

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S CLIMATE PROTECTION PLAN, PART 3 FORESTRY & AGRICULTURE, LAND USE & PLANNING, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**OVERVIEW:** In January 2009 – after about a year's work by staff, consultants and civic volunteers constituting a sustainability working group – Montgomery County produced a Climate Protection Plan (CPP) with 58 recommendations in 7 categories: (1) Renewable Energy, (2) Residential Building Energy Efficiency, (3) Commercial/Multi-Family/Public Building Energy Efficiency, (4) Transportation, (5) Forestry & Agriculture, (6) Land Use & Planning, and (7) Education & Outreach.

Momentum gradually increased after the county passed nine environmental bills on Earth Day 2014. For example, in June 2014 an Office of Sustainability was established after passage of county bill 6-14. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staffer Stan Edwards, one of the staff who supported the development of the CPP, was named to head that office. The Office of Sustainability is actually an informal name for the nine staff (and potentially three more in fiscal year 2017) with sustainability responsibilities in DEP's Division of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

In addition, in 2014 the Department of General Services (DGS) set up an Office of Energy and Sustainability, headed by Eric Coffman, formerly of DEP. This office now has five staff members (with one more to be hired) and 1.5 contractor positions. Mr. Coffman states that the cost savings attained by this office basically pay for the cost of staffing it. The Department of Permitting Services also has green management responsibilities due to county standards set for new buildings, and the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) have an ongoing program of building green schools and adding green aspects (e.g., solar panels) to existing school facilities.

Recently DEP has selected a new approach for planning and evaluating county sustainability efforts. Rather than determining the progress made towards the 58 recommendations of the 2009 Climate Protection Plan, they have begun to apply a free tool available to local governments, the STAR (Sustainability Tool for Assessing and Rating Communities) Community Rating System ([www.starcommunities.org](http://www.starcommunities.org)). (Starting on page 39 of the 2016 update report [see general electronic references], one can see how DEP is beginning to apply STAR.)

The STAR Community Rating System was initiated and supported by founding partners ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, the U.S. Green Building Council, the National League of Cities and the Center for American Progress. Its work is supported through membership subscriptions and generous foundation grants from these national philanthropic organizations. STAR provides communities with "a roadmap to help evaluate, assess and improve communities' economic, environmental and social performance measures and become healthier, stronger and more resilient." STAR is compelling because it is premised on a broad-based approach to creating sustainable communities involving a coordinated effort between government and the community. Such an approach makes great sense since the challenges associated with sustainability are systemic and cross-cutting in nature.

STAR is based on an assessment of goals in seven areas – the built environment; climate and energy; economy and jobs; education, arts and community; equity and empowerment; health and safety; and natural systems. Within each goal area are a set of between 5 to 7 objectives for each goal. Each objective is further broken down into associated outcomes and actions that demonstrate a jurisdiction's progress toward meeting an objective.

A major component of STAR is an assessment of activities and outcomes related to climate change and energy use. Furthermore, other aspects of the rating system explore activities and outcomes related to transportation, land use and natural systems, which -- due to their relevance to climate change -- were all areas addressed in the CPP. Because STAR goes beyond climate change and energy topics to explore important economic and social issues which, while critical to making a community fully sustainable, are beyond the scope of the CPP. DEP has utilized only the aspects of the STAR Community Rating System that overlap with the CPP for meeting the reporting and benchmarking requirements outlined in Section 18A-13 of the Montgomery County Code. However, the county could decide to utilize the full framework and pursue recognition through STAR certification.

**FOCUS:** This Fact Sheet addresses the last three sections of the CPP: (1) forestry and agriculture, (2) land use and planning, and (3) education and outreach. A summary of each section's outlook and recommendations with an emphasis on relevant actions taken since 2009 is presented, along with mention of any new reports that have been produced using DEP's current STAR approach. Previous LWVMC Fact Sheets on the CPP have focused on (1) energy issues and (2) transportation.

## **I. FOREST AND AGRICULTURE**

**Recommendations.** The CPP's recommendations concerning forestry and agriculture included the following 11 "F&A" items:

- (1) Develop an accurate inventory of forest cover and tree canopy in Montgomery County, and set forest cover and tree canopy goals.
- (2) Develop a comprehensive approach that protects and enhances forest and tree resources.
- (3) Lobby the State of Maryland and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to revise and update the State Roadside Tree Law (RTL) and its implementing regulations, as well as to enforce the existing law; and explore opportunities to increase the role of county departments and agencies in protecting trees in the right-of-way.
- (4) Extend the county's current property tax credit for energy conservation and renewable energy measures to include tree planting.
- (5) Create landscape incentives in urban areas to increase number, quality and survivability of trees planted in the public right-of-way and on private property.
- (6) Increase shade tree planting and maintenance in public and private parking lots.
- (7) Develop simplified processes to enable landowners to establish conservation easements or protection areas.
- (8) Encourage and foster school programs integral to curricula that promote increased student involvement and engagement in forest and tree planting, conservation and maintenance programs within their communities and on available public property; and engage surrounding communities in planting and conserving trees on private property.
- (9) Develop an educational campaign to convey the vital role trees play in the long-term sustainability and health of the county.
- (10) Manage non-native invasive pests that threaten forests and trees.
- (11) Expand local production of fruits and vegetables.

**Offices, Reports and Laws.** County offices whose actions are relevant to these recommendations include the Office of Sustainability, part of the Division of Environmental Policy and Compliance in the Department of the Environment; the Office of Energy and Sustainability in the Department of General Services; the Department of Transportation (for street tree planting and care); and the Department of Permitting Services (for private actions related to roadside trees) plus the bi-county Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Since about 2008, the county has also had its Forest Conservation Advisory Committee as a resource. [There are active community groups as well, such as Conservation Montgomery.] County strategies and laws that are relevant include the 2000 Forest Preservation Strategy and its 2004 Forest Strategy Update; the 1992 Forest Conservation Law; the 2014 Roadside Tree Law; and the 2014 Tree Canopy Conservation Law.

**Tree Canopy.** The county has used professional surveys to help it determine the existing levels of tree canopy in various parts of the county and to help it set tree canopy goals. The planning department has a tool at <http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/environment/forest-conservation-and-trees/tree-canopy-analysis/>. The county is using the tree canopy coverage goals for urban areas nationwide that were established by American Forests ([www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)). The goals are expressed as a percentage of land area in different urban land use classes, such as suburban residential, urban residential and central business district.

The Tree Canopy Law is able to raise funds to increase the tree canopy through its application to development activities requiring a sediment control permit that create land disturbances above a certain level. Thereby small developers and custom home builders have contributed substantially to shade tree plantings (e.g., more than \$640,000 was paid into the Tree Canopy Account in 2015, providing much of the funding for DEP's "Tree Montgomery" program.) Besides tree plantings, the program provides for two years of aftercare. A Tree Montgomery website is due to debut soon that will show where new trees are planted via an interactive map as well as providing information on tree care and other tree-planting programs.

**Roadside Tree Law.** In 2015 the Department of Transportation was able to plant 1,700 roadside trees, a 50% increase over the previous year, supported in part by fees paid for mitigation under the county's Roadside Tree Law. This law seeks to conserve trees in the county's right-of-way. Property owners who want to cut down a roadside tree for any reason must obtain not only a state tree permit but also a county right-of-way permit and must either plant another tree at or near the site or pay into a dedicated tree replacement fund. This fund is to be used to plant two additional trees in a right-of-way for each tree removed. Currently these additional trees are being planted in areas where satellite imagery shows low tree canopy, particularly in communities located within priority watersheds for water and air quality protection. Tree applicants get an opportunity to help choose the types of trees and where they are planted both for roadside trees and for the tree canopy. Since spring 2003, DEP has been targeting street tree plantings to achieve multiple environmental objectives, such as reducing peak storm water flows, cleaning storm water runoff, removing air pollutants, reducing urban temperature impacts and reducing energy needs and costs of heating and cooling.

**Public Education.** Many materials on the DEP website now provide information and advice on trees and forests (as per references in this section). Face-to-face learning opportunities happen at such public events as DEP's GreenFest and the non-profit Conservation Montgomery's Tree Tours and Trees 101 demonstration talks.

**Non-Native Invasive Pests.** Non-native invasive plants threaten natural ecosystems, including in county parks, by vines climbing up and choking mature trees; outcompeting native plants for light, water and nutrients; obstructing the regeneration of native plant communities; replacing native food sources used by wildlife; and impeding the county's reforestation program. An early and continuing weapon is the Weed Warrior Program, a volunteer effort started in 1999 by Montgomery County Parks Forest Ecologist Carole Bergmann. Currently Weed Warriors are concentrating particularly on fighting the emerald ash borer.

DEP currently is proposing regulatory actions to control the sale and use of invasive species and prevent their use in landscaping (as well as establishing a community-wide invasive species integrated pest management plan), require the use of only non-invasive species around government-owned buildings, provide public education and initiate incentive programs for local businesses and private owners to grow and sell native or desirable plants and animals and cease to sell invasive species or other harmful plants and animals. Park staff also have developed management plans and practices for non-native invasives.

**Local Produce.** The county's diverse agricultural industry includes about 540 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises. Local produce is marketed in the county in three different ways: pick your own, farmers' markets and community-supported agriculture (CSA) contracts. CSAs involve a relationship between a grower and consumers who have pledged to support that farm while receiving weekly produce shares once harvesting begins.

There are three major pick-your-own farms operating on a seasonal basis: Butlers Orchard, Lewis Orchard and Homestead Farm. About two dozen farmers' markets now get their permits from the state to sell whole or uncut fruits and vegetables, unflavored honey, unhazardous baked goods, eggs and acidic fruit jams and jellies. Selling prepared foods requires additional licensing by the county's Department of Health and Human Services.

## **2. LONG-TERM PLANNING, INCLUDING LAND-USE PLANNING**

**Recommendations.** The following are the five recommendations concerning land use and planning in the CPP:

- (1) The county's growth policy should direct growth to areas with significant existing or planned transit resources and promote development that fulfills smart growth criteria such as those required as part of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a U.S. Green Building Council designation for Neighborhood Development-- or more stringent county standards.
- (2) Amend the Zoning Code.
- (3) Master plans should plan for redevelopment to create compact, livable places with a variety of housing types and mixed uses that invite people to walk or bike safely to work, to shop and to participate in community life without a long commute by car. The Agricultural Reserve should continue to be protected for food production, recreation and carbon sequestration.
- (4) A Green Infrastructure Plan should be adopted to protect an interconnected network of forests, fields and wetlands and to provide priorities for protection, restoration and mitigation of loss of natural resources. This plan will be considered in master plans, development proposals (both public and private) and park acquisition for natural resource protection.
- (5) A Water Resources Functional Master Plan (WRFMP) should be adopted to provide priorities for water resources goals in other functional and area/sector master plans; development proposals; park acquisition that focuses on forest cover, wetland and tree canopy protection; restoration and enhancement; as well as Environmental Site Design (ESD) implementation. Policies and strategies that provide water-related benefits through enhancements in these areas will also provide ancillary carbon reduction benefits. [Note: see LWVMC Fact Sheet on water management plans, FS 2014-04 Water Quality in Montgomery County rev4-1-14 ([https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmc/pages/42/attachments/original/1437676218/FS\\_2014-04\\_WATER\\_QUALITY\\_IN\\_MONTGOMERY\\_COUNTYrev4-1-14.pdf?1437676218](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/lwvmc/pages/42/attachments/original/1437676218/FS_2014-04_WATER_QUALITY_IN_MONTGOMERY_COUNTYrev4-1-14.pdf?1437676218) ).]

**Growth/Subdivision Staging Policy.** The 2016 Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP) moves Montgomery County forward to a future that will be more multi-modal, more diverse and more populous, and that will require increasingly more innovative ideas on how to provide public facilities that support our quality of life. It organizes policy areas into groups that recognize current land use patterns, the prevalence of modes of travel other than the single-occupant vehicle and the planning vision for different parts of the county. It moves away from policies focused predominantly on car travel by creating multi-modal adequacy tests that look at how areas of the county are meeting their transit accessibility goals and by measuring person trips associated with new development instead of only vehicle trips.

With respect to school facilities, the 2016 SSP aims to forge a better connection between the individual school experience and its measure of adequacy, providing information that can shape how the county spends taxpayer funds to provide needed facilities and services. It uses student generation rates that are associated with all residential structures regardless of year built – so as to capture the enrollment impact of new housing over its lifetime. Also, it implements a hybrid annual school test that combines cluster utilization tests with individual school capacity deficit tests, an adequacy test long-desired by parents of school children.

**Revised Zoning Code.** Work on the revision of the county zoning ordinance began in 2007 as the code had become burdened with numerous codicils and amendments, resulting in 119 zones and 1,000 pages of text. A committee of community representatives, land use attorneys, developers, urban planners, architects and county staff participated in the process. Three criteria guiding the rewrite were -- (1) context-sensitive development

standards for infill, (2) effective restrictions, requirements and allowances for sustainable development, and (3) ease of understanding and use by the public, staff and developers. The County Council adopted the revised code in the spring of 2014, and it became effective on October 30, 2014.

**Master Plans.** Following the adoption of the CPP, the County Council directed the planning staff to focus on creating compact, livable places with a variety of housing types and mixed uses. Plans for Germantown, Great Seneca Science Corridor, White Flint along the I-270 and MD-355 Corridor; Takoma/Langley Crossroads, Long Branch and Chevy Chase Lake on the Purple Line Corridor; Kensington, Wheaton and the East County Science Center have all been created under that direction. The Burtonsville Crossroads Neighborhood Plan and the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan encourage infill and redevelopment in employment centers, commercial areas and where transit or transportation alternatives exist.

A major tool toward meeting the objective of livable spaces and walkable communities has been the Commercial/Residential (CR) zone -- which was developed as the zoning code was being rewritten. This zone differs from old zones in being more prescriptive, indicating for standard development the maximum percentage of commercial and residential use as well as height limitations. Under the optional method, additional density can be obtained with a mandatory purchase of Building Lot Termination (BLT) agricultural land easements, based upon square footage and provision of other amenities for which points are assigned. The CR zone was discussed in detail in the LWVMC Density Study earlier this year [see also the LWVMC Fact Sheet FS 2016-05 Density of Development in MC

([https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/lwvmc/pages/42/attachments/original/1463002868/FS\\_2016-05\\_Density\\_of\\_Development\\_in\\_MC\\_Rev.pdf?1463002868](https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/lwvmc/pages/42/attachments/original/1463002868/FS_2016-05_Density_of_Development_in_MC_Rev.pdf?1463002868) )].

**Green Infrastructure.** In 2008 the Montgomery County Planning Board was briefed on a Green Infrastructure Functional Master Plan. The plan then under development was designed to provide an interconnected system of natural areas of countywide significance to support enhanced and sustainable habitat values, natural functions and health benefits. The conceptual model was to link hubs via a series of corridors to allow animal, water, seed and pollen movement between hubs. The green infrastructure would be central to water quality, recreation and trails, air quality and quality of place.

Unfortunately even though the natural resources GIS base map and scenario development were nearing completion, because of the 2008 financial crisis, the County Council withdrew funding for the Plan. The budget for this work has not been restored. However, there is now some action on the CPP recommendation to create a community-wide green infrastructure plan that is integrated with other relevant local plans because a countywide green infrastructure map and strategy are currently under development by M-NCPPC staff. [LWVMC studied the green infrastructure concept and produced a Green Infrastructure Fact Sheet in September 2002. Consensus to lobby in favor of this type of planning was reached.]

Beyond a community-wide green infrastructure plan that is integrated with other relevant local plans, DEP has set goals to adopt local design criteria and associated codes that require proactive green infrastructure practices for new developments and a policy requiring that relevant departments be engaged during early reviews of proposed developments. These early reviews ensure that project sites are evaluated for green infrastructure potential and that environmental protections are put in place prior to construction. DEP's goals include partnering with key community groups and other stakeholders to ensure that green infrastructure practices are used in appropriate settings and create incentive programs to encourage land owners to adopt green infrastructure practices that link to the broader green infrastructure systems. Another goal is to establish a green infrastructure monitoring program and regularly report on the status of desired outcomes, increase the percentage of funding invested in green infrastructure, upgrade public spaces and public buildings based upon locally adopted or recognized best practices in green infrastructure and, where possible, create demonstration projects to enhance public support and provide for ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure.

Currently the county has a number of programs in place that provide support for green infrastructure. The county's Environmental Guidelines for Development are used to determine required buffers to protect

environmental features on development sites and area master plans. These are periodically updated and include recommendations for forest preservation areas and park acquisition.

The county's Stormwater Management Regulations require new development to implement Environmental Site Design (ESD) principles and practices to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP). M-NCPPC's Leaves for Neighborhoods Program provides rebates for individual property owners who want to plant trees, and the Shades of Green program provides trees for landowners within the county's Central Business Districts. The Tree Montgomery Program provides free shade trees to single family homes, multi-family communities and other private property. Stream restoration activity conducted by DEP and Montgomery Parks helps restore waterways to natural conditions. The Rainscapes Rewards Program offers rebates to property owners who install stormwater management techniques -- such as rain gardens, conservation landscaping, rain barrels and permeable driveways. The CR Zone has public benefits incentives for environmental enhancements.

### 3. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**Recommendations.** The following are the nine (ED) recommendations for education and outreach in the CPP:

- (1) Develop a branded communication platform to enable the county to speak with one voice about its mission to reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions.
- (2) Develop and provide presentation toolkits to support a social marketing campaign to raise awareness of CPP programs and encourage countywide participation.
- (3) Develop, provide access to and promote an online tool to promote the CPP and raise awareness of the need to reduce GHGs, provide specific actions and encourage community-based sustainability.
- (4) Build and maintain an information network service to provide online CPP updates on county programs and regular specific suggestions (e.g. "Green Tips") to inform and encourage action to reduce GHGs.
- (5) Establish and coordinate a coalition with representation from a broad range of community organizations to support outreach, raise awareness of the CPP, and provide opportunities and support for education programs.
- (6) Promote community-based education programs using the model of small, self-facilitated group discussions on issues of sustainability.
- (7) Establish, coordinate, and maintain a county interdepartmental education and outreach plan.
- (8) County government and agencies should adopt broad-based sustainable practices as a basis for outreach to the private sector.
- (9) Replicate community-based organizations like Bethesda Green under a central umbrella organization.

The Office of Sustainability in its dedication to community engagement has set a goal of connecting residents and businesses to the programs, informing them of tools and financial incentives available to them -- to make it easy and accessible for them to make environmentally friendly choices. This is achieved through the **My Green Montgomery** web portal and through hosting and attending **community events**.

**My Green Montgomery** ([MyGreenMontgomery.org](http://MyGreenMontgomery.org)) was launched in 2012 as a "one stop" site for the latest green community events, financial incentives, suggestions for do it yourself (diy) projects and green news and tips. The community blog is the most visited part of the website and features stories by community members, county employees, non-profits and businesses. My Green Montgomery also serves as a communication brand of DEP and is how people engage with DEP social media.

**Website:** [MyGreenMontgomery.org](http://MyGreenMontgomery.org) was redesigned in 2015 for mobile responsiveness, to allow for easy access, search functionality, a new "Your Stories" blog feed and the elimination of the "Green Plan" registration. The website is more colorful and dynamic and easier to navigate. The site had over 35,000 unique page views in 2015, a 35% increase over 2014.

**Blogs:** [MyGreenMontgomery](http://MyGreenMontgomery.org) featured 102 blog posts in 2015, the fourth year of increases. Of these, 28 were written by guest authors, including 13 "Benchmarked" posts by local business and property management companies that have benchmarked their buildings through an EPA energy performance process.

**Newsletter:** the "Your Green Montgomery" e-newsletter was launched in May 2013. The monthly newsletter serves as a digest of the best stories of My Green Montgomery. It was redesigned in 2015 for easier readability and mobile responsiveness. A new section was added, "If You Do One Thing" -- drawing attention to an important

sustainability action for the month, such as home radon testing or installing LED lighting. People who signed up for Tree Montgomery are given the opportunity to sign up for the newsletter. With the Tree Montgomery sign-ups and the redesigned website, the newsletter now has 1,358 emails, a 289% increase over 2014.

**Social Media:** The My Green Montgomery social media sites continued to grow in 2015, reaching new audiences through Twitter: [@MyGreenMC](#); Facebook: [@MyGreenMontgomery](#); Instagram: [@MyGreenMC](#); [Pinterest](#) board; photos on Flickr; and 51 videos on the youtube channel.

**Community Events.** In 2015 the Office of Sustainability continued to expand its presence at outreach and education events, to talk about trees, energy, green business, air quality and My Green Montgomery. These events included GCAAR (Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors) educational classes, earth day events, Izaak Walton Hunting and Fishing Day, the Trees Matter Symposium, Bike to Work Day and civic and home owners association meetings. In addition, the Office of Sustainability staff participated in various events sponsored by the Divisions of Watershed Management and Solid Waste Services, supplementing their outreach related to storm water management and recycling.

**Montgomery County GreenFest:** The first annual GreenFest was held in March 2015 at Montgomery College TP/SS campus. More than 700 people attended. The event was organized as part of a public-private partnership among the Montgomery County Government, WSSC (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission), Montgomery Parks, the cities of Takoma Park, Gaithersburg and Rockville, Montgomery College, the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Outdoor Environmental Education Program, University of Maryland Extension Service, and local nonprofits -- Bethesda Green, Green Wheaton, Silver Spring Green and Poolesville Green. In 2016 GreenFest was held on April 30 at the Takoma Park Community Center, with 1250 attendees, a 71% increase.

**County Fair:** DEP continues to participate in the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair as it has for many years. In 2015 the Office of Sustainability partnered with the Divisions of Watershed Management and Solid Waste Services to promote a wide variety of sustainability programs. They included steps to address residential energy efficiency, tree planting through Tree Montgomery, testing homes for radon, methods for controlling storm water and recycling. Over a nine-day period, more than 9,000 people interacted with DEP staff and the 154 volunteers that contributed to over 675 hours of DEP presence; in addition, 207 compost bins were distributed to residents.

**Implementation of Recommendations.** As the nine Education and Outreach recommendations have been implemented in overlapping ways, in this Fact Sheet relating to recommendation (2), "develop and provide toolkits," we note that the county has not developed toolkits but actively seeks public participation in MY Green Montgomery as guest blog writers and contributors. Recommendation (8) "county government and agencies should adopt broad-based sustainable practices as a basis for outreach to the private sector" has been implemented in many ways. For example, all county government agencies have progressively pursued cleaner energy options -- primarily through purchase of RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates) and are increasingly using solar photovoltaic and geothermal systems on public buildings.

The county currently buys only electric or plug-in sedans and has installed 16 electric vehicle-charging stations. The MC Department of Transportation launched the bike-share system and is adding new sidewalks and improving safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists. Sustainable features are incorporated into MCPS buildings, and all newly constructed schools go through the LEED certification process. Of MCPS's 22 LEED-certified schools, 21 are LEED Gold.

M-NCPPC has adopted a Sustainability Practice Plan to guide agency actions. For recommendation (9) "replicate community-based organizations like Bethesda Green under a central umbrella organization," three community-based organizations, modeled, in part, after Bethesda Green ([bethesdagreen.org](#)), have incorporated as "Community Greens." These include Poolesville Green ([poolesville.green](#)), Green Wheaton ([greenwheaton.org](#)) and Silver Spring Green ([silverspringgreen.org](#)). The idea of a "central umbrella" has not developed as each group has worked largely on its own organizational development and has its own distinct focus. It is not clear that such an umbrella is needed since collaboration in joint programming and information sharing is already taking place.

**Electronic References:**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/ReportsandPublications/Sustainability/2015-Office-of-Sustainability-Report-Final.pdf>

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/ReportsandPublications/Sustainability/2016-Office-of-Sustainability-Report-Final.pdf>

Go to -- <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/DEPcommon/Reports-and-Publications.html> for the following:

Annual Report Sustainable Working Group (2011) (.pdf, 652KB)

Climate Protection Plan Implementation Status (2011) (.pdf, 104KB)

Climate Protection Plan Update (2010) (.ppt, 137KB)

Annual Report Sustainable Working Group (2010) (.pdf, 2.04MB)

Climate Protection Plan (2009) (.pdf, 3.45MB)

Law that Created the Climate Protection Plan and Sustainability Working Group (2008) (.pdf, 380KB)

**Tree/Forest/Agriculture References:****Forest Preservation Strategy**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/ReportsandPublications/Trees%20%26%20Air/Trees/County%20Reports/Forest-preservation-strategy-2000.pdf>

**Forest Preservation Strategy Update**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/ReportsandPublications/Trees%20%26%20Air/Trees/County%20Reports/Forest-preservation-strategy-2004.pdf>

**Forest Conservation Law** [www.montgomeryplanning.org/environment/forest/index.shtm](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/environment/forest/index.shtm)

**Read the Roadside Tree Law**

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2012/20130723\\_41-12A.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2012/20130723_41-12A.pdf)

**Tree Canopy Conservation Law**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/ReportsandPublications/Trees%20%26%20Air/Trees/County%20Reports/2016-Tree-Canopy-Law-Annual-Report-Final.pdf>

**Tree Montgomery** <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Tree/Tree-request.html>

**Tree Concerns and Removal** <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Tree/permits-and-tree-removal.html>

**Tree Canopy Annual Reports:****2015 Annual Report**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/ReportsandPublications/Trees%20%26%20Air/Trees/County%20Reports/2015-Annual-Report.pdf>

**2016 Annual Report**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/ReportsandPublications/Trees%20%26%20Air/Trees/County%20Reports/2016-Annual-Report.pdf>

**Conservation Montgomery** [conservationmontgomery.org](http://conservationmontgomery.org)

This Fact Sheet was prepared by members of the LWVMC Natural Resources Committee: Judy Cochran, Margaret Chasson and Linda Silversmith, assisted by Nancy Carpenter and Holly Joseph.

The study committee would like to thank the following County staff members for their assistance in the preparation of this Fact Sheet: Eric Coffman, Stan Edwards, Jessica Jones, Laura Miller, Mark Symborski and Doug Weisburger.