City of Annapolis

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2026

Report to Environmental Committee and Environmental Commission

ENERGY EFFICIENCY/ CLEAN ENERGY

Congressional Earmark Application - NEW: In early March, R&S submitted a Congressional earmark funding application to Rep. Elfreth for solar and microgrid backup (battery storage and a generator) at the Emergency Operations Center. Depending on feedback from Senator Van Hollen's office, the Senate earmark application may include solar installations and microgrids at other emergency services facilities, including the Eastport Fire Station, the Forest Drive police station, the Department of Public Works Maintenance buildings 39 Hudson Street)(, and Pip Moyer Recreation Center (as an emergency shelter and a cooling and warming center).

Solar Inventory and Strategy Coordination with Anne Arundel County and the Resilience Authority - NEW: 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 Local Government Modernization Program (L-GEM) Grant Application - NEW: R&S 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 - NEW: R&S received solar technical assistance from MEA to perform solar installation 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. In total, DOE canceled 223 grants totaling $7.5 billion.

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.

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.

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) - UPDATE: The City has 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) - UPDATE: BGE is nearing completion of conversion of approximately 70 fixtures to LED, and is processing invoices. Upon receipt of a final invoice, the City will submit to MEA for reimbursement. The City has processed work orders through BGE to change out more than 70 street lights throughout the City. 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 KERMIDA, INC.is vetting recommendations with City staff for feasibility and alignment with City projects. Once this information is incorporated into the climate action plan (CAP), the CAP will be shared with the public for input. The R&S team has continued to engage the public with KERAMIDA, INC., through public town halls, webinars, online forms, and poster boards at facilities. Strategies for implementation have been explored through several stakeholder/ expert meetings.. Consultant, KERAMIDA, Inc. has run an initial analysis and provided a full report of the GHG inventory, nearing final approval and posting on the City website..

Project Summary: 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 estimated cost of Phase II, this project was split into two phases: 1) the data inventory and reduction measures and 2) the pollution reduction plan/climate action plan. The project was funded in the FY26 budget.

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 received a bid from Riverbend Nursery, the selected vendor for maintenance of existing green roofs on City facilities (police headquarters, Pip Moyer Recreation Center, and DPW maintenance facility). An update from Central Service on project implementation is pending.

Project Description: 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 monitoring requirements 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), is experienced in working on native meadows in Maryland and is experienced in installing meadows above soil caps. The firm has estimated

implementation costs of about $6000 per acre, which enables the City roughly 35 acres per the budget provisions in the Capital Improvement Program. The site may be planted in phases over multiple years. Current funding is sufficient for design and implementation of a significant area of usable planting space. Once a final design and project timeline is developed, the City will reapproach Novis Renewables, the solar facility operator, regarding potential its financial participation in the project.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES/CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

MEA - Community Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Grant Program - NEW: R&S has submitted an application to the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) for the community EVSE grant program to launch a pilot of 5 "voltpost" chargers attached to downtown lightposts. R&S provided a presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission for feedback on preserving historic character. Planning funds have been requested for several other sites in the City to provide better community EV charging infrastructure.

Electric Street Cars/Trolley - UPDATE: In February, 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. The RFP will be readvertised after receiving feedback from MTA. The feasibility study will capture options beyond transit beyond street cars and the associated economic, development, and community enhancement opportunities. Also, the Deputy City Manager for R&S and Alderman Savidget will attend the annual Streetcar Summit in Kansas City, MO in April to continue to gather information useful to the City's evaluation of a trolley system.

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 will provide 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: 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. 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 - UPDATE: 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 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). R&S and Central Services will work together to launch this project by mid-February. The process to evaluate the City's application and provide the analysis is estimated at four months and should be concluded by June 2026.

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. Having reliable charging infrastructure helps set the stage for the vehicle transition and decreases unease regarding charging availability (otherwise known as Range Anxiety).

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 - UPDATE: 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: The last public outreach meeting was held in October 2025 on revised design plans. R&S staff assisted DPW with the design and production of public outreach materials. Applications for MDE and Army Corps of Engineers permits were submitted in May 2025 based on 90 percent design plans. In June, the, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved a $700,000 DNR Green Space Equity (GSE) award for the Truxton Green Network Connector, a project to formalize the trail between Hawkins Cove and Primrose Road (Phase 1), then connecting to the Truxton Park Spa Creek north trailhead (Phase 2).

MD Resilience Action Planning - DPW stormwater engineers provided project information and stormwater mitigation needs to the consultant, Straughan Environmental to complete the "Ready for Resilience" analysis step of the project. 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

CBT Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps - The City of Annapolis R&S team will participate as a one-year host site for the CBT Climate Corps program which provides experience to young climate professionals. Interviews begin in the spring. Corps members begin work in August 2026.

Smart Lighting Pilot Program - UPDATE: R&S has ultimately decided that the offerings of USIGNITE are not consistent with the capabilities and needs of the City after collaborating with MIT, Central Services and DOT. The proposed technology would provide a public Wi-FI pilot to expand the capabilities of transportation options, accessibility, and public safety in town.

Electric Leaf Blower Enforcement - 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 has been prepared for review and advertising by the Department of Human Resources. This employee will work on weekdays during regular DPZ hours.

Electric Leaf Blower Financial Assistance Program - UPDATE: As of December 19, 2025 the City has spent $32,057.13 on rebates and administrative fees with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to process 163 rebates for the leaf blower program. On October 1, 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: $105,000 is available with FY26 funds for a residential and commercial rebate program for residents and commercial landscape/lawn care companies to transition assistance in meeting the City's legislation banning the use of gas powered leaf blowers. The annual residential rebate is $100 and the commercial rebate is $1500.

Conservation Easements research - UPDATE: 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.

Project Summary: The Annapolis Board (ACB) wishes to verify and document completely properties encumbered by city conservation easements within City limits. This project will rectify City records, assist the Conservation Board in maintenance of easement properties and identification of properties to be acquired for conservation, and avoid liability and legal questions concerning encumbered properties.

CLIMATE CHANGE LITIGATION - UPDATE: On February 24, 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. The City's lawyers are evaluating what this means for the consolidated Annapolis, Anne Arundel, Baltimore case heard by the Supreme Court of Maryland on October 6 and on which the City is awaiting a decision. We expect that the defendants in the Annapolis case will move to stay the SupremeCourt of Maryland's decision until SCOTUS hears the Colorado case and issues an opinion. A SCOTUS opinion is not expected until Spring 2027. Importantly, SCOTS 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.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

E-newsletter- UPDATE: The most recent edition went out on March 2, and will be followed by a special Earth Month edition in April, before going back to bimonthly. The March edition highlights tree planting programs, the new stormwater facility maintenance program, home energy efficiency opportunities, and more. We are changing the format of this e-newsletter, utilizing a larger platform (Mail Chimp) for a more interactive experience, (e.g. table of contents with clickable links, more content blocks, more space for images, polls, etc.) that should go live with the April newsletter. The previous editions can be found on the Resilience & Sustainability webpage, and to sign up you can email Ashleigh Diaz adiaz@annapolis.gov.

Outreach/social media - **UPDATE:** R&S staff created a social media content to celebrate Black History Month, where one black environmentalist was highlighted each week of the month. Some of the featured persons were local to Maryland, others represented the intersection of climate justice, civil rights, and environmentalism. This was a well-received social media campaign that R&S staff Ashleigh Diaz worked with Adetolah and Mitchelle Stephenson on messaging and posting. All posts can be viewed on the City Instagram account. For March and April, graphics will go out regarding Earth Month events.. Please see directly below for a graphic of all currently scheduled upcoming events. Event announcements will be made one month ahead of events.

Upcoming Spring Events

Celebrate Earth Month & More

Earth Day

April 11

Drawing Workshop

Pip Moyer Rec Center, Noon -2pm

Local artist Heather Kerley will teach you to draw pollinators! A presentation will be given on the importance of pollinators. Ages 10+, please register early, seats limited.

Earth Day

April 22

A Tribute to Tributaries: ft. Fred Tutman

City Council Chambers, 6-8pm

Join us for a presentation from the Patuxent Riverkeeper followed by a Q&A. Refreshments and goodies will be offered.

May 9

Exact location TBD

World Migratory Bird Day

City Dock/downtown, 10am-1pm

Come out to our event event with lots of goodies, information, & more ft. the Anne Arundel Bird Club and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

EMAIL ADIAZ@ANNAPOLIS.GOV TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFO

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update

The City is developing a Climate Action Plan (CAP), in partnership with KERAMIDA, to accelerate progress toward local climate goals and advance a healthier, more resilient community.

Look for a draft CAP in our next newsletter!

Annapolis Environmental Commission has 4 vacancies.
Email staff liaison adiaz@annapolis.gov

STAFF, FELLOWS, AND INTERNS

Fleet Hiring - NEW: Central Services is scheduling interviews for a new Fleet Manager and a Fleet Analyst (new position) to focus on EV purchasing.

YSEALI Fellow - NEW: Teoh ZhiXuan, a young professional from Malaysia, will be joining the R&S and DPW staff from March 16 through April 15 as part of the Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) that places 25-35 year old professionals throughout the U.S. for learning experiences. While "G" is with the City, he will focus on a recycling initiative that will be decided upon within the next week. This leadership program is sponsored by the International City County Managers Association in partnership with the U.S. Department of State.

U. Baltimore Intern - UPDATE: Katherine Forste joined R&S in early January for a semester-long internship focused on environmental public policy. Thus far, Katherine updated the EV fleet memorandum comparing Maryland and other local jurisdictions laws on fleet requirements. She is also working on Earth Month events and assisting with energy efficiency initiatives to help residents and businesses reduce electricity use and save money.