

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2024

GreenHouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan – Greenhouse Gas inventories (based on 2006 data) will be updated (last done in 2008), 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 will be invited to bid on the project. \$50,000 is available for the project.

Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - In late October, a site visit was held with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates to clarify plantable areas, take a current biological inventory, and communicate any needs of city departments. A timeline is being developed by the firm for design creation with recommendations for implementation. 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 later 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: Nine proposals were reviewed by the staff selection committee on November 1 from which a list of five invitations for final bid proposals was created. Interviews of those companies submitting final proposals will be conducted in early December. A Request for Proposal for the Design/Build of the ferry landings is being prepared for advertising in late 2025/early 2026. A Request for Information and Expression of Interest is also being prepared for companies interested in operating the City ferry.

Anne Arundel County Electric Ferry Grant- 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.

UPDATE: In late October, City staff met with County staff to discuss potential landing sites and a site for storage/charging. Staff will meet again and work on an MOU to reflect the use of City property for County ferry operations. Site visits will be planned.

Conservation Easements -R&S is working with the Annapolis Conservancy Board (ACB) to improve the accuracy of the conservation easement online resources. The Maryland Reentry Resource Center (MRRC) is organizing campaigns to reintroduce former inmates to civic environmental work (including clearing invasive plants) but became concerned about the status and access to properties encumbered by city conservation easements. Working with a Chesapeake Climate and Conservation Corps intern, MRRC compiled a comprehensive list of issues with easements based on the list of easements listed on the City's website. The Environmental Programs Coordinator commented on needed improvements

and worked with the OOL, DPW and DPZ to find additional information on some of the easements. 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. Following the presentation of MRRC's and R&S' findings regarding the easements to the ACB, a meeting was held on October 25 to make an action plan. A final review of the easements will be done to confirm the needs of each easement, either engaging with the OOL to confirm the standing of an easement, creating a new easement monitoring.

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. Discussed with BGE was whether it is more cost effective for the City to transfer ownership of the streetlights to BGE or whether the City should retain ownership and make the needed repairs. Once a decision on ownership is made, the City can decide on energy efficiency grants to pursue to make the energy efficiency changes. Grant opportunities are being explored to finance replacements for inefficient installations.

Resilience Plan - R&S has developed a framework for a Climate Resilience Plan with the context of the City's current projects and plans that focus and touch upon resilience and the environment. This form and notifying property owners about their maintenance agreement, or conducting a survey to determine the extent of the easement if not presently clear. framework primarily leverages the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Annapolis Ahead 2040, the Military Installation Resilience Review, and other documents. A presentation of the plan was provided to the Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) on October 23, describing the methodology, the findings of different climate stressors of other City plans, the vulnerabilities assessed by those plans, and how the framework establishes how a plan will be formulated. The framework will be shared with staff, the Environmental Matters Committee, and the Environmental Commission before proceeding to drafting a full Climate Resilience Plan, which may require technical assistance.

Participation in Resilience Action Planning with UMD - The University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center selected Annapolis to participate in the Resilience Action Planning for Maryland's Coastal Communities project. This initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of eight vulnerable coastal jurisdictions focusing on addressing climate-related hazards through nature-based solutions and enhancing fish and wildlife habitats. The participating jurisdictions will engage in a three-month coastal resilience seminar series after which direct assistance will be provided including vulnerability mapping, project planning, and connections to funding and technical resources culminating in a nature-based Resilience Work Plan. A staff member (Dylan Laconich, Environmental Programs Coordinator), an elected official (TBD) and a community organization partner representing disadvantaged community members (Randy Rowell, Breaking Boundaries, LLC) are required to participate from each jurisdiction.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

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.

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

In late September, the City applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for \$76,400 (allocated to Annapolis) of funding under a voucher program for energy infrastructure. Under this program, funds may be used for technical assistance, fleet purchases, charging infrastructure, and other energy related projects. Funding decisions will be made Winter 2024/2025.

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 (if acquired), 39 Hudson Street, and the 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.

R&S worked with department staff to assess current public charging and private charging to determine Department needs and public needs if funds are not used completely for City facilities.

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. The Fire Department is beginning to express some interest in learning about the experiences of other departments, e.g. the City of Frederick, Washington, D.C.

EV and Alternative Fuel Fleet Inventory and Recommendations - Climate Change Consulting provided a draft report in 2024. It underwent directed revisions and was provided to R&S in late October. It is undergoing review. Meanwhile, R&S has met with vendors who can make recommendations on installation and maintenance of infrastructure, and provide tracking software and produce reports of unit use and pollution reductions and energy savings.

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 home owner associations, faith-based organizations, schools, and non-profit organizations. Watershed assessments, planning, maintenance, design, and construction projects will be considered. Awards of \$15,000 to \$300,000 are made. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 20, 2025. *NOTE: In 2024, \$322,118 was awarded. Some unused funds from 2023 were rolled over into 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 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.

Implementation of Gas powered Leaf Blower Ban - 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. R&S has since worked with the Resilience Authority to put forward a grant application which includes funding for a financial assistance program.

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: *UPDATE: The Resilience Authority is negotiating the terms of a \$1.7 million award. The share to Annapolis will be \$200,000.*

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 dismissal of the Baltimore lawsuit in July; the dismissal has been appealed.)

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.

Waterways Cabinet - On October 24, the Waterways Cabinet convened for a regular meeting. DPW introduced new staff and new staff positions and shared updates on stormwater and restoration projects. The remainder of the discussion focused on the various stakeholders input and questions regarding the Severn River application for the Whole Watershed Fund, which seeks to provide large funding over a 5-year period to 5 different watersheds in the State of Maryland. A significant part of the discussion was including environmental justice concerns in the application.

EPA: Community Change Grant - 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 - 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 Energy Administration: Solar Technical Assistance Program - R&S provided documentation to apply for technical assistance to assess the structural integrity of parking lots and buildings for solar retrofits in the City. Microgrid studies will also be proposed. Final selections will be decided by MEA. Current list includes: Knights parking garage, Gotts parking garage, Pip Moyer parking lot, Public Works (49 Hudson St), Pip Moyer (main facility, not green roof), Eastport Fire Station, Taylor Fire Station, Water Treatment Plant, Pip Moyer and Stanton Community Center.

Sustainability Retrofit of 25 Shaw Street - In anticipation of the closing on 25 Shaw Street, R&S is beginning to outline its recommendations to submit to DPW for a building sustainability retrofit, including energy efficiency measures, EV charging infrastructure, solar power, on-site stormwater capture, etc. Depending on the budget allocated for the project, some of the recommended measures may need to be performed in phases. Opportunities should not be lost to incorporate measures that are more resource efficient to incorporate during the build out then to try to add them later.

Harbor Master Tour of Shorelines - R&S was given a tour via boat by the Harbor Master of the shorelines which are listed as relatively eroded in the City, focusing on Back Creek and Spa Creek. These shorelines were assessed as part of the recent 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan.