

## RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2024

### PROJECTS

**GreenHouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan – UPDATE:** Invitations for proposals have been sent to nine firms (AECOM, Stantec, CQI, GPI, Mead & Hunt, ICF, Keramida, ICLEI, and ESA). The due date for proposals is January 20, 2025. The budget is \$50,000.

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. The third component was not included with the previous inventory.

**Resilience Planning - Update:** The technical assistance from this project will be used to complete the City's Climate Resilience Plan. This delays the City's resilience plan drafting project by several months but should help produce a better result. UMD's Environmental Finance Center invited Annapolis to participate in a 3-month coastal resilience seminar series, with 7 other coastal jurisdictions. 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. This project will kick off in late January and continue through March. For the UMD project, Jackie Guild and Dyland Laconich are the staff representatives for Annapolis, Rob Savidge is the elected representative, and Breaking Boundaries, LLC (Randy Rowell) is the local disadvantaged communities representative.

With this technical assistance, R&S will continue to flesh out the Climate Resilience Plan draft framework that it is working on within the context of the City's current projects and plans that focus and touch upon resilience and the environment. This framework primarily leverages the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, the Military Installation Resilience Review, and other documents.

**Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - UPDATE:** A timeline for the project has been provided to R&S, and the next update will be provided in March after the draft design is provided. Currently, a draft design is expected by the end of February, followed by a second site visit, and 100 percent design to be provided by mid-April.

Previously, a site visit was held with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates 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 will go through planting phases over multiple years. Current funding is sufficient for this fiscal year's activities (FY25). 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 subsequent years.

**City Electric Ferry Pilot Project - UPDATE:** Five naval design/build firms were interviewed in December and one more firm will be interviewed in early January. (This is Round 2 of the selection process). From

this evaluation process, one or more firms will be invited to submit final proposals. The Department of Public Works continues to work on engineering issues associated with the 5th Street landing site, including slopes, drainage, road and sidewalk elevations, and the potential removal of a bulkhead. design for the landing sites. 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. The Procurement Office has been contacted to begin the process to select a ferry operator.

**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 the Harbormaster staff were discussed. The Harbormaster will take County staff on a tour of the harbor and surrounding areas by boat. 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.

**Updates to Conservation Easements - NEW:** A memorandum and spreadsheet have been prepared identifying outstanding issues with conservation properties and recommendations to the Office of Law to address these issues. This memo was shared with the Office of Law for next steps, including budget funding. Issues concern missing and accurate easement descriptions on deeds, plats and accurate surveys. Corrections were made to a number of easements.

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.

## **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure/ Energy Efficiency**

**Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment and Recommendations - Update:** On December 10, Pierce Manufacturing brought an **electric fire truck (pumper)** to the Eastport fire station for a presentation by Pierce representatives to fire, maintenance, and R&S staff, and the Fleet Manager. The truck has a price tag of about \$2.5M (about twice the price of a diesel fire engine). The Fire Chief is interested in pursuing grant funding by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). Grant funding is open until January 31, 2025. *However, the MEA grant only funds up to 75 percent of the increased cost of purchasing an electric fire truck. This means that the City would need to find between \$250,000 to \$350,000 for the 25% remaining (the principal cost should be covered by the budgeted replacement diesel fire truck).* MEA has expressed interest in this concept. Other grants may be possible to leverage as a match, TBD. The City is likely to see maintenance and fuel savings from the electric fire truck.

A DC-fast charger could be provided through the funding which the City has already secured through the

Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Award (referenced below under Grants). R&S is confirming the costs and constraints of establishing a DC fast charger at the Eastport location.

The police chief is interested in supporting police officers with EV vehicles and home charging infrastructure. R&S continues to explore funding options with MEA and other agencies to allow at home charging for police cruisers.

EV and Alternative Fuel Fleet Inventory and Recommendations - UPDATE: The report was edited in December and will be available in January 2025. It has been in use by R&S staff since it was first provided in August 2023, but was already becoming out of date when provided since MDOT and other EV sources were making changes to EV sources and the City was making some changes to its electric mobility goals and comprehensive plan during the contract period. Thus, Climate Change Consulting provided an updated final report in October 2024.

**BGE/ Public Service Commission (PSC) program:** The City provided a letter of support to BGE for their discussions with the PSC to receive support for electric vehicle charging equipment subsidies.

**25 Shaw Street - UPDATE:** R&S met with the DPW project manager for the build out of 25 Shaw Street to share energy efficiency upgrades to include in the building and stormwater considerations to include in the exterior of the building, parking areas, and landscaping. R&S staff were added to the planning team. Planning is likely to commence in January 2025.

**LED Street Lights** – R&S met with BGE and the City’s street light manufacturer (Deporter Dominick & Associates) to discuss the feasibility of converting streetlights to LED, including in the historic district which poses challenges due to the leaf design on top of the streetlight. Subsequently, designs were provided to meet historic requirements. John Tower advised regarding design characteristics and the hue of the light that are required for historic guidelines.

A follow-up meeting with BGE was held to discuss BGE rebates for Outdoor lighting (ODL) and procedures for replacement of non-LED fixtures.

The Maryland Energy Administration - Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant may be applied for by January 8, 2025 to provide rebates for LED replacement of City-owned ODL, pending review by appropriate parties in DPW.

249 code 2 lights can reasonably be converted to LED at low cost to the City (the grant will not cover the full cost for all 249 lights).

The City has approximately 150 special fixtures (tobacco leaf design) in the historic district which can be converted to LED without BGE involvement (roughly \$1,550 per fixture before rebates). Many of the current historic district lights have been discontinued by the manufacturer, affecting DPW’s ability to maintain their operation. Updating these to LED would reduce maintenance costs and improve their uptime. Further, LED fixtures can be brightened and dimmed for special situations.

## **STORMWATER RESTORATION PROJECTS**

**STORMWATER FEE (Watershed Restoration Fund) - NEW:** Stantec, the City’s Rate Study consultant, is preparing the annual report on the stormwater fee as required by City Code. Based on its recent review, DPW predicts that the report will be available by the end of January. It will be shared with the Environmental Matters Committee. DPW will provide an update to the Environmental Matters

Committee in February. Questions and topics for discussions are requested to be sent in advance of the February meeting to the Stormwater Programs Manager.

**Annapolis Maritime Resilience Initiative (AMRI) - UPDATE:** 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. Resilience Authority staff will provide a project overview and update at the January Environmental Matters Committee meeting.

**Eastport Flood Mitigation Project - UPDATE:** 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). Army Corps of Engineers funding of \$120k to model the system in Eastport and provide recommendations. The project will be more fully developed in early 2025. More details will be available in February and DPW Stormwater Engineer project lead, Jasmine Wilding, can make a presentation to the Environmental Matters Committee in February.

**Hawkins Cove** – Baylands Consultants & Designers, Inc. is working on final design and construction documents, which will be shared with the public late winter/spring. Final design will likely include a pier design that extends the pier beyond the current silted area, which will significantly decrease the area needed to be dredged. Dredging costs are being determined. Army Corps of Engineers permitting of the living shoreline may not be completed until 2026. 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)** - 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. *NOTE: In 2024, \$322,118 was awarded. Some unused funds from 2023 were rolled over into 2024.*

*Georgetown East Townhouse Community - Severn River Association, Inc. - \$26,157 for the implementation of micro-bioretenion cells in a residential community in Annapolis, Maryland. The primary objectives will be to reduce pollutant loads entering Back Creek on the Severn River, attenuate flooding within the community common spaces, and improve habitat for pollinators through the replacement of turf grass with native plants.*

*Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay - \$50,000 for the development of a cost-share maintenance program to restore existing best management practices (BMPs) in communities within Annapolis,*

Maryland. The goal of this project will be to improve the functionality of existing best management practices (BMPs) across communities in Annapolis so they can qualify for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System credits. The project will involve collaborating with the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council to restore existing BMPs and educating property owners, facilities staff, and community members on proper maintenance techniques to promote the longevity of their BMPs.

*Wardour Community - Severn River Association, Inc. - \$245,961* for the implementation of a stormwater best management practice (BMP) in a residential community in Annapolis, Maryland. The primary objectives of this project will be to improve water quality in the Severn River, protect nearby oyster restoration reefs from runoff and siltation, and improve the Wardour community's resilience to climate change through the creation of a step pool conveyance system.

## **LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

**Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session 2025- NEW:** R&S is providing input on proposed State legislation and their potential impacts on the City's operations and its residents.

**Electric Vehicle infrastructure Laws and Code - NEW:** R&S is researching requirements for the installation of EV infrastructure or EV-ready wiring/equipment, etc. at new and modified residential and commercial construction in Maryland and other states.

**Solar Photovoltaic Laws and Code - NEW:** R&S is researching requirements for the installation of solar photovoltaic equipment or solar-ready equipment/wiring, etc. at new and modified residential and commercial construction in Maryland and other states.

**Demonstration Program to Build Green Roofs on City Bus Shelters - NEW:** R&S provided research and comments on draft City legislation to require a pilot program to add green roofs on five City bus shelters and gather monitoring and evaluation data from the roofs. This legislation is expected to be introduced to the City Council on January 13.

**Plastic Bag Ban – UPDATE:** *The ban goes into effect January 22, 2025.* An informational web page has been created on the City web site. The City ordered 2400 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 will be on transit buses (all routes) starting in February. The City (R&S) will bring flyers to key retailers for their compliance with the postage of the notice regarding the prohibition. 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 ban on the use of gas powered leaf blowers within City limits goes into effect on January 1, 2025; however, citation enforcement of the ban is delayed (via resolution) until April 1, 2024.* (\$100 first offense; \$200 subsequent offenses.) The City will create a voucher program as residential and commercial transitional assistance to electric leaf blowers. A \$105,000 supplemental appropriation was approved by City Council in December for this purpose. The Resilience Authority Board has referred the voucher program to its counsel for an opinion on whether administration of a voucher program falls within the Resilience Authority's mandate. If the program is approved by the Resilience Authority Board, the City will develop a Project Task under its current Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Resilience Authority. If the program is not

approved, the City staff will create a voucher program.

The City (R&S) has sent out 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. In response to feedback, R&S presented a memo regarding financial assistance at the October Environmental Matters committee.

## **GRANTS**

**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. R&S will report back with more information from upcoming meetings.

**Application: MEA - MSEC:** The City (R&S) anticipates submission by January 8, 2025, for street light conversion and potentially other projects for financial support through the MSEC rebate program.

**Building Performance Standards Grant Funding through DOE -** The Resilience Authority is negotiating the terms of a \$1.7 million award. The share to Annapolis will be \$200,000. 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)) **GRANTS**

**Department of Natural Resources: Whole Watershed Restoration Partnership Grant - Severn River Watershed Project** submitted by the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. The application is a comprehensive, watershed-scale approach to ecosystem restoration that also includes infrastructure improvements and community-driven planning. The partnership that included many local non-profit organizations requested over \$28 million over a five year period for earth moving implementation type projects and community outreach and community building projects.

**US DOE: Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant award** - The City was awarded \$76,480 in rebates for the purpose of installing EV charging stations throughout City facilities, including Pip Moyer, APD, and other locations. Funds will also cover battery back up to the police station. This equipment may also be useful for other purposes during emergency situations. R&S plans to leverage MEA rebates for equipment to maximize these funds.

**Maryland Energy Administration (MEA): Resilient Maryland application** - R&S submitted an application to MEA for \$50,000 to procure consulting services to procure a feasibility study for a resilience hub with

a microgrid at the CNI harbour house/ eastport terrace redevelopment. Cost match of 20% (\$12,500) in in-kind services (salaries of City staff).

**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 facilities, including Knighton garage, Gotts garage, DPW(39 hudson st), 25 Shaw St., Pip Moyer Recreation Center parking lot, Pip Moyer Recreation Center rooftop, Eastport Fire Station rooftop, and other locations.

**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.*

**EPA: Community Change Grant application** - R&S, DPW, other departments and the Resilience Authority are collaborating to submit a grant application to the EPA for the purpose of gaining funds for resilience hubs, electric lawn care equipment, and micro mobility, among other resilience and sustainability strategies.

**DNR: Greenspace Equity Program application** - R&S, DPZ, and DPW have collaborated to submit an application to DNR to fund the design and construction of an improved trail connection between Hawkins Cove and Truxtun Park for the benefit of the surrounding underserved communities.

**Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 2 application** - Annapolis R&S has provided an analysis to MCEC in collaboration with BGE and VoltPost to submit 18 City locations for public L2 EV charging stations on street poles at no cost to the City by way of the USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant opportunity. Voltpost functions as the sub recipient of any award provided to MCEC. Sites submitted are light posts owned mostly by BGE and are street parking locations near multi-unit residential buildings without adequate parking, one on West Street, and none in the historic district. Awards will likely be announced in early 2025.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS**

**Reusable Bag Distribution** - R&S is partnering with organizations and organizing events to distribute reusable bags and information about the upcoming plastic bag ban.

Robinwood Christmas Community Event - 100 bags were provided to the Robinwood community event.

- HACA event - January 7 @ 12pm the City will provide HACA with reusable bags for an event at the Eastport/ Harbor House community center. This date may change depending on weather/ safety conditions.

- Admiral Drive community walk - The City will partner with WNAV and Sierra Club to distribute bags to the Admiral Drive area, bags donated by WNAV.

Other distributions:

Providing bags to institutions for their service to disadvantaged communities:

- St. Luke's Baby Pantry
- Annapolis Family Support Center
- Eastport United Methodist Food Pantry
- First Baptist Annapolis Food Pantry

- OHLA: Organization of Hispanic Latin Americans
- Annapolis Immigration Justice Network
- Others (exploring)

## **CLIMATE CHANGE LITIGATION**

**Climate Deception Lawsuit: City of Annapolis vs. B.P. et al.** - **UPDATE:** The case is at the beginning stages of discovery. The City is waiting on a hearing to be scheduled on the issue of which documents will be protected or shielded from public view. The City is objecting to the wide range of protected status the Defendants are claiming for many corporate documents

In two Hawaii cases, that are materially similar to the City's claims, the U.S. Solicitor General recommended that the U.S. Supreme Court deny review of the unanimous Hawaii Supreme Court decision holding that federal law did not preempt Honolulu's claims. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to make a decision whether to hear the cases during either its January 10 or 17 conferences. If the Court grants one or both petitions, the cases will be briefed and argued over the next several months. If the Court denies both petitions, the Honolulu litigation - and other climate deception cases across the nation- will proceed.

The City of Baltimore is appealing the order dismissing its complaint. Its brief is due January 13.

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.