



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.

Town of Poolesville



TOWN OF
Poolesville
MARYLAND

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Poolesville, MD 20837

707-502-8880

<https://www.poolesvillemd.gov/450/Sustainable-Poolesville>

Town Commission appointed by town officials

Member since September 2018

Management and Leadership



Environmental Policy Statement

The Town of Poolesville is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. We will strive to improve our environmental performance over time and to initiate additional projects and activities that will further reduce our impacts on the environment.

Our commitment to the environment extends to our customers, our staff, and the community in which we operate. We are committed to:

- *Comply with all applicable environmental regulations;*
- *Prevent pollution whenever possible;*
- *Train our staff on our environmental program and empower them to contribute and participate;*
- *Communicate our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community; and*
- *Continually improve our environmental performance by setting annual goals to reduce our environmental impacts and measuring our results.*

Signed: Wade Yost, Town Manager

Date: May 3, 2023



Environmental Team

The Sustainable Poolesville Committee is a 9-member volunteer board of Poolesville residents with different backgrounds which meets monthly to look at ways to create a greener, healthier, and safer community. The Committee acts in

an advisory capacity to the Town's Commissioners, as well as the Town's various Boards and Commissions. The overall mission of the Sustainable Poolesville Committee is to create a cleaner, safer, and healthier community. The Committee promotes awareness of sustainability issues, identifies opportunities for the Town to cost-effectively reduce its environmental impact, and facilitates initiatives to capture these opportunities. All sustainability goals are pursued through a collaborative effort between local government, schools, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, businesses, and its residents.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Per the Poolesville Sustainable Procurement Policy, Poolesville employees incorporate certain factors when writing specifications for, or procuring materials, products, or services.

-Environmental factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, the life cycle assessment of pollutant releases, toxicity, especially the use of persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals, waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, depletion of natural resources, and impacts on biodiversity.

-Social equity factors to be considered include, but are not limited to human health impacts, use of local businesses, use of State of Maryland Minority, Women, and Emerging Small Businesses policies.

-Fiscal Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Use reduction; buy only what you really need*
- Product performance and quality*
- Life-cycle cost assessment; reasonable total cost while meeting performance*

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

1. The Poolesville Community Garden is a community-wide collaborative effort hosted by the Poolesville Presbyterian Church and facilitated by the local nonprofit Poolesville Green. All members of the community are encouraged to play a part, small or large, through financial contributions, in-kind services or volunteering time and effort to see this project bear fruit and natural beauty for all residents and visitors. Formerly a vacant lot owned by and adjacent to the church it is now transformed into an attractive, food-producing site with the added benefit of a space for reflection.

2. National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat Project: In June 2016, the Sustainable Poolesville Committee partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to register with their Garden for Wildlife™ program with the goal of becoming a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. Poolesville attained this certification in April 2020.

The Community Wildlife Habitat Project brings people together for a common purpose – to create a community where people, flora and fauna can flourish. Poolesville’s action plan includes a long-term commitment to citizen education about providing habitat for wildlife and employing sustainable gardening practices. These practices include reducing or eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, conserving water, planting native plants, removing invasive plants and composting.

Poolesville’s Community Wildlife Habitat project goal is to encourage as many homes, places of worship, businesses, farms/stables and other locations as possible in the 20837 zip code area to become NWF-certified habitats. Each individual certification provides the project with points toward the Community Wildlife Habitat certification. The Poolesville Town Hall property was certified as a wildlife habitat in December 2017, and L.M. Stevens Park was certified in February 2018. In addition, the project works toward specific community education and outreach goals, which include, but are not limited to, maintaining a project Facebook page, providing Garden for Wildlife™ information at the annual community event (Poolesville Day), and maintaining an information kiosk at Town Hall.

3. Campbell Park Improvement Project: This native species/pollinator project created two general sections in Campbell Park in downtown Poolesville. The first part has two new paved pathways to encourage walking/running/biking and includes several plots that contain native plant species especially suited for pollinators. The second area also includes sections of new paved pathway as well as native trees peppered throughout.

4. In terms of community outreach, the Town has created a Sustainable Resource Center. The resource center provides sustainable resource materials to residents in two ways. In the main lobby of the Town Hall, three large display boards focus on the importance of energy conservation, water conservation and recycling. Also included in the main foyer is an informational pamphlet display center, for the distribution of water quality reports, business directories and much more. On the Town’s website, a specific page is dedicated to providing information water conservation, draught-resistant plants, recycling, lead information and energy information. Poolesville strives to communicate the importance of and methods of sustainable living.

Waste



Recycling

Since 2015, the Town of Poolesville has held an annual community shredding, electronics recycling, and used paint collection event. Advertising is accomplished through the Town’s web site, Community Facebook page and on an

annual mailer advertising all Town events. In 2022, the shredder truck, which is contracted through the Town collected and shredded nearly 6,100 pounds of paper. The electronics collection dumpster is supplied through a partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. At the 2022 event, 39,940 pounds of electronic items were collected. In 2022, the used paint collection resulted in 374 cans of paint, totaling 2,064 pounds, which if usable gets donated for re-use.

In July 2023, as part of the renewal of the Town's contract for residential trash and recycling services, Poolesville will switch from single-stream to dual-stream recycling. The Sustainable Poolesville Committee, acting in its advisory role, provided considerable evidence to support the change to dual-stream recycling in order to reduce the amount of material being burned in Montgomery County's nearby incinerator or being sent to the County landfill. Single-stream recycling often results in contamination of the materials making them unsuitable for reprocessing, resulting in more than 194 tons of co-mingled/contaminated material being sent to various processing facilities outside of Montgomery County or to the County's incinerator in Dickerson. With the award of the new contract and the switch to dual-stream recycling in July 2023, Poolesville's recyclables will be transported to the County's recycling center for sorting and eventual sale to various companies. This will represent a significant reduction in the amount of material burned or sent to landfills.

Energy



Energy Efficiency

The Town of Poolesville completed its LED Streetlights Installment Program in 2022. Poolesville and local utility Potomac Edison worked with the Public Service Commission to institute Maryland's first LED rate. The electrical costs were reduced from \$8.00 to less than \$2.00 per month per light.

In addition to the replacement program, the Town is requiring that all new developments install LED streetlights as part of the Public Improvement Agreement. Poolesville has received overwhelming community support regarding these measures which have been featured in the local newspaper, website and promoted in the Town's booth during the annual Poolesville Day festival. The lighting is much improved and with the new "dark sky" compliant fixtures that specifically direct light downward, allowing reduction in light pollution.

On April 17, 2023, The Commissioners of Poolesville adopted Resolution 001-23, which establishes a One Hundred Percent (100%) renewable energy goal for municipal electricity use by 2030 including at least 80% renewable energy by 2027. Over the past several years, the Town has actively pursued opportunities

to respond to the climate change emergency and demonstrated how even a small town like Poolesville can tackle climate change head on. Through the Town's 1.1 mega-watt solar array and LED streetlight program, we are already exceeding the 80% renewable energy goal.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



Green Schools Certification: All 4 schools within the Poolesville School Cluster, (which include 3 schools within the corporate limits of the Town of Poolesville) have been certified as Maryland Green Schools. They are Poolesville Elementary (certified as a Green School in 2015), Monocacy Elementary (certified in 2018), John Poole Middle School (certified in 2003, recertified in 2008, 2012 and 2016 and awarded the Green Ribbon Award by U.S. Dept. of Education in 2017), and Poolesville High School (certified in 2008, recertified in 2012 and 2016.) Each have demonstrated their dedication to environmental sustainability through three tenets of conservation--strong support through the school curriculum, a plethora of student sustainability practices, and a wide array of community partnerships.

In 2015, the Town of Poolesville achieved the prestigious Sustainable Maryland certification in recognition of the Town's commitment to sustainable principles and practices. Poolesville maintains that certification with the support of the Sustainable Poolesville Committee and was recertified in 2018 and 2021.

Profile Updated May 2023



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

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

