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.

Calvert County Government

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County Government
Member since March 2011

Management and Leadership

☑ **Environmental Policy Statement**

The Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County and all of County government are committed to preservation, sustainability, energy resource management and conservation both for economic savings and environmental benefit. The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, Calvert 2040 (adopted in 2019), which is the county's official policy document states the following goals and objectives:

- *Preserve the rural character of the county, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, cultural resources, and environmentally sensitive areas*
- *Continue a comprehensive approach to environmental planning with special emphasis on watershed planning*
- *Preserve, protect, and conserve land-based natural resources*
- *Install or enhance stormwater management systems to reduce pollution in the county streams, Patuxent River, and Chesapeake Bay*
- *Maintain well-managed and effective solid waste and recyclable materials management systems in Calvert County*
- *Consider new renewable energy opportunities*
- *Take steps to decrease water consumption*
- *Minimize pollution from wastewater treatment plants and septic systems.*

☑ **Environmental Team**

Calvert County's Go Green initiative is a local effort to promote the responsible use of energy and resources in order to create a healthier

environment and a more sustainable community. Calvert County's Green Team is leading the Go Green initiative. The Green Team consists of members of the community from Calvert County Government, Calvert County Public Schools, local business owners, and various community agencies. The Green Team is focused on fostering citizen input on green initiatives and informing residents about ways to reduce energy consumption and protect the environment.

☑ **Annual Environmental Goals**

In 2016 the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County adopted a policy to reduce electricity consumption in County-owned buildings and has partnered with the Maryland Smart Energy Commission to help achieve energy reduction goals.

With regard to energy conservation the policy established the following goals:

- *Reducing per-square foot electricity consumption by 15% relative to an established baseline within 5 years of the baseline year*
- *To become a Maryland Smart Energy Community (MSEC) by enrolling within the MSEC Grant Program an working with the State of Maryland, Maryland Energy Administration*
- *To report electricity consumption and progress towards the goal annually. Working with and reporting to the Maryland Energy Administration in order to assure that Calvert County accomplishes said goals in a timely fashion to the extent practicable and subject to appropriations*

With regard to renewable energy the policy establishes the following goals:

- *To investigate alternative energy sources and determine their practicality for implementation*
- *To remain informed of advancements in technologies in new renewable energy resources*
- *To implement renewable energy alternatives into new construction to the extent practicable and subject to appropriations*

☑ **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

Calvert County's Green Team cosponsors an annual Green Living Festival open to the community. The purpose of the Green Living Festival is to provide outreach information regarding energy efficient activities citizens can undertake to save energy, money and the environment. Vendors who promote energy saving efforts and products (including contractors, retailers, etc.), community groups (local public and private school groups, the Girl Scouts, etc.), the local

hospital, and other local agencies that promote environmental stewardship present materials and resources to the public. Interactive workshops, guest speakers, and materials are provided.

Calvert County's Green Team has coauthored a booklet entitled: 'From My Backyard to Our Bay' for distribution to the citizens of Calvert County. The booklet outlines everyday environmental activities and choices that homeowners can make to protect the Chesapeake Bay and our local waterfront. Examples include: using lawn and garden fertilizers sparingly and correctly, encouraging wildlife, watering more efficiently, and mowing properly.

Waste

☑ **Recycling**

Countywide recycling has reached 26% as of 2016. Most of the county buildings have recycling operations in place (paper, cardboard and plastic) and all regional parks have recycling in place (paper and plastic).

Energy

☑ **Energy Efficiency**

- *The county secured a $95,000 grant from the Maryland Energy Administration in May 2016 to reduce energy consumption and utilize renewable energy sources.*
- *The funding also supported a comprehensive energy audit in all county buildings, resulting in a 15 percent reduction of the county's energy consumption.*
- *A lighting retrofit was completed at the Calvert County Detention Center in December 2017.*
- *Early indications suggest a savings of at least $12,000 per year at the Detention Center attributable to utility rebates and energy efficiencies.*

Water

☑ **Water Conservation**

A new County truck and bus wash station was constructed using an InterClean machine. Estimates are that a bus can be washed for as little as $1.00 and that the new process will recycle 925 gallons of water per vehicle. Approximately 100 vehicles will be washed each week, saving million gallons of water per year.

Waterless urinals were installed at the Flag Ponds Beach bathhouse along with low-flow toilets. Low flow toilets were also installed at the Mount Hope Community Center.

☑ **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater program regulations in 1990. NPDES Phase I established requirements for stormwater discharges for industrial activities and large to medium municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) serving populations of 250,000 and 100,000 or greater, respectively. In December 1999, the EPA established NPDES Phase II requirements, which expanded the program to include smaller localities as well as state and federal agencies located in Census-defined urbanized areas.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) notified the Department of Public Works that Calvert County meets the criteria under federal regulations requiring coverage under the NPDES Phase II Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. As a result of the 2010 US Census, "Lexington Park - California - Chesapeake Ranch Estates" is designated as an urbanized area and therefore, Calvert County will be complying with the required permit.

The requirements of the NPDES Phase II MS4 permit include developing and distributing education materials, developing a hotline for reporting, promoting and performing public participation events, adopting an ordinance regulating illicit discharges, adopting an Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, adopting a Stormwater Management Ordinance, triennial inspections of stormwater devices, routine maintenance of publicly owned Best Management Practices, developing and implementing pollution prevention plans, tracking and quantifying efforts to reduce fertilizers, pesticides, etc., developing a baseline Impervious Area Assessment, and developing and implementing an Impervious Area Restoration Work Plan.

Profile Updated January 2020

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

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

Maryland