

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2024

New Staff

Environmental Programs Coordinator - Dylan Laconich joined the City team on June 25. He is an Annapolis area native and most recently was working as the Sustainability Specialist for the City of Salisbury, Maryland. He is focused on energy initiatives, including transitioning to an EV fleet, EV infrastructure, energy efficiency in City buildings and in residential and commercial buildings, increasing the City's solar capacity, green roofs, greenhouse gas reductions (greenhouse gas inventory update), and building performance standards. Dylan also has a strong interest in landscape architecture and pollinator habitat; therefore, he will be working on City efforts to create greater wildlife/pollinator habitat and corridors.

Environmental Associate - The FY25 budget included funds for a new Environmental Associate position in the City Manager's Office. A draft position description and comparable salaries in the Annapolis/D.C./Baltimore area have been provided to Human Resources for this entry level position. Job responsibilities will include legislative research and support in preparation of staff reports, grant research and preparation, community outreach and event planning, environmental certification tracking and reporting, restoration project support and project review and project support to the Environmental Programs Coordinator and Deputy City Manager for Resilience & Sustainability.

Summer Intern - Naima Bead is a City intern July through August 9, splitting her time between a project with the Mayor's office and a project with the Deputy City Manager for Resilience & Sustainability (DCM). Naima is a rising Senior at the Indian Creek School and she has a demonstrated interest in the environment and is an aspiring attorney. Her project with the DCM is a public information and behavior change campaign aimed at conserving water. The result of her work will be used during August as Water Conservation Month in Annapolis.

Departing Staff - Resilience & Sustainability Fellow: Colin Griffin's Fellowship ended June 30. Colin provided research and prepared memoranda on various projects in support of work for the DCM including, the gas powered leaf blower ban, vehicle idling legislation, requirements to include EV charging infrastructure in buildings and parking lots, and solar initiatives.

Green House Gas Emissions Inventories – 2008 inventories (based on 2006 data) will be updated this year for City facilities emissions and for community emissions. Research regarding available firms and pricing for types and scope of services is being explored before an RFP is developed. This update is a goal for 2025 that is included in the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - Bids were obtained from two companies and a company will be selected this month for Phase I of the project to provide a design for the entire plantable area, a maintenance plan, and a budget for the entire plan. This budget will allow the City to determine how much of the site may be planted in the first year of the project and in subsequent years. In FY25, the City has \$150, 00 for the project. Novis Renewables (the solar park operator) may provide financial support, once it reviews the design and maintenance plan. This will allow a greater area to be planted in the first year and subsequent years. Novis is not interested in maintenance with sheep grazing citing that

livestock will damage the solar panels when animals bump the panels. Since the City maintains the areas outside the fence line, sheep grazing is a maintenance option outside of the fence line.

Climate Change Litigation, City of Annapolis vs. B.P. et al. - The lawsuit is moving into the discovery stage where parties will be requesting information from one another. This information will help each side determine whether the lawsuit should settle or proceed to trial. In May, the Anne Arundel Circuit Court allowed the lawsuits brought by the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to proceed against the fossil fuel companies (the trial court denied defendants' motion to dismiss). (The many motions by defendants to try to dismiss the over 25 cases brought by cities and counties throughout the U.S. or remove lawsuits from state courts to less favorable federal courts have all failed.)

Case summary: This is a lawsuit brought by the City of Annapolis against fossil fuel companies and their trade association, the American Petroleum Institute, seeking damages and other relief based on the companies' alleged concealment of information about their products' contributions to climate change and climate change impacts.

Building Performance Standards Grant Funding through DOE - An application was submitted by the City and the Resilience Authority for a grant to the Department of Energy (DOE) for technical assistance in drafting and implementing a Building Energy & Resilience Performance Standard (BERPS) model code. Existing Building Performance Standards (BPS) are designed to reduce the greenhouse gas footprint of the existing building stock, but only apply to larger buildings, not smaller buildings and residential buildings most prone to damage from natural disasters. This project seeks to address these policy shortcomings by designing and implementing BERPS for smaller buildings with an emphasis on jurisdictions with significant climate risk. This will not require the City to revise its code but will provide a framework and technical assistance to guide revisions to the City Code. (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI))

Electric Ferry Project 1) Landing sites: EPA determined that there were no significant historical or environmental impacts posed by the proposed landing sites for the ferry project; therefore the City was awarded an exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act process, which can be very lengthy and time consuming. MTA and FTA staff were very helpful to City staff over the past several months to achieve this result. Meanwhile, McLaren Engineering was awarded a contract to design the 5th street landing site. 2) Vessel: The RFP for the vessel design/build may not be advertised until Maryland's Procurement Review Group provides its final approval of the required information package. A decision will be made by July 30.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Rapid Charger - The City's first rapid charger (150 kilowatts) was added at the Visitor's Center in July during a ribbon cutting hosted by BGE, VAAAC and the City of Annapolis. BGE is considering additional charging sites in the City, including the Maritime Museum's Back Creek campus parking lot (which is where parking will likely be designated for Carr's Beach users). City Dock presents opportunities for fast-chargers (focus on business and park patrons) and Level 2 chargers (focus on longer stays and downtown residents). Street chargers are an option, particularly for neighborhoods where off-street residential parking is limited. BGE is interested in exploring utility pole charging with the City.

Department of Energy (DOE) and Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Funds -

DOE has an energy infrastructure program under which \$75,000 is allocated to Annapolis. The City must apply for the funds. The City has scheduled a meeting to discuss options with DOE staff. Funds can be used for technical assistance, fleet purchases, charging infrastructure, and other energy related projects. The deadline is October; however, the City is encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

MEA reached out to the City regarding its transportation and solar energy funding programs. Its programs can fund both City facilities and residential needs. MEA was intrigued with the idea of providing Level 2 chargers at police officer's homes and charging infrastructure at police stations, as well as at other City facilities.

Staff are exploring how we can use these funding sources to provide EV charging infrastructure to City departments to support the City's growing all- electric and plug-in electric fleet, as well as grow the community EV charging infrastructure.

Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment and Recommendations

Staff met recently with the City Fleet Manager and the Police Chief to learn where there are departmental obstacles to purchasing electric vehicles and plug in electric vehicles. The funding coming from the federal government through the state government, increased supply of vehicles, and lower prices of vehicles are helping the City achieve the transition of the City's fleet to EV vehicles. The police chief is interested in supporting his police officers with EV vehicles and home charging infrastructure.

Fleet Inventory and Recommendations - Climate Change Consulting LLC draft report is under revision. A final report is due in July.

Stormwater and Restoration Projects

Hawkins Cove – DPW is amending the agreement with Baylands Consultants & Designers, Inc. for final design and construction. Stakeholder and public information meetings were held over the winter with HACA, ECA, and other non-profit groups. Additional funding has been applied for through FEMA and is being explored with DNR. Army Corps of Engineers permitting of the living shoreline may take as long as 18 months. Meanwhile, the City is moving forward with 100 percent design of the project AND with the design and permitting of the improved trail/boardwalk system through the upland area of the project to connect it to Primrose Street and Truxtun Park and the community around Harbor House. This trail work and activation of the upland area of Hawkins Cove, through removal of invasive plants and potentially some seating areas, should start to move in early 2025. The shoreline work will likely start in 2026. Currently, only \$75,000 is available for dredging; however, staff is researching potential sources of supplementary funding.

Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grants/Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) - An update on 2024 grant awards will be provided in September.

Project Summary: The City provides \$300,000 from the Watershed Restoration Fund for CBT grant funded stormwater control and restoration projects on private property. The program is available to homeowners, communities, faith-based organizations, schools, and non-profit organizations. Watershed assessments, planning, maintenance, and construction projects will be considered. A CBT/City webinar for potential applicants was held in November and may be found on the CBT website.

Severn River Watershed Restoration/Resilience Authority – An application was submitted through the Resilience Authority for funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for resilience building projects in the Severn River watershed, including (1) an expansion of Robert Eades park, doubling its size, and a realignment of Clay Street to improve traffic safety,(2) shoreline stabilization at Jonas and Katherine Green Park (AA County), and (3) the construction of a living shoreline at St. Mary’s Church and school. NOAA has indicated that it will fund the first two projects, which includes Robert Eades Park. Funding should be available summer 2024.

Plastic Bag Ban - Staff revised the staff report with information on the Department of Planning & Zoning agreeing to enforce the ban and the participation in enforcement by Anne Arundel County and its experience to date with its ban, and fees in other Maryland jurisdictions. This revised staff report was uploaded to leister in mid-June by the Legislative Analyst.

Composting - The Department of Public Works will extend composting to two additional departments, but a “champion” must be designated for each department that will coordinate with DPW/Annapolis Compost to ensure that receptacles are emptied and located appropriately for pick up. Gorman and City Hall may be candidates since they have designated break rooms that can house composting bins.

In October 2023, the City DOT initiated a 6-month food scrap collection pilot in its break room and office area. DPW contracted with Annapolis Compost for weekly collections at \$79/month. Food scraps and paper are delivered to a local farm for composting. Composting may be brought to other City departments. DOT considers participation high among employees.

Sustainable Annapolis – This program aimed at businesses using green practices has been dormant for many years. Staff are updating the program with plans to promote it in 2024.

Bird City 2024 - Bird City requires that a Resolution be passed every four years certifying participation in the Bird City program. A Resolution was prepared by the Environmental Programs Coordinator and will go before City Council in July.

Public Education Campaign – Noted above Summer Intern Naima Bead is working on Water Conservation Month for August 2024.