

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2024

Green House Gas Emissions Inventory and action plan – 2008 inventories (based on 2006 data) will be updated, likely using 2020 data 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. Firms have been contacted to understand the likely costs and create a scope of work which was used to draft an RFP, expected to be released this month. Several firms will be notified to provide the City with their best proposal within 30 days.

Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - An additional 5 firms were contacted due to the specialized scope of work (considering the soil cap, low hanging solar arrays) and a review of 4 final proposals was conducted. Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA) was chosen and a purchase order is being drafted pending their return of some requested documents. This firm has extensive experience working on native meadows in Annapolis and is experienced in installing meadows above soil caps. The design proposal is estimated to cost \$24,950, and the firm has estimated later implementation costs will be about \$6000 per acre for the 20-50 acres available for pollinator habitat planting. The firm has communicated that a layout for spraying herbicide will be provided with plans to commence treatment this October, so that planting may begin Summer 2025, providing some pollinator plants by Fall 2025. The site will go through planting phases over multiple years. Current funding is sufficient for this fiscal year's activities (FY25), updates on funding will be provided as they become apparent. 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 in the discovery stage where parties request information from one another. This information will help each side determine whether the lawsuit should settle or proceed to trial. (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 had all been unsuccessful until the recent dismissal of the Baltimore lawsuit in July. The last news was that Baltimore is considering an appeal.)

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)) Status: Waiting for DOE funding decision.

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. McLaren Engineering is working on the design for 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.

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 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.

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. 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.

Applied for voucher in the full amount for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) at the Taylor Avenue Police Department, Pip Moyer Recreation Center, 25 Shaw Street, 39 Hudson Street, and Department of Transportation. The application will leverage BGE incentives for maximum return, and will include battery backups that can be used for emergency and other uses. If funds are not fully utilized, excess funds will go towards street light conversion from pressurized sodium or mercury to LED. R&S coordinated the application with the Directors of all participating departments.

A full assessment of all public charging and permitted private charging was done to find needs.

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.

EV and Alternative Fuel Fleet Inventory and Recommendations - Climate Change Consulting provided a draft report in 2024. It underwent directed revisions. However, the consultant has been ill for an extended period of time. R&S will complete the report this fall with the necessary revisions and updates.

Stormwater and Restoration Projects

Hawkins Cove – Baylands Consultants & Designers, Inc. is working on final design and construction documents. Additional funding has been applied for through FEMA and is being explored with DNR. 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)

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. *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.

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 – An informational web page has been created, R&S has requested sample reusable bags from potential providers and will begin an outreach campaign in October 2024 that will include giving away of City of Annapolis branded reusable bags. Potential partners for distribution of bags include community service providers, food pantries, and churches. Approximately \$5,000 from the Mayor's budget is available for this work.

Gas powered Leaf Blower Ban - R&S has sent out mailers to all Anne Arundel landscaping companies about the legislation with a QR code to the new website about the passed legislation. We also reached out several landscaping companies for feedback on the transition adjustments and learned that that financial burden of equipment was the greatest concern. R&S performed additional research on financial incentives and implementation in other Maryland counties.

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. Status: Building "champions" for City Hall and Gorman will be identified in the fall of 2024.

Bird City 2024-Bird City resolution and application completed and the City is recertified and maintains its high flyer status. Renewal with \$200 fee due again in 2026 (bi-annual).

Bee City 2024 -Renewal with \$300 fee due again in 2025 (annual).

National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Community 2024-Renewal without fee due again in 2025 (annual).

Conservation Easements -R&S is working with ACB to improve the accuracy of the conservation easement online resources.

Resilience Plan - R&S is developing an outline for a resilience plan based on the City's projects and plans that focus and touch upon resilience and the environment, including the comprehensive plan, the hazard mitigation plan, transportation plans, bicycling and pedestrian plans, and capital improvement plans. The outline will be shared with staff before proceeding to drafting a resilience plan based on these projects, studies, and plans.

Public Education Campaigns –

Water Conservation Month - R&S posted flyers for water conservation month (August 2024) in the city dock area, held a tabling event with Severn River Association, collaborated with Annapolis Green for communication efforts.

River Days - R&S collaborated with DPW at River Days in Quiet Waters to provide stormwater, pollinator, and water conservation outreach.

Bioblitz! - R&S is currently collaborating with Parks and Recreation by hosting a September (month long) bioblitz via iNaturalist, flyers are posted around the city dock area, at Truxton, and Acton's Cove. Social media, and a press release is shared by Naptown scoop. A bioblitz is an activity to identify biodiversity in a particular area. Link to bioblitz: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/parks-for-pollinators-annapolis-2024>