

City of Annapolis
RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS
May 2026

Report to Environmental Matters Committee and Environmental Commission

ENERGY EFFICIENCY/ CLEAN ENERGY

Kairos/ Alternative Financing for Solar Installations - NEW: R&S and Central Services discussed the financing options available to the City to install solar panels to meet its solar generation goals. Certain organizations and financiers may be able to provide installations at no cost and potentially with revenue incentives to the City for merely use of the space on facilities. Staff are exploring options and cost-benefits to ensure the City and its residents are getting the highest return on investment for public solar installations.

Maryland Energy Administration Resilient Maryland Program - R&S, DPZ, HACA, and the developers (and their contractors) are continuing to strategize the feasibility of a resilience hub at the new Eastport/ Harbor House location. \$12,000 in grant funds was awarded from MEA, via their Resilience Maryland Program, to determine the feasibility of installing solar with batteries in these two communities. Benefits of such a project include peak-load management reducing the risk of blackouts, ensuring continuity of services during emergency events, and lowering energy costs. Due to some delays in the CNI funds from the federal government, an extension from MEA may be requested.

Solar Inventory and Strategy Coordination with Anne Arundel County and the Resilience Authority - The R&S team is working with Council Fire, contracted through the Resilience Authority, to assess opportunities to create a City solar strategy. The first phase of this project is a baseline assessment of current projects and opportunity areas..

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Local Government Modernization Program (L-GEM) Grant Application - R&S has received funding for LED retrofits at streetlights, among other activities to reduce costs of outdoor lighting. MEA did not award the City its requested funding for the requested solar installations.

Project Summary: R&S has partnered with the Resilience Authority, DPW, and the County to submit an application to MEA for several funding initiatives. These range from rooftop solar implementation (Pip Moyer Recreation Center and Gotts Garage), lighting inventory audits and upgrades, BEPS compliance, and HVAC improvements (Stanton Center).

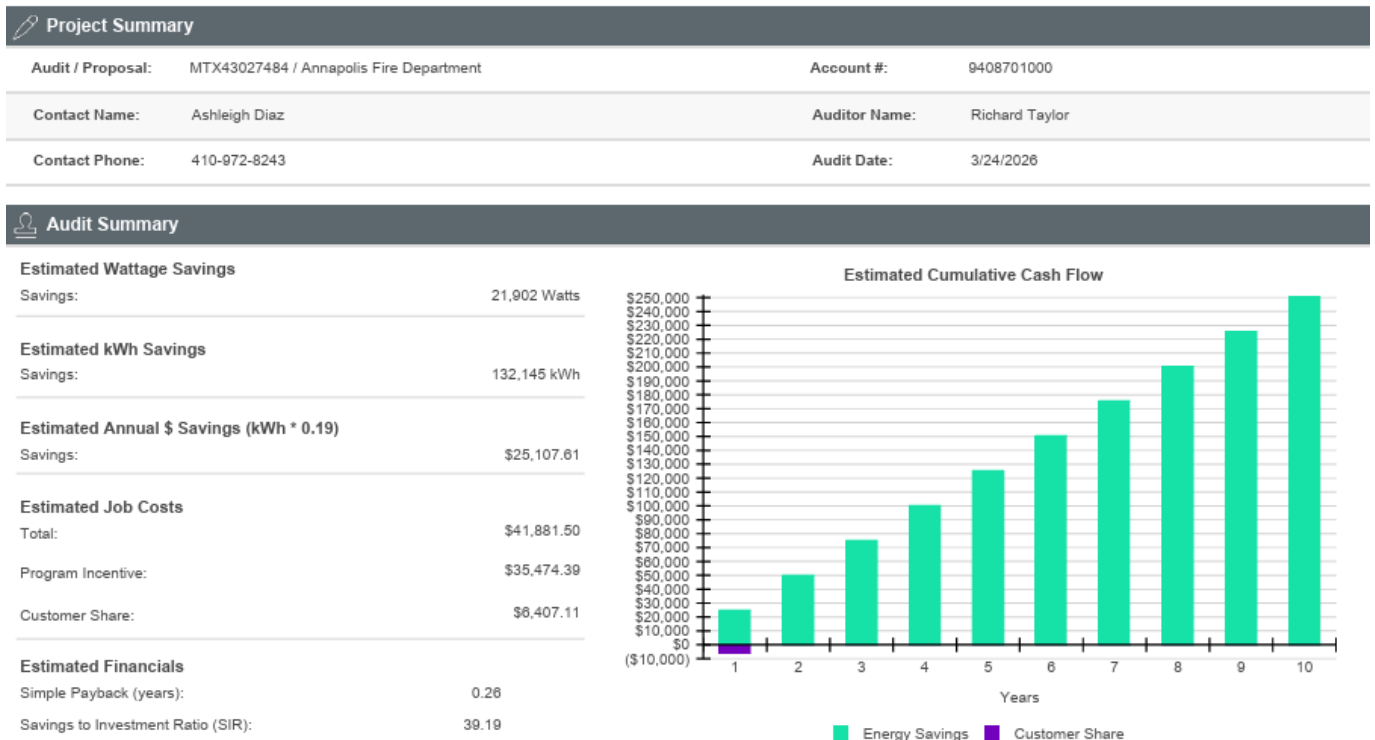
Maryland Energy Administration Solar Technical Assistance - R&S received solar technical assistance from MEA to perform solar installation and feasibility assessments at nine City buildings, which will be used to support future funding requests for implementation.

Incorporating Resilience into Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) - In early October, 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) canceled the grant to the Resilience Authority to work with the City and grant partners to develop a resilience based building code for buildings under 30,000 square feet (aimed mostly at residential buildings). The Resilience Authority timely filed an appeal of the termination decision pursuant to the informal appeal process. The process does not specify a time period for DOE to reply to appeals. After learning of impending DOE funding cancellations, the project's

technical support partners, Northeast Technical Partners and ClearlyEnergy, worked as quickly as possible towards drafting model code language for a Building Energy & Resilience Performance Standard (BERPS). DOE released grant funds as reimbursement for work performed through October 1, 2025. The City allocated its grant funding of \$200,000 to Council Fire for consulting services, particularly with respect to community engagement and education.

Project Summary: Grant funding was secured through DOE for technical assistance in drafting and implementing a model code. Existing Building Performance Standards (BPS) are designed to reduce the greenhouse gas footprint of the existing building stock, but only apply to large 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 project 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)). \$200,000 of the grant funds are dedicated to Annapolis.

EmPOWER Maryland LED Lighting Upgrades- NEW: R&S has been working with Central Services on a project via BGE and EmPOWER Maryland that includes no-cost LED lighting retrofits and upgrades for businesses, including municipal buildings. Matrix Solutions is the contractor selected to upgrade all of the interior and exterior lighting at the Forest Drive Firehouse. The work is starting May 12 and should be completed within two days. The project will serve as a successful pilot for encouraging further utilizing the program on other fire facilities and ultimately other City buildings where applicable. Please see below for energy and cost savings estimates. Note customer share was covered by the contractor and that this project is of no cost to the City.



LED Street Lights

a) **Funds for LED streetlighting:** The City received confirmation from DOE that its Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) funds (\$76,480) are available (i.e., not canceled), and may be used for the purchase and installation of LED lights and EV chargers.

Project Summary: The City has formally agreed to the conditions of a grant from The Maryland Energy Administration in the amount of \$67,250 for conversion of 73 street lights to LEDs in place of the current inefficient fixtures, as well as upgrading an energy intensive HVAC unit. Work will begin once the grant accounts are approved by City Council and created within Munis for staff to use. Conversions will be made along Forest Drive.

b) **LED Retrofit technology (historic district lights)** - The City identified an LED retrofit for downtown fixtures which would cost \$575 per light. These retrofits reduce the cost of maintenance and energy. These retrofits are supported by the DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EECBG) Block grant funds. R&S has engaged DPZ Historic Preservation on the lighting requirements for downtown. Two retrofits will be installed soon to test the characteristics and ease of installation.

c) **LED retrofit technology (cobra head street lights)** - BGE has completed conversion of 65 fixtures to LED, and is processing invoices. Upon receipt of a final invoice, the City will submit to MEA (via Maryland Smart Energy Communities Grant Program) for reimbursement. This grant allowed the City to switch over 70 street lights to LED bulbs. These lights are City-owned and BGE-maintained, and are in the “cobra head” style. Most of these will be converted from 400W High Pressure Sodium to 100W LED. The project is funded entirely by MEA and DOE.

d) **Ownership of City Street Lights** - Strategies for acquiring streetlights have been explored with DPW, including financing and lease-to-own models.. DPW is the department responsible for streetlight maintenance, and DPW has met with Tanko, the company that performed the City’s street light study. The study identified significant savings that the City can realize by purchasing non-city owned street lights and maintaining all City street lights. Currently, a portion of the street lights are owned and maintained by BGE, some are owned by the City and maintained by BGE, and the remainder are owned and maintained by the City.

GreenHouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan – UPDATE: Consultant [KERAMIDA](#) provided the draft Climate Action Plan in April. The plan is posted online for public comments through May 31. An in-person town hall was held on May 5. A follow-up online webinar is scheduled for May 26. The plan will be presented in its final draft during the June 18 work session.

Project Summary: 2008 inventories (based on 2006 data) were 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*.

Community Solar - At the end of 2025, the City entered into an agreement with SunCentral LLC to subscribe to community solar for power to City facilities. This power is coming from solar arrays installed on the roof of a warehouse in Prince Georges County, Md; therefore, no land was used for this project.

Project Summary: Based on the City’s past BGE bills, it is estimated that solar-based energy credit will yield annual savings to the City between \$66,000 and \$127,000. Over a 20 year period, the City could save between \$1,300,000 and \$1,900,000 in energy expenses and reduce 51,071 metric tons of CO2

emissions. This pollution reduction is equivalent to the absorption of CO₂ by 16,318 acres of forest or the equivalent of removing 11,012 gasoline powered vehicles from roads. There is no cost to the City to participate in a community solar program. The agreement covers a period of 10 years and may be terminated by either party with 180 days written notice.

ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

Demonstration Program to Build Green Roofs on City Bus Shelters:- Central Services is moving forward with implementation with Riverbend Nursery, the selected vendor for maintenance of existing green roofs on City facilities (police headquarters, Pip Moyer Recreation Center, and DPW maintenance facility).

Project Summary: This is a pilot project to demonstrate the benefits of green roofs on bus shelters. It includes five bus shelters. This project is intended to provide ecological enhancement through improved air and water quality, stormwater absorption, and decreased temperature benefits.

Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - Site preparation and planting will not begin until MDE signs off on the landfill monitoring requirements; MDE's sign off is expected Fall 2026. The design, plant selection list, and implementation timeline are complete.

Project Summary: The proposed design covers 18.5 acres, mostly outside of the fence line. Limits on plantable areas are impacted by steep slopes (outside the fence line), existing stormwater BMPs, and the height of the solar arrays. The work is being reviewed and coordinated with DPW regarding design around stormwater practices, mowing schedules, and emissions sampling schedules per MDE requirements. The City's contractor, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA), estimates implementation costs of about \$6000 per acre, which enables the City roughly 35 plantable acres.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES/CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Street Cars/Trolley - UPDATE: In late April, trolley study group members attended the 2026 Streetcar Summit in Kansas City, which featured the Kansas City Street car system, including a tour of its operations center. The Summit emphasized marketing, connectivity of central places and communities, constant communication with residents and businesses, support to businesses during construction, and marketing the benefits of a streetcar system. The Resilience Authority advertised an RFP for an electric trolley feasibility study for a route to run from City Dock, up Main Street, and down West Street connecting to Parole. A revised RFP will include suggestions made by MTA. The comment period will be extended two weeks to June 12. In addition to ridership potential, the feasibility study will evaluate the associated economic, development, and community enhancement opportunities.

Project Summary: The Resilience Authority, the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Visitors Center of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, and the Denker Foundation (the Annapolis Sustainable Development Coalition) are partnering on a feasibility study to explore the development of a trolley route(s) to enhance clean, attractive, and equitable transit that provides opportunities for economic development and low/moderate income housing. The Maryland Department of Transportation supports the feasibility study. The City provided \$100,000 in its FY26 budget for a feasibility study. The County provided \$50,000 in its FY26 budget towards this project. The Denker Foundation mm provides additional funding towards this study. Information gathered from the Community Streetcar Coalition Summit, in July 2025, demonstrated that not only are streetcars an excellent, clean, and quiet transit

option, but that they can serve as an effective economic development, community development, and low to moderate income housing development tool..

City Ferry Pilot Project - UPDATE: The project is paused by Mayor Littman while the City seeks input from the Maritime Advisory Board and explores further public input. A revised RFP is ready to advertise based on a hybrid electric-diesel system per Trump Administration requirements.

Project Summary: Potential routes are across Spa Creek, to Hawkins Cove and to Carr's Beach. (Friday – Sunday) and then will expand to other locations and an expanded schedule depending on ridership and other user feedback. This project is funded for the design/build of up to two hybrid diesel-electric ferries, landing site improvements and charging infrastructure. Anne Arundel County also requested a grant agreement change from all electric to a hybrid diesel-electric system. The Regional Chesapeake Bay Ferry project has not submitted for ferry design and construction funding and therefore was not subject to any pause in grant funding.

City Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Project - The City is partnering with the Resilience Authority and Anne Arundel County to install charging infrastructure at the Annapolis Police Department, as part of a larger effort to electrify the AA County fleet. Two level II dual port chargers and one level III DCFC have been identified as needed at APD to serve the six command staff vehicles. We are starting with one location, to ensure smooth transition of vehicles and to create a strategy for EVSE and vehicle acquisition one facility at a time, or at additional sites as possible. This is the start of the process of electrifying the fleet wherever possible. The City is also exploring a detailed fleet assessment providing timelines for replacement, replacement vehicles options, maintenance costs, energy and emissions savings, etc. The program, hosted by MD Energy Savers and funded by BGE, provides the analysis for \$2500 (reimbursable). The process to evaluate the City's application and provide the analysis is estimated at four months and should be concluded by June 2026. R&S and Central Services are working collaboratively on all aspects of fleet electrification.

Project Summary: Utilizing EECBG grant funds from the DOE, the City will begin implementing EVSE (EV infrastructure for future charging purposes) at facilities to aid in the City fleet transition to electric vehicles.

STORMWATER RESTORATION PROJECTS AND FEES

Annapolis Maritime Resilience Initiative (AMRI) - 10 top priority projects were identified and prioritized and are moving towards 10 percent design as per funding requirements; however, funds may be sufficient to design to 30%. Also, back flow preventers are planned for street ends in the core area of Eastport. It is being considered whether back flow preventers will be installed at all Eastport street ends. Vulnerable areas and priorities were determined after gathering information during two public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and field analyses.

Project Summary: The AMRI initiative is funded by a NFWF grant of \$820K for feasibility assessment, including public engagement, and design. The project will identify, prioritize, and begin design for critical resilience building nature-based projects for the Back Creek watershed, focusing on Eastport, to address sea level rise, flooding, and shoreline and streamline erosion. 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 - The City identified back flow preventers at street ends as an effective stormwater control measure. See above in the AMRI discussion.

Project Summary: 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 street). The City also has \$120K through the Army Corps of Engineers to model the stormwater system in Eastport and provide recommendations for improvements. The Eastport Flood Mitigation project is being developed in tandem with the closely associated AMRI.

RESILIENCE BUILDING/HABITAT & ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION - GRAY and GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Severn Whole Watershed Partnership - The Partnership is prioritizing projects and monitoring plans to submit to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of the Environment for funding for years two through five of the five year grant and developing a monitoring plan. Based on Year 1 funding, the Partnership is building its proposal on the Year 1 funding level of \$2,250,000 in the areas of outreach and engagement, planning and design, implementation, and maintenance. The Partnership is monitoring state budget discussions that began in January 2026.

Year 1 projects were agreed to in early September by the state management team (Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Critical Area Commission, the Maryland Department of Planning, and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.) Most of the \$2M of Year 1 water quality and ecological improvement projects are within City limits. An additional \$250,000 is designated for water quality monitoring.

Project Summary: On March 6, 2025, DNR announced that the Severn River Watershed Project was selected as one of the five projects for funding over a five-year period through the Maryland Whole Watershed Act grant program. The Resilience Authority negotiates the level of funding and the projects selected for funding with the state partnership. (\$43M in projects across the Severn River watershed were identified in the application). \$2M in implementation funding and \$250,000 in water quality monitoring funding was provided in year one by the State; funding for future years is TBD. The Severn watershed proposal was selected for the category of “predominantly suburban area.” The grants cover work for restoring watershed function and ecological uplift, with a focus on impaired, cold-water habitats.. Local stakeholder organizations are part of the partnership with the City, County, and Resilience Authority. The project is a comprehensive, watershed-scale approach to ecosystem restoration that includes infrastructure improvements and community-driven planning. The Severn Partnership’s application was submitted by the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County along with the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and over 20 local watershed organizations and community partners.

Hawkins Cove: UPDATE - Applications for MDE and Army Corps of Engineers permits were submitted in May 2025 based on 90 percent design plans. MDE paused their review under COMAR requirements until the proposed project is in compliance with local land use regulations. An amendment to the City harbor lines to achieve this compliance was passed at the 4/13/26 City Council meeting.

Truxtun Green Network Connector: In June 2026, the the Maryland Board of Public Works approved a \$700,000 DNR Green Space Equity (GSE) award for the Truxtun Green Network Connector, a project to formalize the trail between Hawkins Cove and Primrose Road (Phase 1), then connecting to the Truxtun Park Spa Creek north trailhead (Phase 2).

Environmental Finance Center (EFC) MD Resilience Action Planning: UPDATE - A site visit has been conducted at downtown locations of concern for stormwater and resilience. Community partners (breaking boundaries, AEC), are being engaged to establish a stakeholder meeting to strategize for enhanced resilience engagement with City communities. The goal is to identify how to move forward with closing gaps on resilience efforts for the future of the City.

The consultants continue to examine City policies, practices, and plans to develop nature-based solution recommendations and identify community assets and priority areas.

Project Summary: UMD's Environmental Finance Center invited Annapolis to participate in a 4-month coastal resilience seminar series, with 7 other coastal jurisdictions. Following resilience-building education seminars, the Project Advisory Group began technical assistance to each jurisdiction to develop a Resilience Work Plan prioritizing nature-based projects. Jackie Guild and Dyland Laconich are the staff representatives for Annapolis, Cathy Welker represents the Environmental Commission, Rob Savidge is the elected representative, and Breaking Boundaries, LLC (Randy Rowell) is the local disadvantaged communities representative.

OTHER PROJECTS

Electric Leaf Blower Enforcement - UPDATE: Planning & Zoning is responsible for enforcement of this ordinance. Environmental Programs Manager, Dylan Laconich, The Department of Planning & Zoning (DPZ) is offering overtime to inspectors who provide leaf blower enforcement through patrols and citations on weekends. A job description for a temporary (3 months), part-time, leaf blower inspector was prepared in the Fall of 2025 but was not advertised by HR.

Electric Leaf Blower Financial Assistance Program - UPDATE: As of May 2026, the City has spent \$36,000+ on rebates and administrative fees with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to process 170+ rebates for the leaf blower program. CBT and R&S are conducting outreach for Spring 2026 in the form of events and informative outreach. Recent feedback from CBT report more commercial applications processed. On October 1, 2025 the City's electric leaf blower rebate program went live. Approximately 5,900 rebate information mailers were sent to residents and commercial lawn care/landscaping businesses. The City has entered into a one-year (renewable) agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to administer and report upon the City's electric leaf blower rebate program.

Project Summary: The City entered into a one-year (renewable) agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to administer and report upon the City's electric leaf blower rebate program. \$105,000 is available with FY26 funds for a residential and commercial rebate program for residents and commercial landscape/lawn care companies to assist community members transition to electric leaf blowers. The annual residential rebate is \$100 and the commercial rebate is \$1500.

Conservation Easements research - McCrone has provided CAD restorations and assessments on easements, and the City GIS team will work with R&S to create a comprehensive map of the City's easements with details on maintenance, ownership, etc.

Project Summary: R&S is working with City contractor McCrone Engineering on data verification and visual representation of confirmed and suspected easement boundaries. McCrone is also completing documentation of City easements, including unlisted easements which are referred to in planning documents. For easements which are described but not mapped, the firm will provide a map of the area. McCrone is specialized in surveying, engineering, and land records, and has previously contracted with

the City for this type of work. Further input from DPZ has been provided from their review of Planning Commission meetings regarding intention to create easements.

CLIMATE CHANGE LITIGATION - UPDATE: The case is closed. On March 24, 2026, the Supreme Court of Maryland dismissed climate change lawsuits filed by Baltimore, Anne Arundel County, and Annapolis against major fossil fuel companies. The court ruled that these local governments were attempting to regulate global greenhouse gas emissions through state law, which is preempted by federal authority, particularly the Clean Air Act. The court dismissed arguments that the suits were merely about deceptive marketing, finding they were aimed at regulating interstate emissions. Justice Brynja M. Booth wrote that the lawsuits stretched state tort law beyond its legal boundaries and exceeded the police powers of local governments. The court's decision creates a split with other state supreme courts that have allowed similar suits to move forward. The City's counsel, Sher Edling, advised the City that pursuing the case further will not be fruitful. On February 24, 2026 the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) agreed to hear Boulder v. Suncor, a case in which the Colorado Supreme Court held that state law (more favorable to plaintiffs) applies to climate-deception cases. A SCOTUS opinion is not expected until Spring 2027 in the Boulder case. Importantly, SCOTUS instructed the litigants to address an additional question in their briefs and at oral argument: *whether the Supreme Court has the power to hear the case at all*.

In the Annapolis case, the three jurisdictions jointly appealed the dismissal of their lawsuits by lower courts that ruled that the claims by the Cities and the County could not be brought under state law.

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. Claims include public and private nuisance, strict liability, negligent failure to warn, and trespass.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Outreach/social media - UPDATE: R&S staff is reaching approximately 1.5k community members with newsletter, social media and events. Several summer sustainability-related topics will be posted in May, June, and July such as Sustainable Summer Tips, outreach on the electric leaf blower rebate program, Native plants, and pollinator protection.

STAFF, FELLOWS, AND INTERNS

Fleet Hiring - Central Services conducted interviews for a Fleet Manager and Fleet Analyst (new position) to focus on EV purchasing. R&S staff (Ashleigh Diaz) sat on the interview panel for all 13 interviews to ensure priorities are aligned regarding fleet transition. Both positions are now in the final round of interviews with the Director of Central Services.

U. Baltimore Intern - Katherine Forste joined R&S in early January for a semester-long internship focused on environmental public policy. Katherine will continue with R&S this summer.

Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), Chesapeake Climate and Conservation Corps - NEW: R&S interviewed applicants who wish to work for the City. Several top candidates are selecting Annapolis as their first choice. In August, CBT will match applicants with host jurisdictions..