutions to drainage problems.

FLOOD INSURANCE CAN HELP YOU TO RECOVER

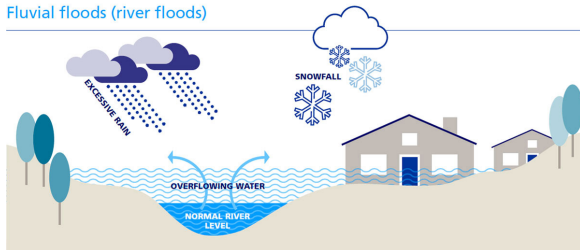
The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane season ended on November 30, 2020. It was an active season with 30 named storms exceeding the record of 28 named storms in 2005! Fortunately, none of these hurricanes hit Prince George's County. However, the season ushered in intense rainfall events and ended with rainfall amounts that exceeded spring, summer, and autumn norms. With these rain events came soggy yards and home flooding.



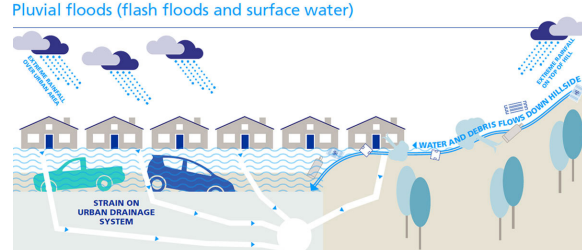
As many of us know firsthand, flooding leads to home damage and loss of household items. It takes a toll on a household's functionality, and the cost of flood damage can be out of reach for a family. Flood insurance can help you to recover quicker. When you need assistance with repairs and replacement of household items, flood insurance can help.

Flooding can happen anywhere. While some areas may be at risk for riverine or coastal flooding, other areas may be at risk for local (urban) flooding. Insurance agents are available to assess your flood risk and offer premiums that will be adjusted according to your level of risk.

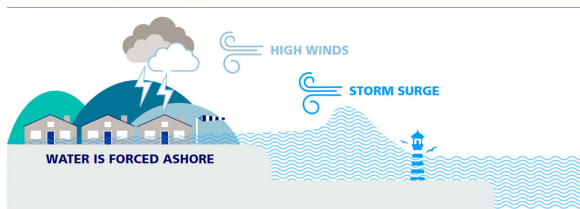
Fluvial floods (river floods)



Pluvial floods (flash floods and surface water)



Coastal flood (storm surge)



Zurich Engineering, Inc. <https://www.zurich.com/en/knowledge/topics/flood-and-water-damage/three-common-types-of-flood>

Protect your home and household items with flood insurance. Get a quote today. Contact your insurance agent to purchase a flood insurance policy. You may also call 877-336-2627 to find an insurance agent to obtain a quote. Remember, Prince George's County residents may receive up to a 25% reduction on flood insurance premiums.

