



## Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# City of Greenbelt



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[www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)  
Local Government  
Member since May 2017

## Management and Leadership

### Environmental Policy Statement

*The City of Greenbelt is committed to environmental practices. The City strives for sustainability by supporting an environmental team, setting annual environmental goals, planning community environmental projects, encouraging and educating residents on waste reduction, recycling, composting, and water conservation, encouraging projects focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and supporting stormwater management projects.*

### Environmental Team

*The City of Greenbelt's Green Team is a citizen group, supported by the City, which works to engage the community in sustainability projects and events, and educate the city on programs, practices, and activities that contribute to a green lifestyle. Greenbelt's Sustainable Maryland Certified Green Team envisions a City of Greenbelt that has a minimal ecological footprint and supports all city stakeholders to live, work, and play in an environmentally sustainable manner. The mission of the Green Team is to provide leadership to the City of Greenbelt on matters relating to environmental sustainability by:*

- *Engaging in sustainability projects and events, on our own and in collaboration with other entities, that actively promote and model environmental sustainability*
- *Educating city staff, elected officials, residents, and businesses on programs, practices, and activities that contribute to a green lifestyle*
- *Serving as the City's Green Team*

**Annual Environmental Goals**

*The City of Greenbelt sets environmental goals annually and consistently reviews their progress. For FY 2023, the City set the following management objectives:*

- *Reduce the City's greenhouse gas generation in line with state and COG goals (20% lower than 2005 level by 2020 and 80% by 2050). Goal for 2020 achieved!*
- *Reduce electricity consumption 15% by 2017. (Goal set as part of city's participation in Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) program.) Goal Achieved!*
- *Raise the City's recycling percentage to 60% by 2023.*
- *Promote waste reduction, recycling, and composting.*
- *Support the Green Team in implementing its Sustainability Framework Plan.*
- *Improve stormwater quality throughout the city.*
- *Provide 20% of the City's electricity from renewable sources by 2022. (Goal set as part of the city's participation in the MSEC program.) A solar farm is presently being built. Will be operational in 2024.*

*Additionally, the City of Greenbelt has been designated as a Sustainable Maryland Certified municipality and has set a goal to maintain this certification.*

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

*The City of Greenbelt has implemented a Green Purchasing Policy for all employees. The Policy will guide the City's efforts to procure environmentally sustainable products and services. While not all of these guidelines will be feasible in every procurement of goods and services, the City will make a good faith effort to incorporate these guidelines to the maximum extent possible in the procurement decisions. The Policy must be considered for purchasing and contracting in support of the operation and management of all City-owned buildings and facilities as well as their components, systems, operations and materials, and for all programs and events.*

*This Policy is intended to:*

- *Identify those sustainability factors that shall be incorporated into procurement decisions;*
- *Provide implementation guidance;*
- *Empower employees to be innovative and demonstrate leadership by incorporating sustainability factors into procurement decisions;*
- *Communicate the City of Greenbelt's commitment to sustainable procurement.*



## **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*The City of Greenbelt provides voluntary opportunities for citizen engagement in watershed stewardship through organic gardening, planting trees, protecting trees from beavers, removing invasive species, cleaning up litter, planning zero waste events, composting, and collecting GIS data. The total number of volunteer hours served for 2023 was 3,919.*

*The City of Greenbelt organized the following annual service-learning events:*

- Weekly Weed Warriors in June and July*
- Columbus Day of Service in October*
- America Recycles Day in November*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January*
- Presidents' Day of Service in February*
- Arbor Day in April*
- Earth Day in April*
- National Trails Day in June*

*In 2022-2023, the City conducted multiple volunteer projects including the caging of trees to protect from beavers, protecting trees from climbing English ivy, Pollinator Garden maintenance, and native plantings. Volunteers caged over 130 trees, planted over 260 native perennials and shrubs, and removed over 50 cubic yards of invasive plant species from the environment.*

*Celebrated National Public Lands Day by leading a conservation stewardship workday at the Firefly Sanctuary. 18 volunteers worked to remove over 6 cubic yards of invasive species and to install over 60 native plants and create native plant beds to accent the new interpretive signs.*

*Celebrated National Invasive Species Awareness Week with invasive species removal workday and interpretive workshops.*

*Maintained Bee City USA affiliation by maintaining current and creating new pollinator habitat, promoting pollinator health, and hosting pollinator awareness events. Hosted Spring Native Plant sale at the Roosevelt Center.*

*Increased biodiversity through volunteer based native plant plantings and pollinator initiatives.*

*Planted 212 new trees in parks and street right-of-ways.*

*Continued the implementation of the Greenbelt Urban Forest Master Plan.*

## Waste

### **Recycling**

*The City of Greenbelt is able to divert waste from the landfill through comingled curbside recycling, electronics recycling, yard waste diversion, construction materials diversion, paper shredding and recycling, and composting. The City's comingled curbside recycling pickup includes metal food and beverage containers, small metal parts, aluminum foil and trays, empty aerosol can, glass bottles and jars, rigid plastics, pill bottles, plastic containers #1-7, cardboard cereal and food product boxes, aseptic boxes, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, Kraft paper bags and non-foil wrap, phone books, mail, magazines, mixed paper, paperback books, pizza boxes, paper plates and cups. During FY2022, 2891.76 tons of material were diverted from the landfill. Trash going to the landfill was 1540.82 tons. Recycling Rate of 65%*

*Held quarterly Electronic Recycling events. In FY 2022, 0.45 tons of expanded polystyrene (block Styrofoam), and 10.20 tons of electronic equipment were recycled in the United States. Our vendor is R2 certified. The City partners with Berwyn Heights so its residents can also recycle their electronic materials. Established in 2018 and continued partnering with TurnKey Enterprises to provide textile recycling at both recycling centers (Buddy Attick Park and Dog Park). Co-sponsored two "Shred-It" events with the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union. In FY22, 5.3 tons of documents were shredded for recycling. Continued partnering with Yuck Old Paint to recycle usable paint. Paint can be recycled on the same days as our Electronics Recycling events.*

### **Composting**

*Since 2014, the City of Greenbelt has partnered with the Green Team's Zero Waste Circle to perform outreach and education at multiple zero waste community festivals and events by providing equal access to recycling, composting, and landfill waste bins. Established in 2020 a food scrap drop off program picked up by Compost Crew. Also, began Oyster Shell Recovery program at the Buddy Attick Residential Recycling Center. By partnering with the Oyster Recovery Partnership, the Department will allow residents to recycle their oyster shells to aid oyster recovery in the Chesapeake Bay.*

*In 2023, the Greenbelt Department of Public Works continues its program for lunch food scraps. The purpose is to reduce food waste, while improving the nutrient content of soil at the same time. In addition, they started an outreach campaign to encourage yard waste diversion. The City provides spaces for composting demonstration projects at the*

and Research Society (CHEARS) Three Sisters Demonstration Gardens. Public Works holds workshops to teach people about backyard composting and vermiculture twice a year, every year.

Worked with Maryland Environmental Service's tub grinder to grind yard and storm debris, and Christmas trees at Northway Fields to create mulch. In FY22, 1529.00 tons of yard waste were processed.

## Energy

### Energy Efficiency

*The City of Greenbelt improved the energy efficiency of its facilities by upgrading the HVAC systems at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center and at the Community Center. Additionally, all the City lights have been retrofitted with LEDs.*

*In FY 2012, a goal was established to reduce city greenhouse gas generation in line with goals set by the state and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments – 10% below 2005 levels by 2012, 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. In 2013, an additional goal was established to reduce electricity consumption by 15% by 2017 (set as part of city's participation in Maryland Smart Energy Community (MSEC) program). A number of actions have been and are being implemented to achieve these goals. Data collected through 2022 shows the city has reduced its carbon footprint 70% from 2005 levels and its electrical consumption by 21% from 2012 levels.*

#### *Maryland Energy Administration MSEC grants:*

- *Phase I grant monies (\$63,800) were used to upgrade lighting in the Indoor and Outdoor Pool, Youth Center Gym and Springhill Lake Recreation Center Gym with energy efficient LED lighting fixtures.*
- *Phase II grant monies (\$80,000) were used to replace all interior and exterior lights at the Police Station, and exterior lights and interior lights for building #2 at Public Works.*
- *Phase III grant monies (\$100,000) were utilized to replace the interior lights in the Community Center, and the exterior lights at the Skate Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Staff replaced those fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures and installed occupancy sensors and other controls to help produce energy savings. The City's Phase IV grant application was denied.*
- *Phase V grant monies (\$58,500) were utilized for the installation of solar panels on the roof at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.*

- Phase VI grant monies (\$15,000) were utilized to install two level two electric charging stations at Public Works.
- For Phase VII, T]the City was awarded \$50,000 to upgrade lighting fixtures, the installation of occupancy sensors and other controls to help reduce energy consumption at the Youth Center and Public Works.
- For Phase VIII, With MSEC21 The City purchased a Chevrolet Bolt Electric Vehicle that replaced a Code Enforcement car. And installed a Level 2 EV charging station at Public Works.
- Phase IX, With MSEC21 The City conducted energy improvements at the Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road.

**Renewable Energy**

*Starting in FY2014, the City of Greenbelt obtains 100% of its power from wind alternatives by our electricity provider. The contract has a Green Purchasing Power through WGL Energy's CleanSteps WINDPOWER program. Utilizing the greenhouse gas calculation methodology of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the city has calculated its reduction in generation of greenhouse gases (carbon footprint) for FY22 by 70% from 2005 levels. This process is well ahead of the goals set by the State of Maryland and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.*

*In 2018, a photovoltaic solar system was installed at the Springhill Lake (SHL) Recreation Center and is making its own electricity and offsetting electrical consumption at SHL Recreation Center. As part of the MSEC grant program, the city has also committed to get 20% of its energy from renewable sources. A solar farm is presently being built that will offset about 60% of the City's electrical consumption. Right now the project is in the process of obtaining Prince George's Counties' permit. The farm should be online by 2024.*

## Transportation

**Fleet Vehicles**

*The City of Greenbelt has a fleet of environmentally responsible vehicles in service. The City is currently running 15 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid, 11 Ford Fusion Hybrid, 5 Chevy Bolt Electric, 1 Electric Gem Polaris, 2 Ford Escape hybrid, 34 Total alternative fuel vehicles. This is a 142% increase in alternate fuel vehicles from the year 2017 to 2023.*

*Alternate Fuel Tools: 4 electric chainsaws, 5 electric pole saws, 2 electric hedge trimmers, 3 electric pole hedge trimmers, 2 electric lawnmowers, and 3 electric blowers.*

## Water

### Stormwater Management and Site Design

*The City of Greenbelt's stormwater control measures include landscaping with rain gardens and bioswales, rain cisterns, and permeable pavement. The Greenbelt Public Works Department Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) describes the sediment and erosion control plan, as well as activities to prevent stormwater contamination, control sedimentation and erosion, and comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Stormwater visual monitoring inspections are performed and recorded quarterly at the Public Works outfall. The Public Works Department Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan helps prevent a discharge of oil, or control a spill should one occur, into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines.*

## Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

- Sustainable Maryland Certified  
Bee City USA Certified

**Profile Updated June 2023**



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](https://green.maryland.gov)*

