

## **RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS**

**APRIL 2025**

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY/ CLEAN ENERGY**

**Incorporating Resilience into Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS):** The first meeting of the MD BEPS Cohort was April 7. The meeting focused on introducing participants to MDE's BEPS portal, benchmarking guide for onsite renewable energy and connections to energy data providers.

**Project Summary:** Grant funding was secured through 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)). \$200,000 of the grant funds are dedicated to Annapolis.

### **LED Street Lights**

**1) Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) funds for LED street lighting - UPDATE:** The Maryland Energy Administration awarded the City approximately \$67,000 for conversion of 260 street lights to LEDs in place of their current inefficient fixtures. This grant was to be matched by the BGE/ PSC rebate program for efficiency. However, BGE recently notified the City that street lights maintained by BGE (but owned by the City) are ineligible for rebates. (The rebate was approximately \$50,000.) This week, MEA agreed to amend the grant agreement to allow the City to replace 73 of the cobra style streetlights (throughout the City, mostly around Forest Drive area). These lights are much less expensive to replace (\$300/per light) than the City's town view street lights (roof on top of light) (\$535) and custom acorn street lights

(\$425) and tobacco street lights (\$1550). There are three categories of lights: 1) City owned and maintained (along West Street and in historic district), 2) City owned/BGE maintained, and 3) BGE owned/maintained (majority and mostly LED already).

**2) Ownership of City Street Lights - NEW:** Tanko Lighting, an outdoor street light efficiency consultant, provided the City with a quote to perform a feasibility study of savings that could be realized through obtaining ownership of Annapolis street lights and changing maintenance contracts. The cost of the study would be \$14,500, and the estimated savings from changing our infrastructure ownership and maintenance is \$6,400,000 over 20 years. Tanko Lighting is also exploring cost-saving retrofits to our non-LED fixtures since many of the non-LED lights are custom fixtures (tobacco leaf and acorn tops) that are very expensive to replace.

**GreenHouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan – UPDATE:** R&S has awarded a PO to KERAMIDA Inc. for the first phase of creation of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan. Work will begin immediately (\$45,755). The FY25 budget is \$50,000, which should be sufficient for the data gathering and analyses tasks. Additional funds are requested in the proposed FY26 budget for the Climate Action Plan (\$26,000) using the greenhouse gas inventory information.

Project Summary: 2008 inventories (based on 2006 data) will be updated in one comprehensive document for (1) City facilities emissions and for (2) community emissions. Accompanying this inventory will be (3) a greenhouse gas/ pollution reduction action plan to reach the goals set in the 2040 comprehensive plan, 2040 Annapolis Ahead. Based on the bids, this project will need to be split into two phases: 1) the data inventory and reduction measures (currently encumbered) and 2) the pollution reduction plan/climate action plan (funded by FY26 proposed budget as contractor services).

**Community Solar - UPDATE:** - R&S is exploring savings that can be realized through obtaining a significant portion of the energy needs of City facilities through community solar. Solar For All has provided an estimate that the City will save \$66,000 annually by simply enrolling with the Community Solar programs. Over a 20 year period, the City can save \$1.3 million in energy expenses and reduce 51,071 metric tons of CO2 emissions which is equivalent to what 16,318 acres of forest can absorb and removing 11,012 gasoline powered vehicles from roads. Solar for All is working with the Maryland

Energy Administration to contract with local jurisdictions and businesses. Other solar installers will be providing more estimates in April.

There is no cost to the City to participate and the City will realize energy savings on its BGE utility bill. R&S will review a no-obligation application to hold power for the City from one of the two new solar sites being developed in Maryland, which are projected to be active by summer 2026.

## **ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT**

**Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - UPDATE:** Larry Weaner Landscape Associates will present its preliminary design during the April 10 meeting of the Environmental Matters Committee. Additionally, the firm will provide a research report on the full extent of vegetation on site, its root behavior, and how those compare to the design... A follow-up site visit is scheduled to take place soon. The proposed design covers 18.5 acres, mostly outside of the fence line. Limits on plantable areas are impacted by steep slopes (outside the fence line), existing stormwater BMPs, and the height of the solar arrays. The work is being reviewed and coordinated with DPW regarding design around stormwater practices, mowing schedules, and emissions sampling schedules per MDE requirements.

Previously, a site visit was held with LWLA to clarify plantable areas, take current biological inventory, and communicate any needs of the City Manager's Office, DPW, and LWLA. This firm has extensive experience working on native meadows in Annapolis and is experienced in installing meadows above soil caps. The design has an open purchase order of \$24,950, and the firm has estimated implementation costs will be about \$6000 per acre, which enables the City roughly 35 acres per the budget provisions in the Capital Improvement Program. The site may be planted in phases over multiple years. Current funding is sufficient for design and implementation of a significant area of usable planting space. Novis Renewables (the solar park operator) may provide financial support, once it reviews the design and maintenance plan. This may allow other areas to be planted in subsequent years.

**Ocean Friendly Garden - UPDATE:** R&S and Recreation & Parks proposed that the Annapolis High School chapter of Surf rider establish an "Ocean Friendly Garden" at Amos Garrett Park. We are waiting on a response from Surfrider. The project must also be reviewed and coordinated with DPW for stormwater control considerations.

Project Summary: The Ocean Friendly Gardens program aims to reduce urban runoff and water pollution by applying the principles of Conservation, Permeability, and Retention, which involves using native plants, creating permeable landscapes, and capturing rainwater to prevent contamination of waterways. By transforming urban spaces, the program supports climate resilience goals, sequesters carbon, reduces pollution, and creates opportunities for community engagement with nature-based solutions. The Annapolis HS chapter has an \$11,000 grant to use at a location in Annapolis.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLES/CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Electric Street Cars/Trolley - UPDATE:** Alderman Arnett, Alderman Savidge, Patrick Denker and Jackie Guild met with the D.C. Street Car Coalition to learn about their system and recommendations for a system in Annapolis. A member of their staff is willing to work with the City as an advisor. The Denker Foundation, in partnership with the Resilience Authority, is funding an information gathering trip for City and County representatives to Portland, Oregon to attend the Community Streetcar Coalition Annual Conference, April 27-30.

Project Summary: Alderman Savidge has proposed the re-establishment of an electric street car system for Annapolis. A potential first route could travel West Street to Parole Center and eventually connect to AAMC and the Annapolis Mall area. The Denker Foundation has provided research into trolley/street car systems across the country and has been partnering with City staff (DOT, R&S, DPZ) and Ald. Savidge to further develop a proposal. **City Electric Ferry Pilot Project- UPDATE:** This project is paused pending a review of FTA funded grants. The City is ready to award a contract to a naval design/build firm from the six firms interviewed in December and early January. The Notice of Intent to Award must be approved by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) before the successful bidder may be informed and the Notice may be published. The RFP for the landing sites has been submitted to MTA for review and approval before the RFP may be published. NOTE: Funding for this project was paused in late February pending grant program review by the federal government. This pause also covered the FTA grant to the County to acquire electric ferries (described below). The Ferguson Group believes that these pauses for government review of spending can only be in effect for 30 days; however, the City does not have further information from FTA at this time.

Project Summary: The pilot project will run a ferry/or ferries across Spa Creek, with weekend service (Friday – Sunday) and then will expand to other locations and an expanded schedule depending on ridership and other user feedback. This project is funded for the design/build of up to two electric ferries, landing site improvements and charging infrastructure.

**Anne Arundel County Electric Ferry Project:** On September 16, the FTA awarded a Passenger Ferry Grant to Anne Arundel County. This grant supports ferry systems in urbanized areas and can be used for vessels, terminals and infrastructure. The County grant of \$3.895 million will be used to purchase vessels for new ferry service between Annapolis, Baltimore, and Matapeake Park (a public park where the former Chesapeake Bay ferry landing is located on Kent Island, Queen Anne's County). Existing terminals will be utilized.

NOTE: *The City Dock landing site will likely be shared with the future Anne Arundel County ferry and the potential regional Chesapeake Bay ferry.* Last fall, the County DOT met with the Harbormaster's Office regarding landing and storage sites in the City for the County ferry. Future coordination efforts with

**Regional Chesapeake Bay Ferry Project- UPDATE:** The consortium of jurisdictions and the VAAAC are interviewing naval design/build firms as an information gathering exercise to inform the development of the RFP for the Chesapeake Bay ferry. The City Harbormaster staff and R&S are included in the interview process.

## **STORMWATER RESTORATION PROJECTS AND FEES**

**Annapolis Maritime Resilience Initiative (AMRI) - UPDATE:** Public meetings were held February 4 at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center, March 24 at the Boatyard Bar and Grill and April 8 during the Eastport Civic Association meeting. Future meetings will be scheduled as the project develops.

The AMRI initiative is funded by a NFWF grant of \$820K for feasibility assessment, including public engagement, and design. The project will identify and prioritize critical resilience building infrastructure projects for the Back Creek watershed, focusing on Eastport. Currently, the project is in the community outreach and engagement stage to gain understanding from the community where they experience

flood vulnerabilities. The Resilience Authority is leading the project in partnership with the City and with communications support by Council Fire.

**Eastport Flood Mitigation Project - UPDATE:** DPW Stormwater Engineer, Jasmine Wilding will provide an update to the Environmental Matters Committee during the May meeting

The City has a FEMA grant of \$300k to identify and design short-term flood mitigation measures (e.g. Installation of a pump at the end of Bay Shore Avenue and a back flow preventer at the end of 2nd street). The City also has \$120K through the Army Corps of Engineers to model the stormwater system in Eastport and provide recommendations for improvements. The Eastport Flood Mitigation project will be more fully developed during the first quarter of 2025.

#### **RESILIENCE BUILDING/HABITAT & ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION - GRAY and GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Severn River Watershed Resilience Project - UPDATE:** The Resilience Authority, with City and County input, is finalizing with state agencies the selection of priority projects for year 1 projects. Several of the projects that the State identified are located within City limits. Final project selections will be available for the May report to the Environmental Matters Committee.

Project Summary: On March 6, DNR announced that the Severn River Watershed Project was selected as one of the five projects for funding through the Maryland Whole Watershed Act grant program. At least \$2M in funding and technical assistance will be provided by the State over a five-year period. However, a much higher level of funding is expected after the Resilience Authority negotiates the level of funding and the projects selected (\$43M in projects were identified in the application). The Severn River project was selected for the category of “predominantly suburban area.” The grants cover work for restoring waterways, uplifting communities, and enhancing wildlife habitats. Local stakeholder organizations are part of the partnership with the City, County, and Resilience Authority. The project is a comprehensive, watershed-scale approach to ecosystem restoration that includes infrastructure improvements and community-driven planning. The application was submitted by the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. NOTE: These are state funds authorized by the Maryland Whole Watershed Act of 2024.

**Hawkins Cove – UPDATE:** In mid-April, Baylands Consultants & Designers, Inc. will submit the joint permit application (at 30% design) to state agencies for dredging (a 200 ft. X 30 ft. channel), the pier extension (from 40 ft. to 248 ft.), a floating dock, the gangway, and living shoreline. This process can take 7 to 12 months. After any questions/modifications required from agencies are addressed, the plans will be developed to 60 percent design. A public meeting will be held at that point. Meanwhile, the City is moving forward 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. The City has been awarded approximately \$400,000 for the construction of a trail between Hawkins Cove and nearby communities (leading to Truxtun Park).

**Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grants/Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) - UPDATE:** City staff are conducting the final review of applications. The City recently increased its funding of this grant program from \$300,000 to \$800,000 through the use of fee in lieu revenue generated by mitigation for the City Dock Resilience project. *Awards will be made in May 2025.*

Project summary: This grant program funds 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.

**MD Resilience Action Planning - UPDATE:** Four training sessions have been held. Sessions have focused on 1) climate change basics, terminology, and data resources, 2) community engagement, particularly low income communities, 3) nature-based solutions, and 4) budgeting and financing for resilience projects. The trainers will schedule Ready for Resilience Assessments with each jurisdiction in April/May.

Project Summary: UMD's Environmental Finance Center invited Annapolis to participate in a 4-month coastal resilience seminar series, with 7 other coastal jurisdictions (January - mid-May). Following the seminar, the Project Advisory Group will provide direct technical assistance to each jurisdiction to develop a Resilience Work Plan prioritizing nature-based projects. Jackie Guild and Dryland Laconich are the staff representatives for Annapolis, Cathy Welker represents the Environmental Commission,

Rob Savidge is the elected representative, and Breaking Boundaries, LLC (Randy Rowell) is the local disadvantaged communities representative.

With this technical assistance and the results of the City's greenhouse gas inventory update, R&S will develop a Climate Resilience Plan.

## **OTHER PROJECTS**

**Task Force to Study Houseboats, etc. - UPDATE:** The first Task Force meeting was held April 9 during which a Chair (Guy Caron) and Vice Chair (Rod Jain) were elected, the purpose and deliverables of the Task Force were reviewed, an update was provided on staff efforts to meet the information requirements of R-46-2, and there was a short discussion of how to gather data required by the Resolution.

Project Summary: In January, R-46-24 Houseboats, Floating Homes and Other Commercial Marine Vessels created a task force to study the impacts, including environmental impacts, on the City of houseboats and other commercial marine vessels. Membership includes watershed organizations and requires reporting of environmental impacts of the identified vessels. With the assistance of City Council members and the Mayor, staff compiled a list of potential task force participants for the Mayor's consideration. **NOTE:** A report is due by the Task Force in mid-April and a final report by mid-July. The Task Force must disband within three months of the final report.

**Updates to Conservation Easements - UPDATE:** R&S along with the help of OOL, Procurement, and DPZ have established a scope of work for a consultant, McCrone, who will assist with the research to complete documentation of City easements, including unlisted easements which are referred to in other planning documents. For easements which are described but not mapped, the firm will also provide a map of the area. McCrone is specialized in surveying, engineering, and land records, and has previously contracted with the City for this type of work. Further input from DPZ will be provided from their review of Planning Commission meetings regarding intent to create easements.

Previously, R&S staff prepared a memorandum and spreadsheet identifying outstanding issues with conservation properties and making recommendations to the Office of Law to address missing and



inaccurate easement descriptions on deeds and plats and obtain accurate surveys. Corrections were made to a number of easements from documents located by DPZ staff.

**Project Summary:** The Annapolis Conservancy Board (ACB) and the Maryland Reentry Resource Center (MDRRC) have become concerned about the status and access to properties encumbered by city conservation easements. Working with MDRRC's Chesapeake Climate and Conservation Corps intern, a comprehensive list of issues of City easements was created based on the list of easements listed on the City's website. This information was provided to the Conservancy Board for further action in updating the information connected to easements such as deeds, plats, and GIS mapping.

OOL has created a right of entry agreement for all City easements in order for MDRRC to gain access to all City managed easements.

**Municipal Investment Fund - UPDATE:** In late March, the Resilience Authority agreed to complete and submit the application, with the support of R&S, to explore creation of a municipal investment fund. If approved, the \$250,000 grant will support creative financing training, feasibility studies, consulting, networking events, and other market-building activities to create the necessary localized social capital for increased green energy investment in Annapolis.

**Project Summary:** The Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) is a partnership between the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Coalition for Green Capital (CGC), presents a critical opportunity for the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to expand its financing ability by developing a funding framework to advance clean energy initiatives. In June 2025, a second phase of funding will be available for \$2 million in pre-development investments.

The fund targets communities seeking to create public-private partnerships for clean energy projects, offering resources to create funding mechanisms and relationships with the private sector to help reduce local energy costs, create jobs, and accelerate environmental sustainability efforts. To date, the Resilience Authority has depended on grant funding and this grant opportunity aligns with the Resilience Authority's objective to secure private funds for its projects. This grant could help the Resilience Authority achieve this objective by accessing funding expertise to transform the region's energy infrastructure and climate adaptation strategies.

## **LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

**Demonstration Program to Build Green Roofs on City Bus Shelters - UPDATE:** In late March, R&S toured bus shelters with DOT and DPW to identify bus shelters with potential to serve as the five shelters for installation of green roofs. Shelters with flat roofs were identified on Forest Drive, Hilltop Lane, and West Street. The legislation (R-2-25) to create the pilot project, sponsored by Alderman Gay, was introduced to the City Council on February 10.

**Plastic Bag Ban - UPDATE:** As of April 8, two complaints were received about plastic bag use. The businesses claimed they were ignorant of the ban. The ban went into effect January 22, 2025. An informational web page has been created on the City web site. Flyers and mailers have been distributed to grocery stores, convenience stores, and restaurants. The City ordered 2900 reusable bags and WNAV donated 600 reusable bags for the City to distribute. The City is distributing bags through community centers during food drives, at local churches, and other local community service organizations. Bins with bags are located on transit buses (all routes). Fliers were distributed to retailers to aid with posting requirements; most retailers were found to have already posted the ban notices. The County health department will aid the City by providing education to Annapolis retailers during their regular inspections.

**Implementation of Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban - UPDATE:** The Resilience Authority has contracted with its contractor, Council Fire, to develop a voucher program and to identify third party contractors to administer the program. The report and identification of potential contractors are due within one month of contract signing with the Resilience Authority. The goal is to have a voucher program available to businesses and residents by the end of May/early June. The voucher program is intended to ease the transition to electric leaf blowers for City residents and City commercial landscape/lawn care businesses. A \$105,000 supplemental appropriation was approved by City Council in December 2024 for this purpose.

As of April 10, the City has received over 40 complaints concerning the use of gas powered leaf blowers. City staff are educating residents and businesses concerning the new law's requirements. Enforcement through citations is delayed for first offenders until the vouchers are available.

The City sent mailers to all Anne Arundel landscaping/lawn care businesses companies about the legislation (about 80 businesses) with a QR code to the new website about the new ordinance. The City posted flyers in businesses that carry blowers within City limits and nearby County businesses, such as Ace Hardware in Edgewater and Cape St. Claire, Home Depot in Parole, and Bowens in Riva.

## **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**Status: AWARDED - DNR: Greenspace Equity Program application:** The City (R&S, DPZ, DPW application) was awarded approximately \$400,000 from DNR to fund the design and construction of an improved trail connection between Hawkins Cove and Truxtun Park, which will particularly benefit the surrounding underserved communities.

**Status: AWARDED - DoE: Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant:** The City (R&S) received approximately \$76,480 for EV charging infrastructure at City facilities.

**Status: AWARDED (in negotiations) - Application: MEA - MSEC:** R&S was awarded approximately \$67,000 from MEA for street light conversion of 260 city owned lights through the MSEC rebate program. The application includes leveraging BGE smart energy saver's rebates for equipment. These funds can also be used for solar installations, EV infrastructure, and energy efficiency infrastructure in buildings.

**Status: AWARDED - Maryland Energy Administration (MEA): Resilient Maryland application:** The City (R&S) was awarded \$12,000 to procure consulting services to produce a feasibility study for a resilience hub with a microgrid at the CNI Harbour House/ Eastport Terrace redevelopment.

**Status: SUBMITTED - Maryland Energy Administration (MEA): Solar Technical Assistance application:** R&S submitted an application to MEA for assistance to evaluate the potential for solar installation at several City facilities, including Knighton Garage, Gotts Garage, DPW Maintenance building (39 Hudson set), 25 Shaw St., Pip Moyer Recreation Center parking lot, Pip Moyer Recreation Center rooftop, Eastport Fire Station rooftop, and other locations.

**Status: SUBMITTED - Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT): Chesapeake and Climate Change Corps Program application:** Submitted application for a Climate Corps member who may provide assistance to City staff

for grant tracking, environmental research and engagement, assistance with projects and plans. Corps members are paid by CBT. *Decisions are announced in mid-March.*

**Status: IN DEVELOPMENT - MEA - Community Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant Program:** The City is reviewing application requirements to apply for a Maryland EV infrastructure grant.

**Status: IN DEVELOPMENT - ICLEI/ Coalition for Green Capital:** The City has been invited by ICLEI to apply for up to \$500,000 in technical assistance for energy projects. More information will be available after upcoming informational meetings.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS**

**Earth Day April 25 Event at Market Space - NEW:** The City, partnering with environmental non-profit organizations, will hold an event with information on local environmental protection initiatives. Good visibility and traffic for this event is anticipated since the event will be held during the afternoon of the first day of the Spring Boat Show.

**Reusable Bag Distribution - UPDATE:** 1800 reusable bags have been distributed to the community through food pantries, churches, HACA events, community centers, and on City transit buses. An additional 2700 bags will be distributed on transit buses and at Food Fridays **CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **LITIGATION**

**Climate Deception Lawsuit: City of Annapolis vs. B.P. et al: - UPDATE:** The City and Anne Arundel County are appealing the January 23, 2025 dismissal of the lawsuits by the Maryland Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. The Court ruled that the claims could not be brought under state law. The City of Baltimore is appealing the order dismissing its complaint.

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 and deceptive marketing practices concerning their products' contributions to climate change and climate change impacts.