RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2024

PROJECTS

Community Solar enrollment - NEW: Community solar is a way for utility customers to support solar energy and save money on electric bills**.** Maryland utility customers fund the "EMPOWER Maryland" program through a small fee on their bills, which supports various energy efficiency projects for residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. Under this program, subscribers can join community solar projects and receive solar credits on their utility bills. Solar panels generate electricity, the customer gets credits on the utility bill for using this solar energy, a fee is paid to the company supporting the solar energy project. .

Annapolis was solicited by "Solar on Earth" acting on behalf of SunCentral LLC, to register Annapolis for community solar projects. Customers who subscribe enter into contracts with solar installers, not intermediary companies. These contracts typically cover ten years of service, with the option to cancel service. There is a limited capacity for subscribers, and cities such as Takoma Park have already signed on. The Procurement Officer and Director of Finance are reviewing the applicability of procurement rules for the service. Note: utilities and services under $10,000 need not be competitive.

Meanwhile, an estimate of savings is being conducted at no charge by Solar on Earth. Based on cities with similar size populations, it is predicted that community solar can save the City $2,000/ month in electrical charges.

Municipal Investment Fund - NEW: The Municipal Investment Fund (MIF), 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. With a March 5, 2025 application deadline, the Authority can potentially secure up to $250,000 in initial grant funding and technical assistance, with up to an additional $2 million investments in later phases for implementation of projects.

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.

GreenHouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan – **UPDATE:** Invitations for proposals were sent to nine firms (AECOM, Stantec, CQI, GPI, Mead & Hunt, ICF, Keramida, ICLEI, and ESA). Two firms responded with competitive proposals. The R&S team will select a contractor by the end of February. 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, 2040 Annapolis Ahead. Based on the bids, this project will need to be split into two phases: 1) the data inventory and update (currently funded) and 2) the pollution reduction plan/climate action plan (funded by FY26 proposed budget as contractor services).

Resilience Planning - Update: UPDATE: Two training sessions have been held. The first session focused on climate change basics, terminology, and data resources. The second session focused on community engagement, particularly low income communities.

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 a preliminary design is due to R&S staff by February 28 for feedback. There will be a second site visit in March and 100 percent design is scheduled for mid-April. A virtual presentation of the 100% design plan will be shared during a virtual presentation by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA) to the Environmental Matters Committee.

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 will go through planting 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 will allow a greater area to be planted in subsequent years.

City Electric Ferry Pilot Project - UPDATE: Six naval design/build firms were interviewed in December and early January. From this evaluation, three firms were invited to submit best and 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. This project is funded for the design/build of up to two electric ferries, landing site improvements and charging infrastructure.

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 - UPDATE: The Office of Law is contracting with an outside law firm for assistance to locate documentation, address inconsistencies, and define boundaries of City conservation easements. In early February, the OOL met with R&S and DPZ to plan how to address easement issues.

R&S staff prepared a memorandum and spreadsheet identifying outstanding issues with conservation properties and making recommendations to the Office of Law to address these issues, including budget funding. Issues concerns regarding missing and accurate easement descriptions on deeds and 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.

Ocean Friendly Garden - NEW: The Ocean Friendly Gardens program by Surfrider 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. A local chapter (Annapolis High) has $11,000 for a location in Annapolis, ideally by Market House (without interfering with seasonal displays). The City is working with the chapter to find an optimal planting site. Acton Cove is being considered by Recreation & Parks. There are scheduled improvements to the bulkhead and boardwalk to work around.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure/ Energy Efficiency

Fire Department - **Update:** The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) heavy-duty truck grant for an **electric pumper truck** was not pursued in the January 31 cycle because the Fleet Manager believes that the technology is nascent and unproven. The City of Frederick, MD and Washington, D.C. recently ordered electric fire trucks. These jurisdictions will be useful references to learn about their experiences using an electric fire truck.

The Fire Chief is interested in pursuing a truck financed by a MEA grant. *However, the MEA grant only funds up to 75 percent of the delta between a diesel and 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 would be covered by the budgeted replacement diesel fire truck).*

On December 10, Pierce Manufacturing brought an electric fire pumper truck to the Eastport fire station for a presentation by Pierce. Staff from the fire department , maintenance crew, and R&S staff attended along with the Fleet Manager. The truck is battery powered with diesel back up. The truck has a price tag of about $2.5M (about twice the price of a diesel fire engine). The City would realize maintenance and fuel savings from an electric fire truck. The City of Frederick, MD and Washington, D.C. recently ordered electric fire trucks. The demonstration truck was headed to Cary, North Carolina. Pierce provides basic operational and maintenance training upon delivery. Pierce is assembling pricing information for the Fleet Manager regarding more advanced maintenance training.

An electric fire truck could have been supported with a DC-fast charger through the funding the City already secured through the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Award (referenced below under Grants).

Police Department - 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.

Land and Marine Fleet Electrification Plan - **UPDATE:** The Land and Marine Fleet Electrification Action Plan for the City of Annapolis was provided to City Council members in January and it is available on the City website. It references and includes as an Appendix the Department of Transportation draft 2023 Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition Plan (awaiting MDOT input to finalize the document). The next step is for R&S to work with the Fleet Manager on a schedule and budget to implement the plan's recommendations. Some of the plan recommendations are already being addressed, including the purchase of electric buses, circulators, ferries, sedans, SUVs, and compact cars, and landscaping equipment.

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 - 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.

LED Street Lights - UPDATE: 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.
The Maryland Energy Administration - Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant was applied for on January 31, 2025 to provide rebates for LED replacement of City-owned street lights.
260 code 2 lights (city owned and BGE maintained) can reasonably be converted to LED at low cost to the City (the grant will not cover the full cost for all 260 lights). The remaining costs will be covered by BGE smart energy saver rebates, and a small portion (roughly $6,000) will be covered by the City.

R&S is receiving a quote from an outdoor lighting efficiency consultant for a feasibility assessment of converting ownership of lights, and upgrading lights without having to change fixtures. This may save the City on maintenance costs, yield higher kWh energy savings, etc.

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. This consultant (or another) may be able to bring this cost down substantially for special fixtures.

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. The report was provided to the City Council at the end of January. The Stormwater Programs Manager will provide an update to the Environmental Matters Committee in February.

Annapolis Maritime Resilience Initiative (AMRI) - UPDATE: The first community engagement meeting was held on December 4 at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center. An overview of the project was presented followed by Q&A and participants identification of vulnerable areas of the Back Creek and Spa Creek watersheds. 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, provided an overview of the project during the December AMRI presentation (discussed above). 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.

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 adding 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 are 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-bioretention 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.

Task Force to Study Houseboats, etc. - **NEW:** In January, R-46-24 Houseboats, Floating Homes and Other Commercial Marine Vessels created a task force to study the 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. The Mayor's list of appointees will need to be confirmed by City Council.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session 2025- NEW: R&S has reviewed 20 bills for potential impacts on City functions and finances. The City provided a letter of support for the "Bottle Bill" - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (HB232/SB346). This bill adds a 10 cent to 15 cent fee (depending on the size of the container) on plastic, metal, and glass beverages bottles that can be reimbursed by returning the beverage containers to reverse vending machines and other designated locations. The City plans to provide testimony in support of the RENEW Act (Responding to Emergency Events from Extreme Weather (HB 128) which establishes a fund, financed by the oil and gas industry, for local jurisdictions to implement projects to address the impacts of climate change.

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 (R-2-25) was introduced to the City Council on February 10, sponsored by Alderman Gay.

Plastic Bag Ban – UPDATE*: 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 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 went into effect December 30, 2024; however, citation enforcement of the ban is delayed (via resolution) until March 31, 2024.* ($100 first offense; $200 subsequent offenses.) The City discussed 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 has received two complaints of gas powered leaf blower use as of February 5, 2025 .

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) submitted its application on January 31, 2025, 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.

Building Performance Standards Grant Funding through DOE - The Resilience Authority is scheduling the first meeting of participating communities. The grant share to Annapolis is $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)).

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, which includes many local non-profit organizations, identified $43 million worth of projects 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 - 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 - **UPDATE**: R&S is partnering with organizations and organizing events to distribute reusable bags and information about the plastic bag ban (effective date January 22, 2025).
Robinwood Christmas Community Event - 100 bags were provided to the Robinwood community event.
- HACA event - January 21 @ 12pm the City provided HACA with 50 reusable bags for an event at the Eastport/ Harbor House community center.
- Admiral Drive community walk - January 25 @ 1pm The City partnered 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
- Heritage baptist
- Mt Olive

- Mt Zion
- Stanton Community Center
- “Food Friday”

CLIMATE CHANGE LITIGATION

Climate Deception Lawsuit: *City of Annapolis vs. B.P. et al.* - **UPDATE:** On January 23, the Maryland Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County dismissed the lawsuits brought by the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel were dismissed by the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court finding that their claims could not be brought under state law. Both jurisdictions will appeal the decision. The City of Baltimore is appealing the order dismissing its complaint.

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.

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.