

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2024

PROJECTS

GreenHouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan – UPDATE: Invitations for proposals have been sent to nine firms. The due date for proposals is January 6, 2025, following Budget Revision SA-15-25, \$50,000.

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 for invitations for proposals.

Resilience Planning - UPDATE: 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. Jackie Guild and Dylan Laconich are the staff representatives for Annapolis, Rob Savidge is the elected representative and Breaking Boundaries, LLC (Randy Rowell) is the local disadvantaged community representative.

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. We expect to leverage the technical assistance from the UMD project to complete the Climate Resilience Plan.

Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - UPDATE: A timeline has been provided to R&S, and the next update will be provided in March after the draft design is provided.

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 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: 11 proposals were received in response to the City's RFP for a qualified electric ferry design/construction firm. The City review committee selected six firms to move on to the interview phase (Round 2) of the vendor selection process. By the end of December, top

candidates will be selected for best and final project proposals to be submitted in mid-January. A final decision will be made and a contract negotiated by the end of January/early February 2025. Landing sites: This summer, 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. The Department of Public Works continues to work on 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.

Updates to Conservation Easements - UPDATE: A draft 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 will be shared with the Office of Law in December. Issues concern missing and accurate easement descriptions on deeds, plats and accurate surveys. Corrections were made to a number of 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 (MDRRC) 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. A final review of the easements has been done to confirm the needs of each easement. OOL has created a right of entry agreement for all City easements in order for MDRRC to gain access to all City managed easements.

25 Shaw Street - **UPDATE:** The building improvements and space planning is just beginning for 25 Shaw. On December 12, R&S met with project lead engineer Donovan Harold regarding integrating energy efficient and environmental elements into the building and outside areas of the property. A firm budget has not been set. Meetings with the architect, Murphy & Dittenhofer, will kick off within the next month. R&S will be part of the planning team. An EV charging is allocated from the City's Community Block grant for this property. Stormwater retention on site should also be part of the landscaping and parking lot design plans.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment and Recommendations - UPDATE: On December 10, Pierce brought an **electric fire truck** 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 which funds up to 75 percent of heavy equipment, including zero emissions fire trucks (open until January 31, 2025). A DC-fast charger could be provided through the funding the City secured through the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Award (referenced below under Grants).

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 - Climate Change Consulting provided a final report in October 2024, after updating the report provided in August 2023. Some typographical errors were corrected during the first week of December. It will be available after a final review by staff.

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. More information is needed to make decisions.

STORMWATER RESTORATION PROJECTS

Elktonia/Carr’s Beach – UPDATE: SCAPE is the designer for the shoreline restoration project, which will build resilience to the wave action from the Bay, build back some of the lost beach area, and create a resilient, natural shoreline. Community outreach has been conducted with the adjacent communities of Chesapeake Harbour and Baywoods. A conceptual design will be fleshed out. The Department of Recreation & Parks is working with the urban planning and design firm McAdams on the Elktonia/Carr’s Beach park plan. The two piers will be rebuilt as part of the plan.

Hawkins Cove – UPDATE: 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-bioretenention 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.

POLICY

Plastic Bag Ban –UPDATE: The ban goes into effect January 1, 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.

Implementation of Gas powered Leaf Blower Ban - UPDATE: R&S requested a \$105,000 supplemental appropriation for a residential and commercial voucher program for transitional assistance to electric leaf blowers. R&S is in discussion with the Resilience Authority concerning running the voucher program for the City. The City would need to develop a Project Task under its current Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Resilience Authority. The ban goes into effect January 22, 2025, with delayed enforcement by citation for three months (April 22, 2025).

The City 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.

Building Performance Standards Grant Funding through DOE UPDATE: 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 - Awarded \$76,480 in rebates for the purpose of installing EV charging stations throughout City facilities, including Pip Moyer, APD, other locations. Money will also contribute to a battery back station for police in times of need. 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. An appropriate account has been established to charge against this rebate.

MEA: Resilient Maryland application - Submitted 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).

MEA: Solar Technical Assistance application - Submitted for assistance to evaluate the potential for solar at several facilities, 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, others.

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 the CBT.

MEA: Maryland Smart Energy Community Program - Drafting application to fund the replacement of inefficient City lighting fixtures to LED. Other strategies being explored. Application due January 8, 2025.

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.

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. As part of the Maryland delegation trip to Sweden, the group toured the Candela hydrofoil factory in Stockholm. The County is considering using such a hydrofoil as part of the County ferry system.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

Holiday Waste Diversion - R&S will use City social media to spread awareness of sustainability considerations for the holidays, e.g. wrapping paper recycling, tree and natural roping as yard waste, etc.

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

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.