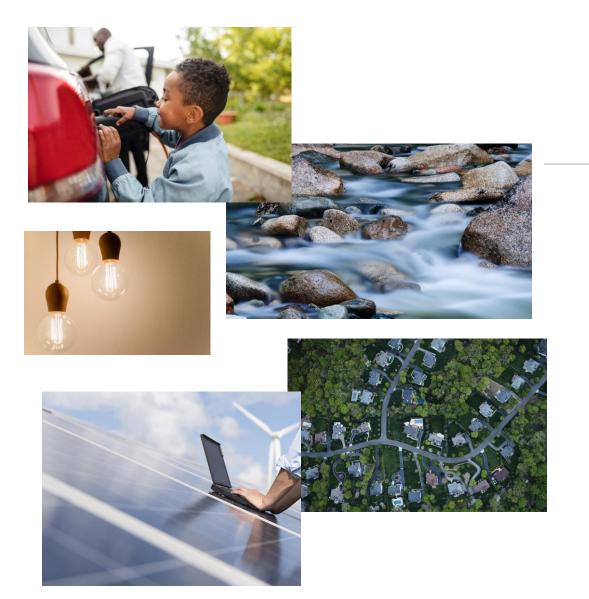
# Rockville Environment Commission

2022-2023 REPORT TO ROCKVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

January 22, 2024

Will McClain, Chair



# About the Commission

Nine Members

Three Subcommittees:

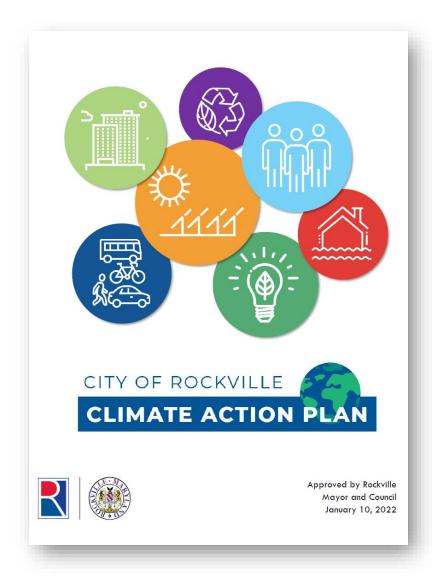
- Energy Committee
- Climate Action Committee
- Watersheds Committee

Volunteer Hours in 2022 and 2023: 1,600

# About the Commission

## The Environment Commission was established in 2002 to:

- a. Respond to Mayor and Council requests on environmental topics and recommend environmental policies
- b. Develop/assist a "sustainable community framework"
  - Now Climate Action Plan
- c. Conduct education and outreach; Support volunteer events
- d. Recommend Environmental Excellence Awards
- e. Provide feedback on City's environmental programs and website materials
- f. Prepare annual report



# Climate Action Plan

- Supported Development and Adoption in 2022
- Support Climate Action Plan in City Budget
- Provide feedback on webpages, annual reports, metrics
- Support public outreach and implementation



# 2030 Climate Action Plan



7 Categories, 42 Actions to equitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support resiliency in municipal operations and throughout the community



### **Energy Efficiency (9 actions)**

Increase energy conservation and efficiency and reduce fossil fuel use in all existing and new buildings and infrastructure.



### Renewable Energy (5 actions)

Increase the generation, use and access to affordable, reliable and clean energy systems.



### **Transportation (9 actions)**

Expand safe, efficient, affordable, and equitable multi-model transportation options that utilize clean and efficient energy sources.



### Land Management (3 actions)

Maximize the economic and social benefits of land while maintaining or enhancing natural systems and ecological health to ensure resiliency.



### Materials and Waste (3 actions)

Manage solid waste by reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and sustainable purchasing.



### Resiliency (9 actions)

Improve the capacity of our community, homes, businesses, and natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from climate change impacts such as rising temperatures, more frequent and intense heat waves, heavy rainfall and severe storms.



### **Public Education and Oversight (4 actions)**

Conduct inclusive and equitable public engagement and involvement and establish systems for monitoring and accountability to encourage participation and support plan success.



# Supporting Climate Action Plan Implementation

Supporting budgets and advise and conduct outreach for new programs and projects including:

- ✓ Two food waste compost drop-off stations
- ✓ CIP for Energy Efficient Streetlights supported by grants
- ✓ CIP for Electrical Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- ✓ New Sustainability Program Manager position
- ✓ Funding for EV Readiness Plan and Flood Resilience Master Plan
- ✓ Funding for facility energy audits and improvements
- ✓ Expanded RainScapes and Stormwater Management Incentives
- ✓ Funding for Flood Mitigation Assistance Program



# Public Outreach

- ❖Solar Switch/Co-op Farmer's Market outreach
  - **❖190** in-person contacts in 2023
- Participating and hosting Climate Solutions Talks
- ❖ Hometown Holidays 2022

he future is bright when you switch to solar!

Join your neighbors today!

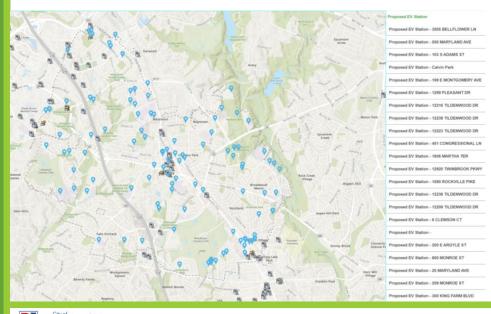
EV Pledge and Electrification Pledge

# Assisting Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan Development

(CAP Actions C-11, C-12, C-13, M-06, M-07

- Clean Fleet Resolution (January, 2022)
- EV Plan joint meeting with Transportation and Mobility Commission (July, 2022)
- Supported EV Plan Open House (December, 2022)
- Promoted EV Pledge and the Montgomery County EV Cooperative Purchase discounts (Ongoing)
- Future 2024: Review and provide comments on draft EV Readiness Plan

### **Charger Location Needs Survey**





Home / Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan

### Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan



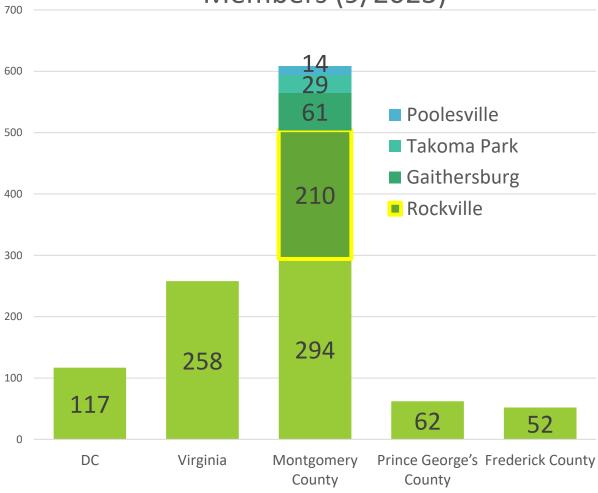
### Help Rockville Get Ready for EVs!

The City of Rockville is developing the city's first Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan. Many residents and fleet managers already recognize the benefits of converting to electric fuel sources. Electric vehicles cost less to operate,





# Capital Area Solar Switch Solar Co-op Members (9/2023)



# 2023 Solar Co-op Results





# Environmental Excellence Awards

2022

- ❖ Dianne Fasolina
- Croydon Creek Nature Center
- Monica Berger
- ❖ Bill Nickel

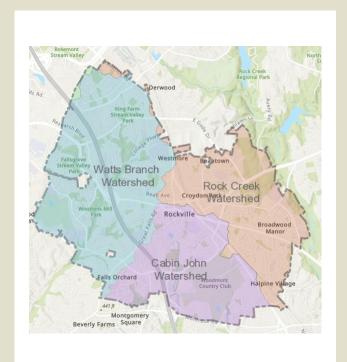
2023

- Rishi Iyer
- Mark Wright



# Watershed Stewardship

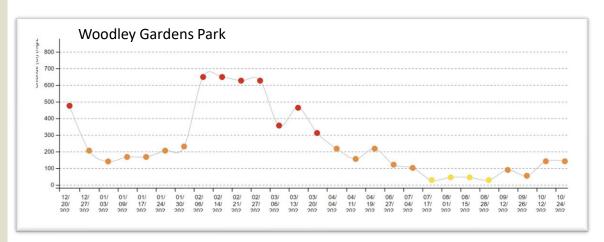
- Stream Clean-ups, 4 in 2023 collecting more than 40 bags of garbage
- Launched Watershed Education Displays
- Expanded on-going Citizen Science stream salt monitoring to include Shotgun Salt Monitoring events
  - 75 testing events in 2023
- Engaged with local community (Rock Creek Conservancy, Friends of Cabin John)





# Citizen Science – Salt Monitoring

- ❖The Environment Commission sponsors the Watershed Committee's initiative to conduct salt monitoring in Rockville streams
- Conducted in partnership with local watershed groups and Izaak Walton League of America







with information on residential energy efficiency opportunitie

his requirement is intended to ensure that the home buyer is informed of the home's energ ormance before the sale, and provides options to finance energy efficiency improvem Providing this document to the home buyer, along with the energy cost and usage information, satisfies the Energy Disclosure Requirement (see blue box below).

**Energy Efficiency Mortgages** ograms/energy\_efficient\_mortgage

inks to resources such as U.S. General Services

hud.gov/program\_offices/housing/sfh/203k This loan supported through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development merges

Montgomery County, MD

montgomerycountymd.gov/green/energy The site has a list of local, state and federal incentives for energy-efficiency improvement

energystar.gov Find information on ENERGY STAR products

- ENERGY STAR's Knowledge Cente
- Yourself Home Energy Audits:

# Accomplishments -Rockville Policy

- ♦ (CAP Action C-04): Point of Sale Radon Testing and Home Energy Disclosure (adopted)
- Supported zoning text amendment on trees in subdivision ordinance with native landscaping requirement (adopted)
- ❖(CAP Action C-03): Drafted Net Zero Energy Building Code white paper
- Parkland dedication fees (supported draft proposal)
- Feedback on Town Center Master Plan



### How does it work?

Community solar projects generate electricity from sunlight and the electricity flows to the electricity grid. Project owners can sell this power to their local utility.



# State Advocacy

Wrote white papers and recommended Mayor and Council provide written testimony to support:

- ❖Clean Cars Act of 2023 adopted
- Community Solar Act of 2023 adopted
- Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 adopted
- Coal Tar Sealants Maryland adopted ban in 2022

# 2024-2025 Work Plan Long-Term

- 1. Reviewing/comments on planned updates to:
  - Building Codes (Chapter 5)
  - Forest and Tree Protection Ordinance (Chapter 10.5)
  - Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 25)
  - Town Center Master Plan
- 2. Support New **FEMA Floodplain** Mapping, **Flood Resiliency Master Plan** development, Chapter 10 **City Floodplain Ordinance** Updates (M-13)
- 3. Review and contribute to **Equity Action Plan** development
- 4. Support development of **Sustainable Procurement Policy** (M-10)
- 5. Support Green Space Management Plan development (M-09)

# 2024 - 2025 Work Plan Short-Term

## Outreach and Engagement

- 1. Promote efficiency + electrification (C-06, FM-03, C-05)
  - Montgomery County Home Electrification Incentives
  - o Electric leaf blower adoption, and
  - Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credits
- 2. Promote **Solar Switch** (C-09)
- 3. Stream clean-ups and salt monitoring
- 4. Recommend Environmental Excellence Awards\*
- 5. Earth Day Proclamation\*

## **GAS** vs **ELECTRIC**

Save Money, Reduce Noise, Protect Yourself



### Gas Leaf Blower

- Price: \$499
- · Power: 642 CFM, pull start
- Decibels: 77 dB(A) & low frequency
- · Weight: 23 lbs., hot motor, exhaust, emissions
- Fuel/oil costs: \$20+ for 8 hours of use
- Maintenance: Air filter clean weekly, replace 6 mos., spark plug replaced every 25 hours



**Electric Leaf Blower** 

- Price: \$449
- · Power: 600 CFM, no low frequency noise
- . Electrify costs: <\$2 for 8 hours of use
- Weight: 15 lbs., cold motor, no exhaust, no emissions
- Maintenance: None, batteries interchangeable on equipment line

Values based on comparison of similar backpack leaf blowers

Source: <a href="https://mygreenmontgomery.org/2023/montgomery-countys-leafblower-law-what-does-it-mean-for-me/">https://mygreenmontgomery.org/2023/montgomery-countys-leafblower-law-what-does-it-mean-for-me/</a>

<sup>\*</sup>Potential Mayor and Council agenda items

# 2024 - 2025 Work Plan Short-Term, Continued

### Plans and Policies

- Review Climate Action Plan Annual Report and recommend metrics for measuring success (C-26)\*
- 2. Support EV Readiness Plan development (C-11)\*
- 3. Promote renewable energy on City Facilities (M-04/05)
- 4. Maryland **2024 environmental legislation** advocacy\*
- 5. Environmental Items in **City Budget**\*
- 6. Support Sustainable Maryland Re-Certification

Coming Soon – Recommendations on topics for future consideration\*

- 1. Flexibility in the **Street Tree Master Plan** for Solar Installations
- 2. Fugitive Methane Leak Detection



<sup>\*</sup>Potential Mayor and Council agenda items

# Rockville Environment Commission





### **Current Commission Members**

Susan Koester
Will McClain (Current Chair)
Sasha Mushegian
Clark Reed (Prior Chair)
Pavitra Srinivasan
Ted Stauderman
Summer White
2 Vacancies

Mayor and Council Liaison: Hon. Adam Van Grack

### Former Commissioners serving 2022-2023

Monica Saavoss, Hande Apaydin, Justus Getty, Scott Fazekas *Mayor and Council Liaison:* Hon. Monique Ashton

Staff Liaison: Amanda Campbell

For more information/to apply: <a href="https://www.rockvillemd.gov/98/Boards-Commissions">https://www.rockvillemd.gov/98/Boards-Commissions</a>