

# Montgomery County, MD

## FY22 Climate Work Plan

### Quarter 2 Updates

#### Highlights:

- **Clean Energy:** DEP selected EV Advisors, LLC, to assist with the development of a Community Choice Energy Program.
- **Buildings:** Montgomery College installed submeters to monitor and track thermal energy (chilled water and hot water) in 37 buildings across its three campuses. Using real-time data, this effort will generate accurate benchmarking data and allow building operations diagnosis.
- **Buildings:** MCPS has issued a Request for Proposals for Energy Savings Performance Contracts, requesting analyses of two sample schools to expand the program to the full MCPS portfolio.
- **Transportation:** MCDOT implemented the first dedicated bus lane project in the County (in Germantown) and expanded micromobility services to the Germantown area.
- **Transportation:** The MCPS EV school bus charging infrastructure is complete and operational for the first location at the Bethesda Depot. Fourteen buses have been delivered to MCPS and are in the process of road-testing.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** MCDOT is administering a tree planting grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, with nearly 100 trees planted in the right-of-way in Q2 and an additional 150 planned for planting in spring 2022.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Montgomery Parks held its first ever urban wood sale, making wood slabs and lumber sawn from its portable sawmill available to the public for purchase. Montgomery Parks' urban wood reuse program turns hazardous trees removed from parkland into lumber and other wood products.
- **Climate Adaptation:** OEMHS has signed a grant agreement with the US Department of Homeland Security to receive 24-34 new flood sensors. These new sensors will be placed on or near road crossings that frequently flood and at private owned dams which do not currently have flood sensors.
- **Governance:** MCDOT, DGS, and DEP are working with the Department of Defense/Walter Reed and surrounding community to identify climate change related vulnerabilities in the transportation, energy, and stormwater sectors and develop a Resiliency Implementation Plan for the Installation.
- **Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education:** The Maryland Coalition of Counties and Cities for Climate Action, a statewide climate coalition of local governments, has launched and is meeting regularly.

## Racial Equity & Social Justice Highlights:

- HHS Latino Health Initiative (LHI) conducted 6 Virtual physical activity sessions (“Charlemos con Zumba,” or “Lets Chat with Zumba”) in Spanish, between November and December 2021. Zumba sessions included a presentation and discussion with participants on various climate related topics. LHI has partnered with staff from DEP and Montgomery Parks to have the presentations and discussions delivered by subject matter experts. 13 participants attended the sessions on average.
- Leaders from HHS’s Community Action Agency (CAA), African American Health Program (AAHP) and LHI met with DEP and its partners to plan the launch of the new Climate Stories project, considering barriers to participation, and using best practices learned through their experiences of working with people with lived experience. This included listening sessions with Community Action Board leaders, who suggested framing the program to align closely with specific health and social, and economic consequences of climate change which disproportionately impacts the county’s economically and racially diverse residents.

## Legislative and Regulatory Policy Highlights:

### Legislative

- Two County Council Transportation & Environment Committee work sessions were held on Bill 16-21, which would establish Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) for commercial and multifamily buildings 25,000 square feet and larger. The next work session on the bill has not been announced.
- Amendments to the C-PACE law developed by DEP and FIN were introduced to the County Council on November 30, 2021. A public hearing was held on January 11, 2022; a committee work session date has not yet been announced.
- The County Council introduced Bill 44-21 in November 2021 to provide 10% of the Fuel Energy Tax to the Green Bank to further its work in the County.

### Regulations:

- The PSC Community Choice workgroup meetings are being held every two weeks, to develop the framework for the Community Choice Energy (CCE) program. Topics discussed so far include the timing of the transition of County customers to the CCE program, the effect of this on Standard Offer Service provided by utilities, and customer billing issues.



# Clean Energy

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<b>E-1: Community Choice Energy (CCE) Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop CCE implementation plan.</li> <li>• Participate in Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) workgroup to develop the regulatory framework for the program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSC Community Choice workgroup meetings are being held every two weeks. Topics discussed so far include the timing of the transition of County customers to the CCE program, the effect of this on Standard Offer Service (SOS) provided by utilities, and customer billing issues.</li> <li>• EV Advisors, LLC, was selected to support the County’s initial efforts to develop a CCE program, including the development of a CCE program plan and assistance with the PSC workgroup process.</li> </ul>
<b>E-2: Private Building Solar Photovoltaic Code Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt Appendix ZE (a net-zero energy stretch code) with the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for both commercial and residential including major alterations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPS is working with stakeholders to explore options for the 2021 IECC. The 2021 codes are currently under review at the state level. Once the state publishes the 2021 codes, the County can move to public engagement.</li> </ul>
<b>E-3: Promote Private Solar Photovoltaic Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote residential solar installations through the annual solar co-op program.</li> <li>• Explore programs, incentives, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP surveyed commercial entities, installers, and hosted conversations with installers and the Green Bank regarding barriers and opportunities to expand solar installations and is developing recommendations for programming possibilities or incentives.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>financing with the Green Bank and other partners to increase PV systems installations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve data collection of solar permitting and inspections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inaugural Capital Area Solar Co-op concluded in August 2021 with 235 signed contracts to install 2.1 MW of solar PV capacity on single-family homes in the region – 76 of those are in Montgomery County totaling 629 kW of installed capacity to come online by the end of the calendar year.</li> <li>• The SolarAPP+ pilot program, which allows applicants to obtain pre-approval for basic residential rooftop solar installations, is moving to next steps. DPS is currently working through Apply Online adjustments and issuance processes. There is no change in case management processes for large PV installations.</li> <li>• DPS's customer service section has moved large PV installations into its case management process. This puts additional focus and resources on projects deemed a high priority. The new database system is progressing on schedule and will allow DPS to continue to explore new data collection and reporting.</li> <li>• The Green Bank held a launch event for community solar at Paddington Square in August 2021. This is a 273 kW system with 91 subscriptions and 30% for low-and-moderate income households.</li> <li>• The Green Bank evaluated two portfolios of affordable housing owners for potential for solar on its properties and is developing a list of potential properties to further explore designs.</li> <li>• The Green Bank is finalizing the design of a solar PV program directed at low- and moderate-income households with a target to launch with the 2022 Solar Coop</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>program with one or two financing options for income qualifying homeowners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Green Bank’s Commercial Solar Power Purchase Agreement product has been in the market for just over six months and over 25 faith-based entities and other nonprofits have reached out to the Green Bank to evaluate their options. The Green Bank closed on its first project, a 100-kW system with Meadowbrook Stables, in December 2021.</li> <li>• OAG coordinated with equestrian landowners and solar installers to find sites in the Agricultural Reserve to build 2MW installations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>E-4: Public Facility Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Groundwork</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the Oaks landfill solar installation, generating 6 megawatts of electricity.</li> <li>• Complete the Scotland Community Center resilience hub and solar installation.</li> <li>• Complete Phase I of the Brookville Bus Depot microgrid and electric bus charging station installation.</li> <li>• Implement solar installations at selected MCPS schools.</li> <li>• Launch agrivoltaic study project in the Agricultural Reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions continue related to developing an agrivoltaic pilot site. DEP contracted with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to help develop an EFP for an agrivoltaic pilot and demonstration. The potential site on Revenue Authority property at the Poolesville Golf Course is still under consideration, in addition to other potential approaches. OAG and DGS are also supporting this effort.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks is currently working on a 67kW rooftop solar installation at Black Hill Regional Park. The project, currently being worked through the permitting process, will provide more than 80,000 kWh of clean energy to the operation of the park.</li> <li>• Montgomery College identified and included in its Utility Master Plan potential spaces for solar PV on each campus.</li> <li>• The DGS Oaks landfill solar project has completed design and construction is expected to be</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement solar installations at selected M-NCPPC locations.</li> </ul>	<p>completed in fall 2022. The Montgomery Planning Board approved the Mandatory Referral in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DGS Scotland Recreation Center resilience hub has completed Design Phase; Construction Phase is expected to be completed in spring 2022. See also A-8 below.</li> <li>The DGS Brookville Smart Energy Depot has completed design and hosted a groundbreaking in September 2021. The Phase 1 construction is expected to be complete in summer 2022.</li> <li>The Green Bank continued its work with MCDOT on the possible use of four parking garages for community solar arrays that could be used with the HOC headquarters, affordable housing of HOC, and other subscribers including a target percent of income qualifying households.</li> <li>Eight additional school locations were approved by the MCPS BOE on 1/13/22. Once complete, this will bring the total for MCPS to 24 sites (which includes an expansion of the existing solar array at Clarksburg HS).</li> </ul>



# Buildings

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>B-3: Energy Performance Standard for Existing Commercial &amp; Multifamily Buildings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete building typology study to inform standards.</li> <li>• Participate in public hearing and Council work sessions about the Building Energy Performance Standard bill; continue outreach to external stakeholders.</li> <li>• Subject to passage of the bill, draft regulations and identify state-level legislative solutions to overcome enforcement challenges.</li> <li>• Subject to passage of the bill, establish the BEPS Advisory Board.</li> <li>• Develop position descriptions for BEPS program implementation.</li> <li>• Continue exploration of expanding DC Building Innovation Hub into a regional entity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building typology study to inform BEPS regulations will be released in February 2022.</li> <li>• The Council continues to review the BEPS legislation sent by the County Executive in April 2021; the initial T&amp;E work session occurred on October 28, 2021, and a second T&amp;E work session occurred on December 9, 2021. Additional work sessions are anticipated in early 2022.</li> <li>• DEP is continuing to brief stakeholders on the BEPS legislation and is tracking those interested in joining the BEPS Advisory Board. DEP is developing a focus group platform to collect feedback on a technical assistance hub and/or one-stop shop assistance design and offerings.</li> <li>• The Green Bank initiated a pilot program in September 2021 to offer six technical assistance audits to commercial property owners to determine interest and manner that can support</li> </ul>

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		<p>owners. Two of the audits have been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Montgomery College installed submeters to monitor and track thermal energy (chilled water, and hot water) in 37 buildings across its three campuses. Using real-time data, this effort will generate accurate benchmarking data and allow building operations diagnosis.</li> <li>MCPS: RFP for Energy Savings Performance has been issued. Pre-qualification conference and site visits were conducted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B-5: All-Electric Building Code for New Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate adoption of the net-zero energy appendices to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and evaluate opportunities to include decarbonization language in the code.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPS is working with stakeholders to explore options for the 2021 IECC. The 2021 codes are currently under review at the state level. Once the state publishes the 2021 codes, the County will move to public engagement. DPS will utilize the New Buildings Institute decarbonization language during amendment proposal.</li> <li>DPS has a voting seat in the IECC Energy modeling and Net Zero Energy subcommittee.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B-6: Disincentivize and/ or Eliminate Natural Gas in New Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore next steps to address state-level preemption issues that constrain the County's ability to ban natural gas in new construction.</li> <li>Develop alternative strategies to a natural gas ban that disincentivize fossil fuels or incentivize electrification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The County is continuing to explore legal and building code strategies to disincentivize fossil fuel use and encourage electrification in newly constructed buildings.</li> <li>See B-5 for related DPS efforts.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>B-7: Net Zero Energy Building Code for New Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate opportunities to reach net-zero energy in both commercial and residential construction through the 2021 codes.</li> <li>• The Department of General Services has embarked on demonstrating commitment for net-zero buildings; design standard for new buildings is that they be net zero.</li> <li>• MCPS will assess if schools that are currently under construction can be made net zero.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPS is working with stakeholders to explore options for the 2021 IECC. The 2021 codes are currently under review at the state level. Once the state publishes the 2021 codes, the County will move to public engagement. DPS will utilize the New Buildings Institute decarbonization language during amendment proposal. Additionally, the 2018 International Green Construction Code, which was adopted in September 2021, will advance energy goals through enforcement on new construction over 5,000 square feet.</li> <li>• DPS continues to work with procurement to establish a contract with NPO, New Buildings Institute, to work through code modification scenarios. 2018 IgCC is now being enforced.</li> <li>• New DGS construction and major renovation projects that are currently in the design and planning phases have completed net zero studies. The completed net zero studies will inform the design standards and best practices to be utilized in future projects. Cost implications are included in the studies.</li> <li>• MCPS has submitted a Budget Request for capital funding for Sustainability Initiatives.</li> </ul>



# Transportation

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>T-1: Expand Public Transit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore County-operated bus services to full budgeted level in FY22.</li> <li>• Support project progress of Purple Line, Bethesda Metro South Entrance, Capital Crescent Trail, and Silver Spring Green Trail.</li> <li>• Continue design efforts for Veirs Mill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and 355 BRT; begin preliminary engineering for US29 BRT Phase 2; and perform preliminary engineering for Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Enhancements.</li> <li>• Pursue grant funding and federal funding opportunities.</li> <li>• Initiate transportation funding workgroup to identify funding resources for transit expansion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT has been working in Q2 to restore Ride On to higher service levels while still being impacted by Covid-19. Efforts include undertaking a proactive approach to attract and retain bus operators. Services are gradually being increased and will be at 80% of pre-Covid service levels in January 2022, with plans to be at or near full pre-Covid levels by January 2023.</li> <li>• MDOT/MTA is working on the re-solicitation of the design-build contractor for a public-private partnership contract that included the Purple Line and other County Funded Projects listed in this Action item. Technical and cost proposals are being reviewed. Board of Public Works approval anticipated in January 2022 and a team anticipated to be under contract by the Spring of 2022. The County expects to have a revised work plan and schedule from the State in Summer 2022.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinstigate Flex demand-response service.</li> <li>• Implement new bus priority program including acquiring State approvals for and implementation of dedicated bus lanes in three defined areas: Wheaton, Germantown, and US 29.</li> <li>• Initiate Reimagine Ride On system redesign plan and coordinate with and support WMATA bus network redesign plan).</li> <li>• Conduct study of potential for further reduced or free bus fares for all, or for sub-markets of the population.</li> <li>• Expand free fare hours of service on Ride On and Metrobus for seniors and people with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary design continues to advance for both Veirs Mill Road and MD 355 BRT. Preliminary design for US 29 BRT Phase 2 is awaiting completion of the US 29 Mobility and Reliability Study Part 2, requested by County Council T&amp;E Committee, to be completed and should start sometime next year. Preliminary engineering for Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Enhancement is beginning.</li> <li>• MCDOT has submitted a Bus and Bus Facilities grant proposal to upgrade the Silver Spring bus depot. MCDOT was not awarded RAISE funding as pursued for hydrogen fueling and associated bus fleet, but the application was considered strong enough by FTA to offer a post-application debrief with MCDOT in Q3 to inform and strengthen future grant applications by the County.</li> <li>• MCDOT is preparing to submit the Veirs Mill Road BRT for consideration as a Small Starts Federal Transit Administration Capital Infrastructure Grant project.</li> <li>• MCDOT established a transportation funding workgroup in September 2021. Members include County government employees, elected officials, private sector developers and construction industry. Mission and vision established and group learning underway to inform ultimate</li> </ul>

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		<p>recommendations planned to be released Q1 of FY23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT implemented the first red bus lane project in the County (in Germantown) in December 2021. The Bus Priority Program has funding for FY22, and MCDOT continues to work with MDOT SHA regarding the memorandum of understanding to implement bus lanes in Wheaton in FY22.</li> <li>• The MCDOT Reimagine Ride On project is progressing with a lead consultant being contracted to start in January 2022.</li> <li>• The MCDOT Fare Equity Study was completed, and a recommendation made from the County Executive to Council. Council voted to extend the free fare policy until July 2, 2022 while it considers long term policy options.</li> <li>• Free fares have been made permanent on Ride On for those under age 18 with Kids Ride Free and for Seniors and persons with disabilities. All these groups now ride Ride On for free all day every day.</li> <li>• MCDOT is supporting the WMATA fare demonstration sale that reduced the cost of bus and rail passes and established a \$2 flat weekend rail fare.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-2: Expand Active Transportation and Shared Micromobility Network</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance implementation of bikeway recommendations in the Bicycle Master Plan through capital projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks' 2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (approval pending) recommends improving active transportation using parks and trails to</li> </ul>

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	<p>and development approvals. Complement this low-stress bikeway network with expansion of bicycle parking resources, including corrals for dockless vehicles. Expand service areas and continue to pilot test personal mobility options (including shared e-scooters &amp; bikes) with view to move beyond the current pilot program to a longer-term program structure and financial plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor Learn-to-Ride bike and e-scooter classes; sponsor Bike-to-Work Day, Walk &amp; Ride Challenge, Car-Free Day, and other initiatives focused on promoting non-auto modes.</li> <li>• Continue aspects of the Shared Streets program to encourage active transportation and community use of public rights-of-way.</li> <li>• Transmit the proposed Complete Streets Design Guide to Council for adoption and begin efforts to amend the County Code and county regulations to be consistent with the Guide.</li> <li>• Coordinate with Transportation Planning Board consultant and</li> </ul>	<p>connect people to their work locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT advanced implementation of bikeway recommendations in the Bicycle Master Plan through capital projects and development approvals.</li> <li>• MCDOT continued construction of Capital Crescent Surface Trail Phase 1 and Woodmont Cycle Track and started construction of the Emory Lane and MD-115 Shared Use Path.</li> <li>• MCDOT started design of Forest Glen Passageway, completed design of the Montgomery Ave Two Way Separated Bike Lane, and completed 35% design of Amherst Avenue. MCDOT continued design of: the Grosvenor Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area (BiPPA), Good Hope Road Shared Use Path, Bradley Blvd, Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel, Dale Drive Shared Use Path, Fenton Street Bikeway, Fenton Street Bikeway, and Forest Glen Sidewalk. Franklin Ave Sidewalk, Heritage Triangle Shared Use Path, MacArthur Blvd Segment 3, Marinelli One Way Separated Bike Lanes, MD 355 Clarksburg Bike Path, Seven Locks Bikeway Facility Planning Refresh, Tuckerman Lane Sidewalk/Bikeway, Veirs Mill Road BiPPA, Washington Grove Connector</li> <li>• MCDOT continued construction of the MD 355 Crossing, Frederick Road Bike Path, and Cameron Street to Planning Place Bikeway; advertised the</li> </ul>

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	<p>Town of Kensington on Transportation Land-Use Connections grant for Kensington-Connecticut Avenue Corridor Bike/Ped Access and Safety Study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue and increase marketing and outreach efforts for recently established Bike Match MoCo program.</li> </ul>	<p>Metropolitan Branch Trail for construction; and started construction of the Oak Drive Sidewalk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT completed a pilot of the Grove Street Neighborhood Greenway.</li> <li>• MCDOT started Construction of White Flint Metro Access Improvements Phase 1, constructed 7,200 linear feet of Sidewalk under Sidewalk Program Minor Project, and conducted a Public Hearing for the Decatur Avenue Sidewalk.</li> <li>• MCDOT is working with County representatives, municipalities and private e-scooter/e-bike operators to expand service areas covered by the micromobility pilot. Micromobility services were successfully expanded to the Germantown area in Q2.</li> <li>• MCDOT is pursuing placement of additional micromobility corrals in pilot areas. State grant options to support this effort are being pursued.</li> <li>• MCDOT continues to sponsor Learn-to-Ride bike and e-scooter training classes, which have been well-attended. MCDOT conducted Car Free Day outreach at several locations throughout the County. The Walk &amp; Ride Challenge was conducted with teams of employees working in Transportation Management Districts. MCDOT is exploring software updates to enable expansion of Walk &amp; Ride to additional areas of the County.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT is coordinating with regional micromobility programs around the region to support first-mile/last-mile mobility and safe operations.</li> <li>• MCDOT’s Shared Streets “Block Permit” program remains available as a free service to residents for on-demand temporary street closures to thru traffic.</li> <li>• The Complete Streets Design Guide, completed by MCDOT and Montgomery Planning, has been approved by the Planning Board. Updates to the County Code and regulations are in development and expected to be transmitted to Council in Spring 2022.</li> <li>• The Planning Board reviewed the Capital Crescent Trail under MD-355 and the Capital Crescent Surface Trail Phase 2 on October 14, 2021.</li> <li>• MCDOT is working with the Town of Kensington and the consultant selected for the Connecticut Avenue Bike/Ped Mobility Study being conducted under a Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Technical Assistance award. Field review and follow-up studies are progressing in coordination with multiple participants including Town of Kensington, MCDOT, SHA, MDOT and TPB.</li> <li>• The BikeMatch MoCo program is being actively promoted and received over 160 bikes in its first year of operation. The program has connected over 200 recipients with donated bikes through the end of Q2.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Bike Donation Drive was conducted by MCDOT in Fall 2022 in coordination with Rockville Bike Hub. The drive resulted in nearly 300 bikes being donated. Usable bikes are being serviced and repaired as needed by Rockville Bike Hub volunteers, then donated to needy families through the BikeMatch MoCo program. Bikes not in repairable condition are being used for parts.</li> <li>• MCDOT won a competitive award of \$85,000 from the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) for the preliminary engineering of the Walter Johnson Road shared-use path connection to the Germantown MARC Station within Montgomery County. The award comes from TPB's "Transit Within Reach" program and will improve the ability of pedestrians and cyclists to access the MARC station.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-3: Private Vehicle Electrification Incentives and Disincentives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch Electric Vehicle (EV) Group Buy effort.</li> <li>• Promote EV charging equipment rebates and power cost reductions to increase appeal of EVs.</li> <li>• Explore options for hosting "EV exposure events".</li> <li>• Expand availability of EV charging in public parking facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT and DEP coordinated with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to select the Electrification Coalition to support an EV Purchasing Co-op pilot program (a.k.a. "Group Buy"). Anticipated launch of the Group Buy program is expected in mid-January 2022 and will run through May 2022.</li> <li>• Interviews for the Zero-Emissions Vehicle Senior Planning Specialist position (approved in the FY22 budget) concluded in Q2. DEP is working through the recruitment</li> </ul>



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>process and hopes to onboard a candidate in Q3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT and DEP coordinated with Poolesville Green for participation in National Drive Electric Week (NDEW), including outreach at the Poolesville Day event. An ad campaign for NDEW event ran on the exteriors of Ride On Electric Buses.</li> <li>• See related progress in T-7.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-4: Constrain Cars in Urban Areas, Limit New Road Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue actions to support removal of the extension of the Mid-County Highway from the Council of Governments’ regional plan to be adopted in FY22.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT removed the Mid-County Highway from the 2022 Transportation Long Range Plan, Visualize 2045.</li> <li>• MCDOT supports revisiting the Visualize 2045 plan again in 2024 to closely examine the merits of projects that do not support the region’s climate goals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-5: Zero Emission Public Buses and School Buses</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue development of a zero-emissions transit plan.</li> <li>• Place an additional 10 EV transit buses into service for Ride On.</li> <li>• Release RFP for next round of electric transit buses.</li> <li>• Research hydrogen fueling options for transit and large vehicles and pursue federal grant opportunities (e.g. USDOT’s RAISE Grants) for hydrogen fuel cell fueling site and vehicle acquisition.</li> <li>• Finalize MCPS order for first 25 EV school buses (expected Fall 2021).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MCPS EV school bus charging infrastructure is complete and operational for the first location at the Bethesda Depot. Fourteen buses have been delivered to MCPS, and we are in the process of road-testing them. Planning is underway to develop the charging infrastructure at other depots.</li> <li>• Five EV transit buses for Ride On are scheduled to begin assembly in Winter 2022 and delivery to the County is expected in early Spring. An additional five EV transit buses are expected to begin assembly in Late Spring 2022 and arrive by early Summer.</li> <li>• MCDOT has issued a notice to proceed to its consultant to</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue regional collaboration with other jurisdictions and transit providers and local collaboration between MCDOT, DGS, MCPS, and others on Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) bus contracting model.</li> </ul>	<p>develop the comprehensive Zero Emissions Bus Transition Action Plan for the transit fleet, infrastructure, and facilities. This Plan is expected to be ready by the end of the second quarter of 2023 and will be developed in parallel to the Reimagine Ride On study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCDOT submitted a USDOT RAISE grant for construction of a hydrogen fueling station at the Equipment Maintenance and Transit Operation Center and to acquire hydrogen fuel cell buses for Ride On service. While this grant was not successful, MCDOT has been offered a debriefing from FTA for feedback on the application and continues to seek other funding opportunities for grants to support these efforts.</li> <li>MCDOT supports WMATA’s goal to achieve a zero-emissions bus fleet by 2045.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-6: Electrify County and Public Agencies Fleet</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete study to right-size the County vehicle fleet and develop a targeted approach to transition the County's fleet to ZEVs, including necessary infrastructure and support facilities.</li> <li>Pilot test EV police vehicle.</li> <li>Pilot test new type of vehicle charger which would reduce infrastructure/charging network constraints for administrative fleet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DGS’s Phase I fleet transition study focused on eliminating vehicles due to underutilization, downsizing and replacing with a smaller vehicle, and identifying County vehicles that can be replaced with zero-emission vehicles. The Phase I study is expected to be completed in early Winter 2022. See also G-13 below.</li> <li>The MCPD Pilot test EV police vehicle has been received. DGS is working with the manufacturer and equipment supplier to solve technical</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		issues related to fitting the vehicle for police service.
<p><b>T-7: Expand the Electric Vehicle Charging Network</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the availability of electric vehicle charging stations at public parking facilities and other County locations, including M-NCPPC parkland sites.</li> <li>• Expand use of the pilot program for residential charging.</li> <li>• Examine opportunities for on-street charging and/or streetlight charging pilot program at selected locations in the County.</li> <li>• Encourage and, where possible, require new projects to provide EV charging or EV charging-ready spaces in their parking facilities.</li> <li>• Modify the public benefits list for site plan approval to encourage or require EV charging stations in a wider range of projects.</li> <li>• Implement EV charging station wayfinding signage program to facilitate EV access and to reinforce awareness of the general public about widespread availability of EV charging.</li> <li>• Install pilot EV charging station at a MCPS administrative center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews for the Zero-Emissions Vehicle Senior Planning Specialist position (approved in the FY22 budget) concluded in Q2. DEP is working through the recruitment process and hopes to onboard a candidate in Q3.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks is continuing work with local energy utilities to site publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations at select locations on parkland. Sites are currently under engineering design review and a list of approved locations will be shared at a later update.</li> <li>• The Green Bank provided funding for an EV charging installation at the Clarksburg Condominiums.</li> <li>• Montgomery College is exploring the possibility of installing level-2 electric vehicle charging stations on its Germantown campus. Rockville and Takoma Park campuses already have EV charging stations.</li> <li>• MCDOT finalized guidelines and Council adopted code changes to allow for homeowner-installed vehicle charging facilities within the public right of way.</li> <li>• DGS issued an RFP for the provision of EV charging stations on County properties to make more charging available on County property</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>for both County vehicles and EVs owned by the public. Proposals have been evaluated and will progress to award and contract negotiations in spring 2022 with construction anticipated to begin in summer 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing EV charging requirements for all new projects – beyond those where it is already required -- and as part of the public benefits list would require a zoning text amendment in order to implement.</li> <li>• MCDOT partnered with DGS to allow charging of County EV Fleet vehicles at Parking Lot District EV charging stations. This is especially useful in areas such as Wheaton where the new office building houses several County agencies and fleet vehicles.</li> <li>• MCDOT is working with PEPCO to expand the number of charging locations in County facilities.</li> <li>• MCDOT installed 42 EV charging station wayfinding signs in Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton. The signs are in and around public parking facilities that currently have EV charging stations. The wayfinding signage was installed to assist current EV owners to locate charging stations available in public parking facilities, and to create public awareness of the County's charging infrastructure to encourage more EV purchasing/leasing. There are currently 20 Level 2</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>charging stations available at parking facilities in Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT is continuing its collaboration with PEPCO regarding three potential “streetlight” charging locations within the central business districts to include Grandview Avenue at Ennalls Ave (Wheaton); 4704 W. Virginia Avenue (Bethesda); and 8212 Colonial Lane (on Ripley Street), Silver Spring. PEPCO is considering the viability of the locations and we are expecting a determination in Q3.</li> <li>• On December 9, 2021, the MCPS BOE approved a license agreement with Potomac Electric Power Company to install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at Carver Educational Services Center and Gaithersburg Middle School as a pilot program for future station installations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-8: Transportation Demand Management and Telework Strategies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize NextGen Transportation Demand Management (TDM) regulations.</li> <li>• Implement requirements for TDM strategies to be adopted for new and existing projects in additional areas of the County under NextGen.</li> <li>• Begin implementation of White Oak Transportation Management District</li> <li>• Promote use of more generous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MCDOT NextGen TDM regulations were advertised in the County register for public comment. MCDOT is reviewing comments to determine any needed revisions.</li> <li>• Implementation of the White Oak TMD is underway.</li> <li>• MCDOT is promoting the FareShare program to private sector employers and employees; County government employees received information on available Get-In transit/vanpool subsidy programs during Open Enrollment efforts.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>transit/vanpool subsidies available to private sector employers and employees through FareShare, and to County government employees through Get-In.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide assistance to businesses to support continuing and formalizing telework programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT is continuing to provide assistance to County businesses to support telework, including providing free consulting from national experts.</li> </ul>
<b>T-9: Traffic Management Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue installation of pedestrian HAWK signals.</li> <li>• Implement adaptive traffic signal control systems in select corridors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT is advancing the installation of pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHB, or HAWK's) to promote pedestrian safety when crossing multilane roadways or crossing point where reduced vehicle gaps and higher levels of pedestrian exposure to moving vehicle traffic exists. Additionally, MCDOT is developing a policy document that provides criteria on where and under what conditions PHB's should be considered.</li> <li>• MCDOT is continuing its coordination with the MDOT SHA for adaptive signal control implementation on MD 108 in Olney. MDOT SHA is reviewing MCDOT-provided recommendations related to the signals and signal systems.</li> </ul>
<b>T-11: Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Electrification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research hydrogen fueling options for transit and large vehicles and pursue federal grant opportunities (e.g., USDOT's RAISE Grants) for hydrogen fuel cell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP drafted legislation to phase-out the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blower equipment; expected to be sent to Council in Q3 2022.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks is working on increasing charging capacity at</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>fueling site and vehicle acquisition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce legislation to ban the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blower equipment.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Department of Parks will continue conducting a pilot on commercial-grade electric (battery-operated) landscape equipment, to include large-scale mowers to smaller blowers, string trimmers, chainsaws, etc.</li> <li>• Perform evaluation of MCDOT’s pilot implementation of electric mowing, string trimming, and handheld blower equipment currently underway and scheduled for completion in fall of 2022.</li> </ul>	<p>maintenance facilities for both electric vehicles and landscape equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks continues its conversion of 2-cycle and small gas-powered equipment to electric/battery-powered options. New pieces of equipment are being introduced across the Department with emphasis on smaller equipment including leaf blowers. Electric paint sprayers are beginning to become integrated into the equipment inventory as well. The Department has equipped 2 maintenance crews – one in Northern Parks and one in Southern Parks with all-electric equipment and are working on a 3rd all-electric maintenance crew in Northern Parks.</li> <li>• In addition to these teams, staff in both Northern and Southern Parks continue to prioritize transition to electric/battery-operated equipment.</li> <li>• MCDOT submitted a USDOT RAISE grant for construction of a hydrogen fueling station at the Equipment Maintenance and Transit Operation Center and to acquire hydrogen fuel cell buses for Ride On service. This fueling station was being planned in a way it could service both transit buses and other heavy-duty off-road equipment. While this grant effort was unsuccessful, MCDOT and DGS continue to pursue other grant opportunities.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pilot electric equipment program for mowing, leaf blowing, and string trimming by MCDOT crews is complete. Electric equipment implementation was deemed a success for leaf blowing and string trimming. Electric mowing is not a viable option for expansion at this time based on current equipment charging limitations (length of time to charge, limited run time once charged), and performance issues on rough terrain. MCDOT will expand electric blowers and trimmers to all mowing crews.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-12: Advocate for a Vehicle Carbon Gas Tax or VMT Tax</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore next steps for state-level advocacy on this issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCDOT participated in a discussion with County representatives to State Legislature. The delegation is aware of County’s interest to advance this issue.</li> </ul>
<p><b>T-13: Advocate for Rail Alternative Fuels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the critical issues related to this action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This action is not yet started.</li> </ul>





# Sequestration

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>S-1: Retain and Increase Forests</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue planting and maintaining reforestation by all departments as required for compliance with laws.</li> <li>• Continue Reforest Montgomery and manage all Planning Department tree-related programs under one tree czar.</li> <li>• Expand the Reforest the Reserve effort focused on reforesting stream valley buffers and areas that need planting.</li> <li>• Evaluate tree spacing requirements for reforestation to improve establishment of newly planted forests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP is working on tree spacing, densities, and new contract mechanisms for aftercare on stream restoration plantings.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks’ Horticulture, Forestry and Environmental Education Division staff map all dead and hazardous trees removed on parkland. Removals are converted to stumps in the mapping system and stumps are ground in accessible areas to allow for canopy replacement. Horticulture Staff visit open planting sites via the mapped locations throughout the year to create tree replacement plans. Balled and bur lapped trees receive 2 years of aftercare (water, mulch, pruning, IPM services) to ensure long-term survival in the landscape.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks also continues to require mitigation planting for disturbance of forest on parkland, not less than that required of the Forest Conservation Law and considerate of assessed land impact, incorporating planting as part of park development, renovation, and stormwater management projects. Additionally, the Department works in cooperation with Montgomery Planning to implement Fee-In-Lieu, and other off-site mitigation required plantings on appropriate parklands.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks has developed and maintains reforestation planting standards in accordance with best management practice to achieve survivorship and establishment to Piedmont Forest typology. These standards can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Reforest Montgomery is in its second full year and has increased planting efforts across the county. The program, managed by one Montgomery Planning staffer, now reforests about 10 acres per year and offers 600+ free and discounted trees per year.</li> <li>• Re-Leaf the Reserve is now a subprogram of Reforest Montgomery and has expanded reforestation in the Agricultural Reserve from 1 acre per year during the pilot phase to up to 5 acres per year as long as funding and property owner interest allow. An estimated 6 acres of the 11 acres planted to date through Re-Leaf the Reserve have been planted in stream valley buffers.</li> <li>• September 2021 Site Plan approvals in the Ten Mile Creek Special Protection Area will result in more forest protected via park dedication and Category I easements: 1. Creekside at Cabin Branch includes 172 acres of forest retention (99% retained) and 82 acres of new forest planted, totaling 255 acres of protected forest (parkland and Cat. I easements). 2. Ashford Woods includes 51 acres of forest retention (87% retained) and 15 acres of new forest planted, totaling 66 acres of protected forest.</li> <li>• OAG is working with the Soil Conservation District to locate sites</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		for riparian forest buffer plantings to be installed with state and federal cost share funding.
<p><b>S-2: Retain and Increase Tree Canopy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate tree spacing requirements for street trees to enhance opportunities to shade impervious surfaces.</li> <li>• Plant more shade trees by increasing staffing in the Tree Montgomery Program to target neighborhoods where tree canopy is lacking in underserved areas.</li> <li>• Administer grant from Casey Trees for tree planting in the public right-of-way.</li> <li>• Administer grant to Conservation Montgomery to continue the Home Tree Care 101 classes and resources in multiple languages (already offered in English and Spanish).</li> <li>• Conduct research on micro-forests, edible forests, and asses the flow of waste and wood in the County.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DEP Tree Montgomery Program has hired a new Program Manager and the employee began working for DEP in January. This will allow the program to expand planting 3000 trees in FY 23.</li> <li>• DEP is developing a grant application for the CBT Urban Tree grant to increase tree planting in urban frontline communities (due March 3, 2022)</li> <li>• DEP contract with Casey Trees is fully executed.</li> <li>• DEP contract with Conservation Montgomery is fully executed to continue the Home Tree Care 101 classes and resources.</li> <li>• Conducted research on the viability of developing micro-forests; research suggests that while viable, particularly on HOA properties, there are some economic and legal hurdles to be addressed (e.g., maintenance responsibilities, incentives for planting, legal agreements).</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks is increasing focus and prioritization on parks located in Equity Focus Areas to ensure that they are being/have been visited on a regular basis for assessment of tree planting/canopy coverage needs. <b>UPDATE:</b> Montgomery Parks staff are preparing a Forest Conservation Plan to protect existing tree canopy in Wheaton Regional Park through the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan.</li> <li>• In September 2021, Montgomery Parks hosted an Urban Tree Summit</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>Field Day that was open to the public with a focus on urban wood waste and utilization through partnership with Baltimore and DC’s Wood waste facilities called Urban Wood Utilization: Let’s talk shop!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montgomery Parks held its first ever urban wood sale on November 13 and 14, 2021, making wood slabs and lumber sawn from our portable sawmill available to the public for purchase. Approximately 8,500 board feet of wood slabs were purchased during the event which generated \$24,000 in revenue. This revenue will be utilized to support future park projects. Montgomery Parks’ urban wood reuse program turns hazardous trees removed from parkland into lumber and other wood products that are reused in park operations. Based on the success of this wood sale we look to incorporate public wood sales as a regular event in the program.</li> <li>• Discussions are underway with MCDOT, DPS and M-NCPPC about re-evaluating the spacing requirements for street trees. The grant that was received through the Chesapeake Bay Trust has been planned and is being implemented, with nearly 100 trees planted in Q2 and an additional 150 planned for planting in spring 2022.</li> </ul>
<p><b>S-4: Regenerative Agriculture</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue working with farmers to encourage regenerative farming practices.</li> <li>• Host educational events about the benefits of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC maintains agricultural leases on parkland for farming. These agricultural leases include requirements for nutrient management, soil conservation, and use of cover crops.</li> <li>• OAG spoke with farmers about practices that will reduce GHG emissions and spoke with</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>regenerative agriculture.</p>	<p>agricultural marketing professionals from MD and VA about what Montgomery County farmers are doing.</p>
<p><b>S-5: Restore Soil Fertility, Microbial Activity, and Moisture-Holding Capacity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand commercial food composting pilot and launch residential food composting pilot.</li> <li>• Host educational workshops and outreach emphasizing soil health.</li> <li>• Continue the healthy lawns program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP continued the commercial food scraps recycling partnership program, including soliciting partners that generate food scraps; providing technical assistance and best practice recommendations; helping to set up on-site food scraps separation and storage/recycling containers; and providing collection/transportation to a compost facility.</li> <li>• DEP worked to launch curbside pilot to collect single-family residential food scraps. Work has included selecting a contractor to collect food scraps from participating households; determining areas of eligible households; soliciting participation of eligible households; developing and producing educational materials; securing recycling carts, kitchen counter caddies, and compostable liners for 1,700 participating households.</li> <li>• DEP continued outreach and education on the benefits of grasscycling and composting.</li> <li>• DEP developed educational materials and training sessions on using rodent-proof compost bins to include food scraps in backyard composting efforts. DEP procured quantities of two types of rodent-proof compost bins for testing and evaluation by volunteer residents: one static compost bin model and one dual-chamber tumbler compost bin model. DEP secured almost 500</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>volunteer residents to participate in this study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP continued to conduct educational workshops and training for backyard composting of yard trim and trainings on backyard composting of food scraps using rodent-proof compost bins.</li> <li>• DEP continued to provide compost bins to residents either directly or via 22 partner distribution locations, to encourage managing of yard trim and food scraps at the source and create compost for use to improve soil health.</li> <li>• The DEP Healthy Lawns Program continued outreach to property owners and retail businesses.</li> <li>• OAG worked with the Compost Crew on Compost Outposts to increase the amount of food scrap composting taking place in the County taking advantage of ZTA 20-04.</li> </ul>
<p><b>S-6: Whole-System Carbon Management and Planning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct research on available tools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP held discussions with the Trust for Public Land and Urban Drawdown Initiative to determine the cost of licensing the <u>Decision Support Tool</u> which would have particular applicability to the master planning process.</li> </ul>



# Adaptation

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<b>A-1: Water Infrastructure Resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop WSSC service-area-wide future conditions flood zone and use this to screen all WSSC horizontal assets, for the 100-year storm event projected for 2065.</li> <li>• Finalize WSSC Climate Change design guidelines by citing Design Flood Elevations for critical sites.</li> <li>• Complete WSSC Calendar Year 2021 GHG inventory and update the WSSC GHG Action Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WSSC completed these efforts in June 2021. The WSSC climate change design guidelines are being incorporated into Engineering &amp; Construction design guidelines.</li> </ul>
<b>A-2: Repair and Enhancement of Stormwater Conveyance Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement CIP work program for repairs.</li> <li>• Conduct flood plain study before resizing culverts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT completed Design, Permitting and Property Acquisition for the Hidden Valley Culvert.</li> <li>• MCDOT started construction of the Clarksburg Road Culvert.</li> <li>• MCDOT started design of Crabbs Branch Culvert, Peach Leaf Court Culvert, and Crystal Rock Drive Culvert, and completed design of the Pooks Hill Road Culvert Rehabilitation.</li> <li>• MCDOT completed construction of Blunt Road South Culvert and</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>the Turkey Branch Parkway Culvert Replacement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCDOT conducted maintenance of storm and ditches countywide. Completed a Flood Plain Study for the Clarksburg Road Culvert and initiated Flood Plain Studies for the Wightman Road Culvert and for the Tucker Lane Culvert.</li> </ul>
<b>A-3: Temperature Monitoring and Alerts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for NOAA urban heat mapping grant.</li> <li>Conduct a campaign to spread the word about Alert Montgomery and how to sign up.</li> <li>Explore options to expand Alert Montgomery messaging, focusing on underserved communities.</li> <li>Update the County's extreme temperature plan to include a climate change lens; determine ways to send messages to broader sectors of the County.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The County submitted a grant application for the NOAA urban heat mapping grant in January 2022.</li> <li>OEMHS paired with other County departments to provide Alert Montgomery information at their outreach and tabling events. OEMHS, OPI, and other departments continue to encourage Alert Montgomery participation on social media and other County Messaging.</li> <li>OEMHS continues to work with DEP to identify target areas for Alert Montgomery focused outreach.</li> <li>The Fall 2021 update of the OEMHS Extreme Temperature Plan was completed in October.</li> </ul>
<b>A-4: Extreme Weather Energy Efficiency Building Code</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options for adopting resiliency ready language into the building codes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently no codes directly correlate to resiliency but the increased efficiency in the 2021 IECC puts Montgomery County on a path to better extreme weather resiliency through envelope, onsite solar, and potential onsite storage. The 2018 International Green Construction Code, adopted in September 2021, also enforces increased efficiencies and onsite generation.</li> </ul>



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>A-6: Green/Cool/PV Roof and Pavement Code</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to improve the energy and green building codes through adoption and amendments. The International Green Construction Code would cover commercial buildings; there is already a requirement for certain aspects of green roofs for commercial projects, and both the energy code and green code have elements for reflectivity/cool roofs (white roof or concrete in place of blacktop).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2018 International Green Construction Code was adopted in September 2021.</li> <li>DPS is exploring specific amendments to the 2021 codes to require solar reflective index (SRI) requirements for roofing materials.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A-7: Green Public Spaces</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Green Streets projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEP is in the process of identifying projects to fulfill future Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements and it anticipates that Green Streets projects will be part of that portfolio.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A-8: Harden Emergency Shelters and Install Resilience Hubs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the Scotland Community Center resilience hub and solar installation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DGS Scotland Recreation Center resilience hub has completed Design Phase; Construction Phase is expected to be completed in spring 2022. See also E-4 above.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A-10: Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand the funding and staffing for RainScapes program, Tree Montgomery, and Watershed Restoration and Grant programs.</li> <li>Explore options for incorporating green</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEP hired the new Tree Montgomery Program Manager approved in the FY22 budget. The new employee started in January 2022, and this will allow the program to expand planting in FY23 to 3000 trees.</li> <li>In the last year, DEP completed restorative work on four</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>infrastructure into building codes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement CIP work program for planning and implementation of water quality best management and stormwater management projects.</li> <li>• Pursue Congressional earmarks to support additional work in this area.</li> </ul>	<p>stormwater management ponds (Briar Acres, Persimmon Tree, Peachwood and Quail Valley).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP presently has Glenmont Forest Green Streets in construction.</li> <li>• DEP currently has nine stormwater management Pond Retrofit projects in design (Airpark, Watkins Mill, Germantown Park, Clearspring Manor, Plum Gar, Longmead Crossing, Williamsburg Village, Norbeck Manor and Leisure World) and three Stream Restoration projects (Grosvenor Stream, Old Farm Creek and Germantown Park Stream).</li> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks is well-poised to meet its 20% untreated impervious restoration requirement for its Phase II MS4 permit and continues to advance meaningful stormwater best management practice (BMP) retrofit projects and alternative BMP projects (prioritizing stream restoration, outfall stabilization, reforestation, and impervious removal).</li> <li>• Parks also is currently designing and constructing 4 stream restoration projects for the County's MS4. DEP and Parks are working on an MOU to expand this work to include an additional 4 stream restoration and outfall projects.</li> </ul>
<b>A-11: Climate Adapted Development Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore options through the buildings codes and investigate examples being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPS is in communications with neighboring jurisdictions, the state energy administration, and multiple national organizations</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	implemented by other municipalities.	to better align with holistic goals and utilize national expertise.
<b>A-13: Ban Stormwater Management Requirement Waivers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to push for full compliance with requirements.</li> <li>Examine what other jurisdictions in the region are doing on this issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPS requires stormwater management (SWM) compliance to the maximum extent practicable and only grants waivers when 100% compliance cannot be achieved. Many projects meet a large percentage of SWM compliance, but if even 1% is not achievable and a waiver is granted, the full fee-in-lieu (not a portion thereof) is required.</li> <li>DPS is in the process of contacting several Maryland jurisdictions and the District of Columbia.</li> </ul>
<b>A-14: Update Floodplain Maps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete update of FEMA floodplain maps by summer of 2023.</li> <li>Conduct outreach during flood awareness month (April).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPS is cooperating with FEMA who is the lead agency in updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. DPS routinely updates GIS layers as new floodplains at the local level are mapped as part of its floodplain study reviews.</li> <li>A draft scope of work has been prepared for the development of a comprehensive strategy to address flooding in the County. Contributors to this included DEP, DOT, DPS, and OEMHS. Contract vehicles to undertake this work are being assessed.</li> </ul>
<b>A-15: Water Supply Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work on special protection areas requirements that protect the aquifer in the Clarksburg area.</li> <li>Work on ensuring adequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEP is targeting future stormwater management pond retrofit and environmental site design (ESD) projects in areas with no current or inadequate stormwater management. A site suitability model and maps have</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>implementation of the Ten Mile Creek Special Protection Area Master plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement water quality best management practices and stormwater management facilities in areas where there is no stormwater controls or inadequate stormwater controls. Identify sites for needed water quality treatment and stormwater management facilities for water supply protection.</li> <li>• Implement stormwater management inspection and maintenance program.</li> <li>• Conduct water quality improvement activities and projects, and stream restoration and protection activities to incrementally improve water quality in streams that are located in urban areas of the County.</li> <li>• Conduct winter salt management activities and expand pet waste campaigns.</li> <li>• See related actions in S-1 and S-5.</li> </ul>	<p>been developed to identify these areas for future investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP is continuing to successfully inspect and maintain over 20,000 stormwater management facilities in the County.</li> <li>• DEP held a press event December 7, 2022, with the County Executive, DOT and WSSC representatives to highlight the need to manage the use of salt to melt snow and ice. Monitoring data has shown increase impacts to drink water and biotic communities in streams from salt use. DEP is also working with a state delegate and OIR on state legislation that would provide voluntary certified applicator training for salt applicators and limited liability legislation.</li> <li>• Please also see A-10.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks has 362 acres of conveyance pending for the Creekside at Cabin Branch and Ashford Woods development plans. The Department has continued to provide guidance and approval of a required Conservation Management Plan, for long-term preservation and care of natural landscape remaining for any development within the plan area. This also includes review and approval of a Stream and Wetland Restoration Plan to remediate for past land use that has degraded these resources and the stormwater management plan to ensure regenerative groundwater techniques are being applied.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks' stormwater retrofits of untreated impervious areas are planned at Maplewood-Alta Vista Local Park, Nolte Local Park, Longwood Local Park, and Colesville Local Park.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks stormwater management staff ensure non-structural maintenance is completed on 837 SW BMPs in inventory. The Department is in the process of rebuilding staffing capacity within the stormwater maintenance program and should be ready for a productive spring season.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks stormwater teams have taken the approach of "helping native plants compete better" by removing undesirable vegetation from planted stormwater facilities and immediately planting desirable natives in dense configurations. This has proven effective in reducing staff time and effort spent on weeding while improving the aesthetic quality of individual sites. Numerous plantings were completed this fall with the expectation that manual weeding will be reduced this spring.</li> <li>• Stoneybrook Tributary to Rock Creek stream restoration is progressing and scheduled to be substantially complete Spring 2022 by M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks. Design and permitting are progressing for Clearspring and Glenallen stream restorations.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks’ Wildwood and Byeforde Sustainable Outfall Enhancements along Beach Drive are finishing design and preparing for bid. M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks FY21 Outfall Restoration Program wrapped up with 21 restorations successfully implemented. FY22 Outfall Restoration Program will consist of 12 projects that will begin construction Winter 2022.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks operations staff attend MCDOT Snow School Training to coordinate and calibrate with other County agencies to minimize winter salt use.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks conducts annual Maintenance Yard Pollution Prevention Training covering salt reduction strategies and best management practices for winter de-icing practices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A-16 Flood Rescue Resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement grant project for piloting roadway water sensors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OEMHS has signed an agreement with the US Department of Homeland Security to receive 24-34 new flood sensors. 24 new flood sensors have been received by OEMHS as of February 1, 2022. These new sensors will be placed on or near road crossings that frequently flood and at private owned dams which do not currently have flood sensors. The County is expecting to receive an additional 10 sensors and May 1, 2022, is the target date for installing these sensors.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<b>A-17: On-Site Water Reuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with WSSC to establish jurisdictional overlap to enforce water efficiency and auxiliary water measures in the 2021 International Green Construction Code.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPS plans to explore county legislation to enforce water conservation as a method of energy conservation.</li> </ul>
<b>A-18: Expanded Community Gardens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC – Department of Parks is examining different typologies and models to suit different communities and increase the amount of gardens in parkland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a result of a site suitability study by M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks, a new community garden is in design for Edgewood Neighborhood Park. While subject to change, the recommended garden will provide approximately 25-30 plots within about 4,000 square feet of enclosed area.</li> <li>• MNCPPC – Montgomery Parks opened Nolte Community Garden, the first garden of this typology in the County. The garden provides 19 accessible gardening beds sitting atop of the foundation of a demolished Park Activity Building. This garden addresses equity goals by engaging seniors and food insecure families in this part of Silver Spring. In addition, this garden has increased biological diversity with the installation of fruit and vegetable plants, annuals, native plants, wildflowers, etc. This brings the program to 12 community gardens across the county.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks has a 10-year plan in development to examine prioritization and timetables for community garden projects based on the most suitable parkland sites. This study would potentially add 8 new sites -</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>mixed typology gardens that would add up to 250 community garden plots to the program over a 10-year period. M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks will need to explore partnerships to continue to grow and serve the residents of the county with this program.</p>
<p><b>A-20: Study Potential for Buildings in the County to Flood and Possible Remedies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the County's hazard mitigation plan to include climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OEMHS will integrate climate change during the next update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan in the 2023 planning process. We have begun research on the next iteration of Hazard Mitigation Grants with the state to support our next plan update.</li> </ul>



# Governance

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>G-1: Build awareness among all Montgomery County Government staff</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leverage departments' Climate Ambassadors to build awareness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEP secured support from the Association of Climate Change Officers (through a carve out in a state contract)</li> </ul>



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>about climate change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct staff educational sessions about climate change.</li> <li>• Develop and define a comprehensive communication and education strategy.</li> <li>• Develop and launch a few simple short educational videos/ messages.</li> <li>• Incorporate a training/workshop within one of the quarterly Aspiring Leader sessions.</li> <li>• Inform new MCG employees of the County’s climate initiatives at new employee orientation sessions.</li> </ul>	<p>for two workshops focusing on risk assessment for Budget Analysts and Administrators and working collaboratively across organizational lines for departmental Climate Ambassadors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP deepened awareness among County staff about access to the Urban Sustainability Directors Network membership benefits (the County has more members than any other jurisdiction in the country).</li> <li>• OHR and CEX drafted information about the County’s climate initiatives for inclusion at new employee orientation sessions.</li> <li>• The County Executive and Climate Change Officer co-hosted a training on becoming a climate change leader for 125 MCG employees.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-2: Establish a Climate Change Academy to integrate Climate Change Training into the Professional Development of MCG staff</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brainstorm and survey departments to define and shape professional development needs.</li> <li>• Determine mandatory components of education and training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP and OHR began developing the components of a Climate Change Academy, including drafting a brief strategy document to identify priority training groups (e.g., OMB Budget Analysts/Budget Administrators, Climate Ambassadors and Communication/ Engagement staff).</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>G-3: Incorporate climate competencies into Montgomery County Government job descriptions and Performance Plans</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin review of job descriptions to incorporate climate competencies in positions that are climate-relevant.</li> <li>• Create climate change competency language.</li> <li>• Identify and prioritize with departments the key climate change related job classifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A three level Climate Change Competency Framework was drafted and shared with the Climate Leadership team in January 2022. The next steps were to share the framework with a few key departments, assess specific jobs within the framework and determine current department gaps. The OHR team will revisit the timeline and approach given the current bandwidth in the departments due to Omicron and recommend a revised approach for FY22.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-4: Identify and create new positions that are needed for the County government to prepare for and respond to climate hazards, implement climate adaptation measures, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the FY23 budget process, include proposals for new climate positions as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget proposals for new climate-related positions are under development for the FY23 budget process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-5: Establish a cross-departmental Climate Innovation Lab to develop, fund and implement climate and resiliency initiatives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch climate innovation accelerator cohort to support the implementation of FY22 CAP projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Innovation Office is planning to launch the Climate Innovation Lab as a 3-5 day facilitated design sprint for climate ambassadors to move their ideas into action. During the design sprint, ambassadors will explore, prototype, build and test their own solutions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-6: Designate Climate Ambassadors within</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene meetings/trainings with departments' Climate Ambassadors and continue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Ambassadors within each County department are continuing to be identified.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
each County department	<p>the process of designating ambassadors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share information about departments' energy usage with ambassadors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change Ambassadors will participate in training provided by the Climate Change Academy (see G-2 and G-5 for details).</li> </ul>
<b>G-7: Evaluate and update county planning, policy, and operations activities to account for the risks of climate change impacts and prioritize the needs of vulnerable residents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the County's hazard mitigation plan and potentially the critical infrastructure plan to account for climate change.</li> <li>Conduct extreme weather-based planning exercises and trainings.</li> <li>Coordinate Thrive-CAP implementation through recurring check-in meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A draft scope of work has been prepared for the development of a comprehensive strategy to address flooding in the County. Contributors to this included DEP, DOT, DPS, and OEMHS. Contract vehicles to undertake this work are being assessed.</li> <li>OEMHS will integrate climate change during the next update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan in the 2023 planning process. OEMHS has begun research on the next iteration of Hazard Mitigation Grants with the state to support its next plan update.</li> <li>OEMHS is planning a Functional Exercise with all County emergency response agencies and community partners tentatively scheduled for April 2022, pending delays due to COVID-19 response efforts. Planning is underway.</li> <li>Meetings to coordinate Thrive Montgomery 2050 and CAP implementation will begin after the final Thrive plan is approved.</li> </ul>
<b>G-8: Evaluate and update county</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See related activities in B-7, T-5, T-6.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County departments provided climate change,</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p>planning, policy, and operations activities to reduce greenhouse gases</p>		<p>resiliency, and greenhouse gas emissions detail in their FY23 operating and capital budget submissions. The responses informed the CE’s FY23 budget discussions.</p>
<p><b>G-9: Incorporate climate considerations into the County’s budgeting processes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in Cost of Carbon study with the University of Virginia, Environmental Finance Center, and Rotunda Solutions, and incorporate findings into the FY23 budget development process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County departments provided climate change, resiliency, and greenhouse gas emissions detail in their FY23 operating and capital budget submissions. The responses informed the CE’s FY23 budget discussions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-10: Develop financing strategies for implementing climate actions and incorporate climate considerations into County finance practices</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce legislation to expand the role of the Green Bank to also serve as the County’s Resilience Authority in order to help finance projects focused on addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding and other resilience activities.</li> <li>Introduce legislation to expand the scope of the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program.</li> <li>Coordinate with the Montgomery County Green Bank Board of Directors and staff on development of financing strategies ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEP and Finance developed amendments to expand the scope of the C-PACE program, which was introduced at the County Council on November 30, 2021. A public hearing on this Bill (46-21) is scheduled for January 11, 2022.</li> <li>Amendments to the Montgomery County Green Bank’s enabling legislation to allow the Bank to engage in climate resilience activities have been drafted and will be sent to the County Council in early 2022.</li> <li>The County Council introduced Bill 44-21 in November 2021 to provide 10% of the Fuel Energy Tax to the Green Bank to further its work in the County.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-11: Develop climate, energy, health and racial</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop climate metrics with an emphasis on climate equity metrics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee (CEAQAC) developed a</li> </ul>

<b>Climate Action</b>	<b>FY22 Next Steps</b>	<b>Status as of Q2 end</b>
<p><b>equity metrics and a data-driven assessment and reporting process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the climate webpage to display a dashboard of action status updates.</li> <li>• Engage community advisory groups in the development of metrics.</li> </ul>	<p>comprehensive first draft of climate metrics, which is under review by the Climate Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Team developed a climate equity metrics reference guide for County departments to use during the development and implementation of climate policies and programs; convened a meeting with community members to gather feedback on the general approach.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-12: Formalize the Climate Leadership Team to guide the implementation of climate plan actions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the membership of the Climate Leadership Team and include communications/engagement staff.</li> <li>• Draft an Executive Order to formalize its role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In FY22 to-date, membership of the Climate Leadership Team has been expanded to also include representatives from the Housing Opportunities Commission, Office of Innovation, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Resources, and the Town of Chevy Chase.</li> <li>• Drafting of the Executive Order to establish the Climate Leadership Team is underway.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-13: Update the County’s teleworking and transit benefit policies to encourage MCG staff to reduce vehicle miles traveled</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the County's new teleworking policy and develop procedures as required.</li> <li>• Eliminate inefficiencies generated by the County's vehicle use policies, through the Zero Emissions fleet transition plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The County’s new teleworking policy was finalized and rolled out in October 2021.</li> <li>• See T-6 for information on the Zero Emissions fleet transition plan.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC updated its teleworking policy in fall 2021 to create more flexibility for increased teleworking opportunities.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>Montgomery Parks and Montgomery Planning have allowed employees to telework up to 2 days/week based on their work program. Hundreds of employees are now teleworking at least 1 day/week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC is piloting a commuter stipend and benefits that is currently open to M-NCPPC employees working out of Wheaton HQ. The program is two parts - (1) provides a monthly stipend (based on telework agreement) to all M-NCPPC employees at Wheaton HQ including those who walk and bike to work and (2) provides employees opportunity to contribute to a pre-tax account for commuter expenses.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC continues to achieve positive environmental impacts as a result of implementing digital signature software. In Q2 of FY22 more than 2,300 digital signatures were received for Commission business, equating to a savings of nearly 4,000 gallons of water, over 1,300 pounds of wood, and nearly 215 pounds of waste reduced.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-15: Consolidate County climate data</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a "data retreat" with County departments to develop a comprehensive list</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CountyStat and the Climate Change Officer are conducting preliminary planning for the "data</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>of climate data for publicly displaying.</p>	<p>retreat.” A climate data survey to departments is being developed to go out to departments in Q3, which will inform the agenda of the climate data retreat.</p>
<p><b>G-16: Conduct climate vulnerability detailed assessments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement US Department of Defense resilience grant of NSA Bethesda facility (Walter Reed).</li> <li>• See G-7 for related activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCDOT, DGS, and DEP are working with the Department of Defense/Walter Reed and surrounding community to identify climate change related vulnerabilities in the transportation, energy, and stormwater sectors and develop a Resiliency Implementation Plan for the Installation.</li> <li>• DEP, DGS, and Gannett Fleming (project consultant) toured Walter Reed facilities and met with energy staff at Naval Support Activity Bethesda in December 2021. DEP and Gannett Fleming participated in an off-base stormwater walking tour in the Stoney Creek watershed in Bethesda in December 2021. Staff discussed the NIH Stormwater Pond project and identified sites for potential stormwater management facilities and upgrades.</li> <li>• Field data collection was completed in December for the Walter Reed grant. The consultant is preparing the following deliverables for project Technical Advisory Committee review: Initial</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		Vulnerability Assessment; Preliminary Floodplain Evaluation; Existing Conditions Assessment. The project is scheduled for completion in late Fall 2022.





## Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>P-1: Undertake vigorous public outreach campaign aimed at empowering the public with information on how to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts from climate change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct expanded public outreach activities on climate change.</li> <li>• Launch the Climate Stories Ambassadors program with a focus on amplifying the voices and perspectives of underserved communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP worked with One Montgomery Green to disseminate invite for meeting with founder of the Empowerment Institute to learn more about the <u>Cool Block</u> program.</li> <li>• Interviews for the DEP Climate Engagement position (approved in the FY22 budget) concluded in Q2. DEP is working through the recruitment process and hopes to onboard a candidate in Q3.</li> <li>• DEP is organizing climate storytelling workshops, facilitated by <u>Climate Stories Project</u>, in which community members develop, articulate, record, and share their own climate story—their personal and community relationship with climate change. This project is related to the Community Justice Academy as its focus is on amplifying the voices of under-represented and frontline community members. Community based partners include the African American Health Program, Latino Health Initiative, Community Advocacy Institute, African Affairs Advisory Group, Caribbean American Advisory Group and others.</li> <li>• HHS Latino Health Initiative (LHI) conducted 6 Virtual physical</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>activity sessions (“Charlemos con Zumba,” or “Lets Chat with Zumba”) in Spanish, between November and December 2021. Zumba sessions included a presentation and discussion with participants on various climate related topics. LHI has partnered with staff from DEP and Montgomery Parks to have the presentations and discussions delivered by subject matter experts. 13 participants attended the sessions on average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional “Charlemos con Zumba” activities in Spanish have been scheduled for February – March 2022, with the continued participation of DEP and Parks.</li> <li>• Leaders from HHS’s Community Action Agency (CAA), African American Health Program (AAHP) and LHI met with DEP and its partners to plan the launch of the new Climate Stories project, considering barriers to participation, and using best practices learned through their experiences of working with people with lived experience. This included listening sessions with Community Action Board leaders, who suggested framing the program to align closely with specific health and social, and economic consequences of climate change which disproportionately impacts the county’s economically and racially diverse residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CAA helped recruit participants for the first cohort of the Climate Stories project, which was</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>held over the summer of 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The first cohort was specifically for graduates of the Community Advocacy Institute and individuals involved with AAHP.</li> <li>○ 14 CAI graduates applied to the program, and 10 were able to participate.</li> <li>○ Five CAI graduates recorded climate stories, which are posted <a href="#">HERE</a>. The sixth video posted on the site features the husband of a CAI graduate.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The next program Climate Stories Project cohort is scheduled for March – April 2022 and will be conducted entirely in Spanish.</li> </ul>
<b>P-2: Conduct an outreach campaign that uses evidence-based communications strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use evidence-based communications strategies in tandem with P-1 and P-3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DEP is exploring training opportunities for County communications and engagement staff.</li> </ul>
<b>P-3: Form a Climate Change Communication Coalition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Launch the climate change communications coalition.</li> <li>● Coordinate department-level climate communications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The climate change communications coalition kicked off in November 2021 with staff members from eight departments/agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>P-4: Enhance County websites to focus more sharply on climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Add links to County climate initiatives to the County homepage, related department homepages, and other high traffic County webpages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A refresh of the County’s climate webpage is currently under development.</li> <li>● The County’s flood webpage is being updated.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>P-5: Establish a Community Justice Academy in which Graduating Community Ambassadors Representing their Neighbors Conceive and Co-create Integrated Health, Equity and Quality-of-Life Solutions Directly Applicable to their Communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire consultant to assist with designing the academy.</li> <li>• Identify grant funding to support academy start-up in late FY22.</li> <li>• Collaborate with community-based organizations on program design and delivery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP is working with various County staff and the MORE Network on implementation; contracted with Justice Alchemy to guide efforts; developed draft purpose statement and refining criteria for steering group members; invited prospective funder into discussions; Climate Engagement position will help lead this effort.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-6: Use the Climate Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee as a resource to advise the County on performance metrics and plan implementation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of metrics.</li> <li>• See related activities in G-11.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The County appointed 5 new members to the Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee (CEAQAC) in November 2021. Read the bios for all of the CEAQAC members <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• CEAQAC developed a comprehensive first draft of climate metrics, which is under review by the Climate Team.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-7: Facilitate ongoing input from community members on the CAP's implementation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in community meetings about the Climate Action Plan.</li> <li>• Conduct CAP roadshows in community locations to meet people where they are.</li> <li>• See related activities in P-5.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Team discussed the Climate Action Plan and plan implementation at a variety of community events and venues and met with interested community members to identify partnership opportunities. To-date in FY22, community meetings include: Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, National Night Out, One Montgomery Green, Food Council, Town of Kensington, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee, Rotary, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Mid-Atlantic Region Environmental Professionals, Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board, and Common</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		Energy's COP26 Climate Action Marathon.
<p><b>P-8: Support the efforts of community organizations, businesses, and associations that promote and operationalize equitable climate action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide this support through two new outreach and partnerships positions at DEP and leveraging staff capacity in other departments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Team discussed the Climate Action Plan and plan implementation at a variety of community events and venues and met with interested community members to identify partnership opportunities. See P-7 for details.</li> <li>• Interviews for the DEP Climate Engagement position (approved in the FY22 budget) concluded in Q2. DEP is working through the recruitment process and hopes to onboard a candidate in Q3.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-9: Engage County artists through public art installations to raise awareness, discussion and action on climate change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicly display the climate change art contest winning entries in the virtual information room and other venues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The climate change art contest winning entries are now on display in the <a href="#">Climate Action Plan virtual information room</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-10: Establish a statewide coalition of local governments and youth groups focused on advancing ambitious state climate policy by collectively advocating their positions before the state legislature, Public Services Commission, and the utility companies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host strategic planning sessions with other local MD jurisdictions to plan advocacy actions for the upcoming General Assembly session.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Maryland Coalition of Counties and Cities for Climate Action, a statewide climate coalition of local governments, has launched and is meeting regularly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-11: Establish partnerships with federal agencies located within the County's boundaries on GHG mitigation and climate resiliency efforts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Department of Defense resilience grant for NSA Bethesda facility (Walter Reed).</li> <li>• Collaborate with the National Institute of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See update on the US Department of Defense grant in G-16.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	Standards and Technology to install a GHG monitoring station at a County-owned site.	
<p><b>P-12: Advocate for the continued integration of climate change education into the existing school curriculum</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevate climate change content where it already exists in the K-12 MCPS curriculum.</li> <li>Create formal MOU to establish County/MCPS relationship for climate change education and training. Identify County and MCPS lead teams to ensure flow of support and collaboration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCPS reports that work is well underway in science and social studies to identify the myriad of climate connections in the current curriculum and highlight that content. A draft of climate connections will be ready to share with related MCPS departments in Spring 2022.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-13: Develop a standardized climate change curriculum across public schools and recommend the same for private schools and home schools</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue implementation of the environmental literacy curriculum which embeds climate change.</li> <li>Identify curriculum areas where additional climate change content could be created and integrated, including environmental justice.</li> <li>Promote climate change resources developed by students, such as <a href="https://climatedu.org">https://climatedu.org</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the review of the current MCPS science and social studies curriculum, areas are being identified to embed additional climate change content that addresses the MSDE environmental literacy standards (that includes climate change education). Also see P-12.</li> <li>The MCPS Division of Sustainability and Compliance website is under review to add sections that includes Resources for Community, Students and Teachers, as well as an archive of past events and presentations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-14: Provide professional development for</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue providing and expand on professional training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several virtual MD Green School support sessions held Fall 2021 - Winter 2022 to assist MCPS Green</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<p><b>educators on climate change topics</b></p>	<p>for MCPS staff on sustainability and on climate change curriculum lessons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct climate change symposiums for MCPS students and staff.</li> <li>• Increase the comfort level of educators to answer questions about climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Team Leaders in certifying/recertifying as Green Schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On November 15, 2021, MCPS hosted a Fall Symposium to celebrate American Recycling Day. Students, staff, and school-based Green teams learned about how MCPS contributes to the 4R's— "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink"</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-15: Use school gardens or other outdoor learning facilities as a jumping off point to address a multitude of climate related topics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to encourage MCPS schools to build and use school gardens for instruction.</li> <li>• Continue to advocate for garden coordinators (both volunteers and paid positions) at MCPS schools to assist with garden building and maintenance.</li> <li>• Support MCPS schools with creating and using outdoor learning spaces while integrating the use of outdoor spaces into the curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCPS collaborated with the Montgomery County Council of PTAs to develop a <u><a href="#">Voluntary Guidance Document on Increasing the Use of Outdoor Spaces</a></u>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-16: Develop increased opportunities for students to participate in climate change learning experiences outside of the classroom</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a Youth Climate Summit in Winter/Spring 2022 for MCPS students.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities for extracurricular activities and Student Service Learning (SSL), including local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Chesapeake Bay Trust intern hosted by M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks’ Meadowside Nature Center created a climate change program to take to middle schools, called “It’s Getting Hot out There”. The 45-minute program is centered around the concept of the urban heat island effect where the kids use</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
	<p>projects at students' schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase student opportunities for exposure to careers in the green industry and knowledge of the pathways to get there, including internship opportunities and hands-on experiences with organizations working on climate change.</li> <li>• Partner with M-NCPPC – Department of Parks nature centers as important venues for providing climate change learning experiences for students.</li> </ul>	<p>temperature guns to discover that surfaces like concrete and buildings hold onto heat a lot more than green spaces like in parks and what contributes to that. This program is on hold due to COVID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks' Brookside Nature Center offered a self-guided trail program, "Fahrenhike". Participants use a worksheet to guide them through a series of activities and provides real world examples of how temperature and climate, and changes in weather patterns affect plants, animals, and people. There is a specific reference to a warming climate/climate change at the conclusion of the activity.</li> <li>• M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks Nature Centers' Mission: To enrich people's lives and bring communities together through unforgettable experiences, meaningful connections, and appreciation for nature.</li> <li>• Effective Interpretation: Experience first, education second. Research shows that people's experiences in nature are more powerful and effective than education. Nature Center staff continue to offer interpretation and environmental education to diverse audiences with an emphasis on "the experience" in nature.</li> <li>• Diversity of Services and Delivery Systems: Montgomery Parks offers a diversity of services and programming, keeping up with trending topics and concepts in nature and conservation with a</li> </ul>



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>focus on our local natural resources. We promote healthy lifestyles and help people integrate nature into their everyday lives. Programming and services go beyond the brick and mortar of our buildings. We meet people where they are to break down access barriers and to overcome racial and economic disparities that prevent many people in our county from having a meaningful relationship with nature and parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <u>MCPS 2022 Youth Climate Summit</u> will occur on Saturday, March 5th, 2022. The event will be a full-day conference designed to educate MCPS students about climate change and equip them with the tools to create climate action projects in their communities. The Summit is being planned by students through the science office in order to create an avenue for students to join the climate movement through education and action in our local community.</li> <li>● All MCPS Grade 6 students are learning about Green Careers in a 60-minute lesson (developed by Audubon Naturalist Society) as part of the “Outdoor Ed” program. In addition, all Grade 6 students participate in an environmental SSL which can be done at school or at home with links to other opportunities.</li> <li>● MCPS has shared guidance to help students find Sustainability related <u>SSL projects</u>.</li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCPS is publicizing sustainability and climate information for secondary students via a monthly email newsletter, <a href="#">Student View</a>.</li> <li>• A MCPS high school intern works all year with the MCPS Outdoor Environmental Education Program. The MCPS Division of Sustainability and Compliance is also hosting one student intern. Other organizations desiring to host high school internships should contact <a href="#">Shawn Krasa</a>, Supervisor, Work Based Learning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-17: Develop sustainability goals for schools to reach and provide incentives to do so</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of MCPS schools certified as Maryland Green Schools, with a focus on middle schools.</li> <li>• Identify ways to provide stipends for leaders of Green Schools programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montgomery College is updating its energy design guidelines to incorporate more energy-efficient designs into new buildings and major renovations.</li> <li>• Standardized MCPS primary and secondary school templates have been developed to simplify the Green School application process.</li> <li>• MCPS is identifying barriers to participation and ways they can be resolved. MCPS is taking steps to procure stipends for Green School Team Leaders and is partnering with MCCPTA and DEP on expanding resources and facilitators.</li> <li>• <u>The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking comments on proposed amendments to Board Policy ECA, Energy Conservation</u>, to meet requirements in Maryland law and to align with the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan. On January 13, 2022, the MCPS Board of Education voted to advance the policy to seek public comment. <b>Public comments are due by Friday, Apr.</b></li> </ul>

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
		<p>7. A new title is proposed to reflect a focus on sustainability: Policy ECA, <i>Sustainability</i>. Final action is expected by the Board of Education in May 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two MCPS schools have submitted applications to the Maryland State Department of Education to be recognized as United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-18: Encourage climate change action at home</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand the MCPS Community Resources webpage with information on what students and families can do at home to tackle climate change.</li> <li>Promote energy awareness during Energy Action Month in October.</li> <li>Partner with Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) to use School STEM nights as opportunities to talk to parents about climate change action at home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Facilities at Montgomery College partnered with Pepco to spread awareness about Phantom Loads in campus buildings and at home. The office of facilities distributed 100 smart power strips that prevent phantom loads and energy-efficient lamps as part of this campaign.</li> <li>MCPS continues to update its Sustainability and Compliance website to add sections that includes Resources for Community, Students and Teachers, as well as an archive of past events and presentations.</li> <li>The Montgomery County Council of PTAs hosted a Zoom meeting featuring Montgomery Energy Connection during Energy Action Month, attended by representatives from PTA school-based leadership to share actions households can take to reduce energy use and costs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>P-19: Establish cross-departmental partnership to facilitate implementation of</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a mission statement for this group. Determine department/agency participant list and</li> </ul>	

<b>Climate Action</b>	<b>FY22 Next Steps</b>	<b>Status as of Q2 end</b>
climate goals at County schools	begin convening meetings.	



# Economic Development

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps	Status as of Q2 end
<b>Sustainable Economic Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the Sustainable Economic Development Plan, an economic inclusion strategy based on the CAP, including the identification of actions with high-job creation potential and career pathways for underrepresented and historically marginalized people.</li><li>• Complete analysis of opportunities to transition “legacy businesses” (those that contribute to community stability and identity) into worker-owned coops, particularly those with the greatest potential to advance racial equity and contribute to the County’s resiliency and climate change goals.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DEP contracted with three consultants: Emerald Cities Collaborative, Inclusive Economics, and Health Care Without Harm to undertake the sustainable economic development study, which is currently underway. DEP convened a stakeholder group to provide relevant analyses and be interviewed by the contractors. Preliminary analysis was completed in December 2021.</li></ul>

# Acronyms

- AAHP: African American Health Program
- BEPS: Building Energy Performance Standards
- BOE: Board of Education
- CAA: Community Action Agency
- CAI: Community Advocacy Institute
- CAP: Climate Action Plan
- CBT: Chesapeake Bay Trust
- CCE: Community Choice Energy
- CEAQAC: Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee
- CE: County Executive
- CEX: County Executive Office
- CIP: Capital Improvements Program
- C-PACE: Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy
- DEP: Department of Environment Protection
- DGS: Department of General Services
- DOT: Department of Transportation
- DPS: Department of Permitting Services
- EV: electric vehicle
- FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FIN: Department of Finance
- FTA: Federal Transit Administration
- FY: fiscal year
- GHG: greenhouse gas
- HAWK: High-Intensity Activated crosswalk
- HHS: Department of Health and Human Services
- HOA: Homeowners Association
- HOC: Housing Opportunities Commission
- IECC: International Energy Conservation Code
- IGCC: International Green Construction Code
- KW: kilowatt(s)
- KWh: kilowatt hour(s)
- LHI: Latino Health Initiative
- LLC: Limited Liability Company
- MCCPTA: Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Association
- MCDOT: Montgomery County Department of Transportation
- MCG: Montgomery County Government
- MCPD: Montgomery County Police Department
- MCPS: Montgomery County Public Schools
- MDOT: Maryland Department of Transportation
- M-NCPPC: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- MORE: Montgomery County Racial Equity

- MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
- MSDE: Maryland State Department of Education
- MTA: Maryland Transportation Authority
- MW: megawatt(s)
- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- NSA: Naval Support Facility
- OAG: Office of Agriculture
- OEMHS: Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- OHR: Office of Human Resources
- OIR: Office of Intergovernmental Relations
- OMB: Office of Management and Budget
- OPI: Office of Public Information
- PEPCO: Potomac Electric Power Company
- PSC: Public Service Commission
- PV: photovoltaic
- RAISE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity
- RFP: request for proposal
- SHA: State Highway Administration
- SSL: Student Service Learning
- TPB: Transportation Planning Board
- USDOT: United States Department of Transportation
- WMATA: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- WSSC: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission