



# Environmental Resources in Montgomery County, MD



**Working together for a cleaner, greener,  
economically vibrant community.**

[montgomerycountymd.gov/dep](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/dep)



# Water

## RainScapes

Beautify your property and help protect our local waters! Install a RainScape at your home, community property, or business, and receive financial rebates.

There are different types of RainScapes: rain gardens, conservation landscaping, pervious pavement, green roofs, and rain barrels. Each practice helps capture and reduce stormwater runoff.

- Residential properties can receive up to \$2,500 in rebates
- HOAs, businesses, multi-family properties, and institutions can receive up to \$10,000 in rebates

The RainScapes program also provides technical assistance and guides. Learn more and apply at [rainscapes.org](https://rainscapes.org)



## Stormwater Facility Maintenance

There are thousands of stormwater management facilities in the County, ranging from ponds, to bioretentions and underground facilities. Each facility requires maintenance to keep it functioning.

DEP inspects each facility every 3 years, so it is vital to know if your property has a facility, and to understand how to maintain it and keep it functioning.

DEP has numerous resources to help owners maintain their facilities, including:

- Maintenance fact sheets
- Technical advice and guidance
- Transfer agreements
- Lists of contractors

[montgomerycountymd.gov/water/stormwater/maintenance.html](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/water/stormwater/maintenance.html)



A RainScape at the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley



# Water

## Education Programs and Grants

Engaging the public in protecting our streams is a cornerstone of our programming. Our goal is to educate residents about the ways their actions impact our streams, and how anyone can take positive steps to improve water quality. We provide:

- Presentations on our local waters and County efforts to clean our watersheds
- Watershed restoration grants for non-profits
- Volunteer cleanups and anti-littering outreach
- Family education, including art programs, citizen science, and events

[montgomerycountymd.gov/water/education](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/water/education)



## GreenFest

The County's annual environmental celebration is a great opportunity to learn about the latest green programs. It is also fun for the whole family with music, exhibitors, games, kids tree climbing, and workshops.

GreenFest is the first Saturday in May.  
[montgomerycountygreenfest.org](http://montgomerycountygreenfest.org)

## Pet Waste

Did you know that pet waste is a cause of bacterial pollution in our streams?

DEP provides communities educational signage and resources to encourage owners to scoop that poop!

Plus, DEP has a program for HOAs and private communities, without their own pet waste management programs, to install pet waste collection stations.

[montgomerycountymd.gov/water/education](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/water/education)

## Reduce Your Water Quality Protection Charge

If you have a stormwater management facility on your property, you may be eligible for a reduction off your property tax bill. Learn and apply at [montgomerycountymd.gov/wqpc](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/wqpc)



There's no such thing as the poop fairy.



# Trash & Recycling

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Buy Recycled

Did you know that Montgomery County has a goal to reduce waste and recycle 70% by 2020?



All residents, multi-family properties (apartments and condominiums), and businesses (including non-profits and government) are required to recycle mixed paper and cardboard, commingled materials (bottles, cans, jars, and containers), scrap metal, yard trim, and holiday trees.

The County provides weekly curbside recycling collection service to single-family households (in the non-municipal areas of the County). Property owners are responsible for ensuring residents of multi-family properties have access to on-site recycling programs.

[montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling)



### Education

DEP provides education, training, and technical assistance to help communities and properties maximize waste reduction and increase recycling, including:

- Community presentations
- Educational displays at events
- Educational materials to increase awareness of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling
- Recycling containers, labels, and more

### Recycling Bins

Residents of single-family homes that receive County-provided recycling collection services use a 64-gallon wheeled recycling cart for recycling mixed paper and cardboard, and a 22-gallon blue bin for recycling bottles, cans, and containers.

If you need a mixed paper cart, call 311. The 22-gallon recycling containers can be requested by calling 311 or they can be ordered online. The County delivers recycling containers to individual homes.

Residents of apartments and condominiums are provided 6-gallon "baby blue" recycling bins for their units. The County provides property managers with supplies of these recycling bins, which they distribute to residents.

[montgomerycountymd.gov/sws](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/sws)



# Trash & Recycling

## Facilities

What happens to my trash and recycling?

All trash, collected from single-family households, as well as from some multi-family properties and businesses, is delivered to Montgomery County's Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station. From there, the trash is placed on rail cars and sent to the County's Resource Recovery Facility where electricity is generated. The ash generated is then sent by train to Virginia where it is recycled.

Recyclable materials are processed at the County's Recycling Center. Commingled materials are separated into individual types of plastics, glass, metal cans, aluminum foil, and aluminum cans. Mixed paper is sorted into cardboard and mixed paper. The recyclable materials are then marketed and sent to various recycling processors.

Yard trim is composted at the Composting Facility where the material is made into a beneficial soil conditioner called Leafgro®.

Tours of our facilities are available.

[montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/facilities](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/facilities)



## Compost Bins

DEP provides backyard compost bins at no additional charge for residents. These bins are great for recycling yard trim materials (grass clippings and leaves) right in your backyard. The finished product can then be mixed with top soil or potting soil as a great conditioner for the soil. Compost bins are available at more than 20 convenient locations across the County.

[montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim)





# Energy

Do you need help navigating all the energy tools and resources that are out there?

DEP Energy staff can help:

- Find assistance for low-income seniors and homeowners
- Guide businesses to available rebates and financial incentives
- Host interactive presentations about energy

[montgomerycountymd.gov/green/energy](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/green/energy)



## Energy Benchmarking

You can't manage what you don't measure.

To start saving money on your property's utility bills, use EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager – a free, online tool to track your building's energy, water, and waste data and compare your performance against other buildings.

Benchmarking alone can help cut your utility bills by 2-7%, and is a great first step towards identifying conservation projects. If your building is a top performer, you can apply for the ENERGY STAR label for added recognition.

[energystar.gov/multifamily](http://energystar.gov/multifamily)

## Green Bank

The Montgomery County Green Bank's mission is to create affordable financing options with low upfront costs for clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades for residents and businesses.

If your property is located within the Pepco service area of Montgomery County, you may be eligible for financing products offered by the Green Bank, making renewable energy and energy efficiency projects more affordable.

[mcgreenbank.org](http://mcgreenbank.org)

### Contact Your Utility Company

Did you know that your electricity and natural gas company also offer financial incentives for energy (and money!) saving projects?

Ask about the EmPOWER MD program!



# Community Greening

## Tree Montgomery

Tree Montgomery is a FREE program to plant shade trees. The goal is simple – to increase the County’s tree canopy to provide a wide array of benefits for you and your community.



Tree Montgomery plants trees on residential, HOA, multi-family, and business properties. If you apply, DEP will work closely with you to choose locations and species to plant.

Learn more at [treemontgomery.org](http://treemontgomery.org)

## Lawn Care

Organic lawn care is healthier for your family, pets, grass, and the environment. DEP staff is here to help guide you to switching to organic lawn care practices in both small backyards and large community lawns.

Our program provides resources and guidance on changing lawn care practices.

[montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns)

## Green Business Program

Support businesses that are trying to help the environment.

The Green Business Certification Program recognizes County businesses, including landscapers, caterers, offices, and accountants.

[mcgreenbiz.org](http://mcgreenbiz.org)



A Tree Montgomery planting at a multi-family community

## Enforcement of Environmental Laws

On occasion, DEP staff is called in to address violations of County environmental laws, including:

- Illegal dumping
- Pollution in streams or storm drains
- Air quality issues
- Noise and odor complaints
- Trash and recycling violations

To learn more, visit:

[montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/contact.html](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/contact.html)



# Get to Know DEP



More than 1,200 people attended GreenFest 2018 in Silver Spring.



DEP efforts help the County achieve its aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals.



DEP restores streams, and builds and maintains ponds and RainScapes.



DEP's biological monitoring program studies the wildlife and water quality of our streams.



DEP hosts paper shredding and donation events.



DEP provides awards and recognition for environmental achievement.



Tree Montgomery planted more than 2,000 trees on private property in the last 3 years.



DEP leads volunteer events with our Stream Stewards and Recycling Volunteers programs.



DEP provides curbside recycling collections to ~218,000 single-family homes.

For more on all the programs featured here, visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/dep](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/dep)



Questions? Call 3-1-1  
or visit [mc311.com](http://mc311.com)

(Outside Montgomery County, call 240-777-0311)  
TTY 301-251-4850

Email DEP at  
[AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Follow us on social media at  
[montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/socialmedia](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/socialmedia)



Find additional community programs, events, and incentives to help you live a greener life at [mygreenmontgomery.org](http://mygreenmontgomery.org)



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