



2016

Office of Sustainability Annual Report *Montgomery County, MD*



DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND

Working together for a cleaner, greener
economically vibrant community



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In June 2014, Montgomery County adopted legislation directing the creation of an Office of Sustainability in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The goal of the Office is to promote sustainability in Montgomery County in collaboration with residents, businesses, and community-based organizations through activities related to energy efficiency and renewable energy, green business development, trees and forests, environmental education and outreach, and other environmental programs.

Background

In January 2009, Montgomery County published the [Montgomery County, Maryland Climate Protection Plan \(CPP\)](#). The CPP was prepared by the Montgomery County Sustainability Working Group (SWG), an advisory panel made up of 26 representatives from government, business, non-profit associations and the public. The SWG was supported by DEP and seven subcommittees made up of nearly 100 other individuals. The CPP contained 58 specific recommendations across a broad spectrum of activities designed to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In June 2014, the County Council adopted legislation (County Bill 6-14) that directed the creation of two new offices within the County government to further the work done by the SWG. These two offices – DEP’s Office of Sustainability and the Office of Energy and

Sustainability in the Department of General Services (DGS) – would address a broad range of issues intended to maintain Montgomery County as a leader in sustainability.

DGS’s Office of Energy and Sustainability was tasked with undertaking initiatives to make County government operations, including the government’s buildings and fleet, more energy efficient and sustainable. DEP’s Office of Sustainability was to be “outward” facing and work to promote sustainability in the community by developing programs for, and in conjunction with, residents, businesses, and community-based organizations.

As required by Section 18A-13 of the Montgomery County Code, DEP’s Office of Sustainability is required to, among other things:

- Annually report its activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives
- Annually report actions taken to implement the CCP, and progress toward meeting the greenhouse gas reduction goals in the CPP
- Evaluate options for a broader Countywide sustainability reporting framework
- Apply a scoring system every two years designed to compare the County to other local jurisdictions on energy efficiency policies and programs

Report Overview

The 2016 Office of Sustainability Annual Report is structured as follows:

Section 2: Office of Sustainability Activities – This section provides a summary of the major programmatic initiatives of the Office during 2015, including the initiation of significant activities related to commercial building energy efficiency programs, and the launching of the Tree Montgomery program designed to plant canopy trees utilizing funds from the Tree Canopy Law.

Section 3: Benchmarking Sustainability – As noted above, the Office of Sustainability is charged with reporting on progress made toward implementing the CPP, benchmarking the County against others with regard to energy efficiency policies and programs, and evaluating a broader Countywide sustainability reporting framework. This section introduces a comprehensive sustainability reporting framework for achieving each of these objectives.

Section 4: Metrics – This section includes tables, charts and graphs that provide a look at where the County stands relative to a variety of sustainability measures, including building energy use and its associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Section 5: Partners in Sustainability – DEP’s Office of Sustainability plays an important role in making Montgomery County more sustainable. However, it is the collective work of residents, businesses, municipalities, other governmental departments and agencies, and a variety of community-based organizations that makes the work of the Office of Sustainability possible. This section highlights just a few of the actions and programs that are representative of the efforts by individuals, businesses, and organizations to make Montgomery County more sustainable.