



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.

# Baltimore County Public Library



BALTIMORE COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

320 York Road  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
410-887-6160  
[www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info)  
Public Library  
Member since April 2016

## Management and Leadership

### Environmental Policy Statement

#### **BCPL Green and Sustainable Philosophy Statement**

*Baltimore County Public Library has always had a strong commitment to supporting, educating, and improving the quality of life in its communities. To preserve that quality of life for future generations and library users, we must raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage sustainable practices. Creating green, clean, and healthy spaces in which our users can fulfill our mission and “explore, learn, create, and connect” is important. BCPL is committed to fostering responsible environmental stewardship in our libraries and our communities.*

*BCPL’s commitment to green and sustainable efforts includes:*

- *Exploring, evaluating, expanding, and refining our services and practices, seeking new and improved ways of being green and sustainable.*
- *Reducing the waste and energy output of our facilities.*
- *Partnering with businesses and organizations to maximize green and sustainable awareness, efforts, and services.*
- *Providing information and programs for both staff and customers dedicated to learning about and championing eco-friendly practices.*

*This philosophy and commitment aligns BCPL's values of collaboration and continuous improvement in our Strategic Plan goal to create standout user experiences, and its specific objective to establish and maintain a standard of gracious space for every library facility.*

**Environmental Team**

*A system wide Green and Sustainable Team was created to brainstorm, research, and propose/implement ideas that will help to foster BCPL's commitment to green and sustainable practices. This cross-functional team meets monthly and consists of six members and an administrative liaison. The team, still in its infancy, has been working on establishing a philosophy statement, calculating our carbon footprint, which will provide a baseline and help us identify areas for improvement, and brainstorming and prioritizing recommendations for the system to implement.*

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

**Computer Paper:** *BCPL's standard computer paper is currently made of 50% post-consumer waste. Our supplier for the paper is American Eagle which has strong sustainable practices in place. We are in the process of exploring/testing 100% post-consumer waste paper options. The statistics below show the benefits of using 50% post-consumer waste paper vs. using 0% post-consumer waste (PCW) paper. It also shows the benefits of moving towards 100% post-consumer waste paper. BCPL currently uses about 16 tons of copier paper a year.*

<b>Paper Name:</b>	Baseline Paper	50% PCW Paper	100% PCW Paper
<b>Percent Recycled Content:</b>	0	50	100

Wood Use	60 tons	30 tons	0 tons
Net Energy	521 million BTU's	435 million BTU's	348 million BTU's
Greenhouse Gases	89,620 pounds CO2 equiv.	73,072 pounds CO2 equiv.	56,524 pounds CO2 equiv.
Water	365,655	275,907	186,158

Consumption	gallons	gallons	gallons
Solid Waste	30,749 pounds	24,741 pounds	18,733 pounds

- *The Baseline Paper uses 60 tons, made from about 384 trees; 50% PCW paper uses about 192 fewer trees; 100% PCW paper would use about 384 fewer trees*
- *The Baseline Paper uses 521 million BTU's, the equivalent of about 6 homes/year; 50% PCW paper uses the equivalent of about 1 fewer homes/year; 100% PCW paper would use the equivalent of about 2 fewer homes/year.*
- *The Baseline Paper produces 89,620 pounds CO2 equiv., the equivalent of about 8 cars/year; 50% PCW paper produces the equivalent of about 2 fewer cars/year; 100% PCW paper would produce the equivalent of about 3 fewer cars/year.*



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

**Blue Water Baltimore:** *The Reisterstown Branch worked with Blue Water Baltimore to conduct a water audit on the property and host a Rain Barrel program for the public. The Loch Raven Branch is also working with Blue Water Baltimore.*

**Grounds and Stream Cleanup:** *The Loch Raven Branch host an yearly event in which they clean up their property and the stream that runs through the property.*

**Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens:** *The Reisterstown Branch established a native plant and pollinator garden to help support local wildlife, promote native plants, and educate customers.*

**Learning Garden:** *The Reisterstown Branch established a learning garden that features different themes annually. This garden helps to educate customers about safe gardening practices. The Essex, Catonsville, and Parkville branches are also looking into installing garden beds.*

**4-H:** *In 2015 several branches held programs in partnership with 4-H. Program topics included: Animal Leasing / Marketing Animal Promotion, Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation, Rain Gardens, and Dairy Goats.*

**Baltimore County Master Gardeners:** *In 2015 several branches held programs in partnership with Baltimore County Master Gardeners. Program topics included: Pollinators, Organic Vegetable Gardening, Home Composting, and Herb Gardening Indoors.*

**Public Programming:** In 2015 branches held several public programs that relate to green and sustainable topics. Some of these topics included: Intro to Beekeeping (in partnership with the Central Maryland Beekeepers' Association), Garden to Table, Century Cooking with Joyce White (make your own butter and cheese), Green Cleaning Essentials (University of Maryland Extension Services), Square Foot Gardening (Cromwell Valley Park), Garden Heroes and Villains, Bicycle Blender, Global Cardboard Challenge, Build Your Own "Green" Gingerbread House, Painted Rain Barrels, a variety of upcycling programs, Let's Talk Climate Change with Dr. Bill Blair - professor from Hopkins, and an Author Talk with Field and Stream columnist Bill Heavey.

**Sister Library:** The Reisterstown Library collaborated with a local teacher at the Jemicy School who received a Fulbright Scholarship to visit and learn about sustainability and education in New Zealand. The collaboration resulted in a sister library partnership with a library in Wellington, New Zealand. One of the focuses of this partnership is sustainability and learning about two different cultures and ecosystems.

## Waste

### **Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

*BCPL has implemented a number of paper use reduction measures.*

**Digital Displays:** In an effort to reduce the use of paper used for posters, BCPL is rolling out digital displays in the branches that will utilize digital posters instead of paper. Digital Displays will be in all branches by the end of FY16.

**Branching Out:** Our staff newsletter, Branching Out, transitioned from print to online.

**iPads:** In an effort to reduce paper usage, branches are utilizing iPads (instead of printing paper) to run a variety of collection related reports including hold requests, missing reports, and deadstock reports.

### **Recycling**

**Single Stream:** All BCPL locations recycle materials that are accepted through Baltimore County's single stream recycling program. We are calculating measurable through our carbon footprint and can use that information to identify areas for improvement.

**Better World Books:** BCPL uses a vendor called Better World Books to resell discarded library books that might otherwise end up in a dumpster. In 2015 approximately 215,000 books were sold through Better World Books that might have otherwise ended up in a dumpster.

## Transportation

### Employee Commute

**Carpooling:** BCPL encourages car-pooling when possible.

**GoToMeetings:** BCPL implemented the use of GoToMeetings in order to minimize the number of meetings that employees would have to drive to attend. From January-March 2016 we have held 25 GoTo Meetings with a total of 69 attendees.

**Live Stream/U-Stream:** The use of live streaming technologies will be implemented in FY17. This is to help further reduce the amount of time that people will spend travelling to and from meetings and events.

**Relay Foods:** Reisterstown partnered with Relay Foods to become a pickup location for groceries. This enabled local residents and employees access to sustainably sourced groceries that were not otherwise available in the area and reduce driving distance to pick up locations.

## Water

### Water Conservation

**Low-Flow Toilets:** The toilets at our three LEED certified buildings are low-flow toilets.

### Stormwater Management and Site Design

**Rain Barrels:** The Reisterstown Branch installed two rain barrels to help reduce the amount of stormwater runoff. These rain barrels have also been used to water garden plants.

## Green Building

### LEED Silver

Perry Hall Branch: LEED BD+C: New Construction v2 - LEED 2.2

*Arbutus Branch: LEED BD+C: New Construction v2 - LEED 2.2*

*Owings Mill Branch (within Owings Mills Learning Center): LEED BD+C: New Construction v2 - LEED 2.2)*

## Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

- Certified Monarch Waystation:*** *The Reisterstown Branch has been recognized as a Certified Monarch Waystation.*

***National Wildlife Foundation Certified Wildlife Habitat:*** *The Reisterstown Branch has been recognized as a National Wildlife Foundation Certified Wildlife Habitat.*



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

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

