

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

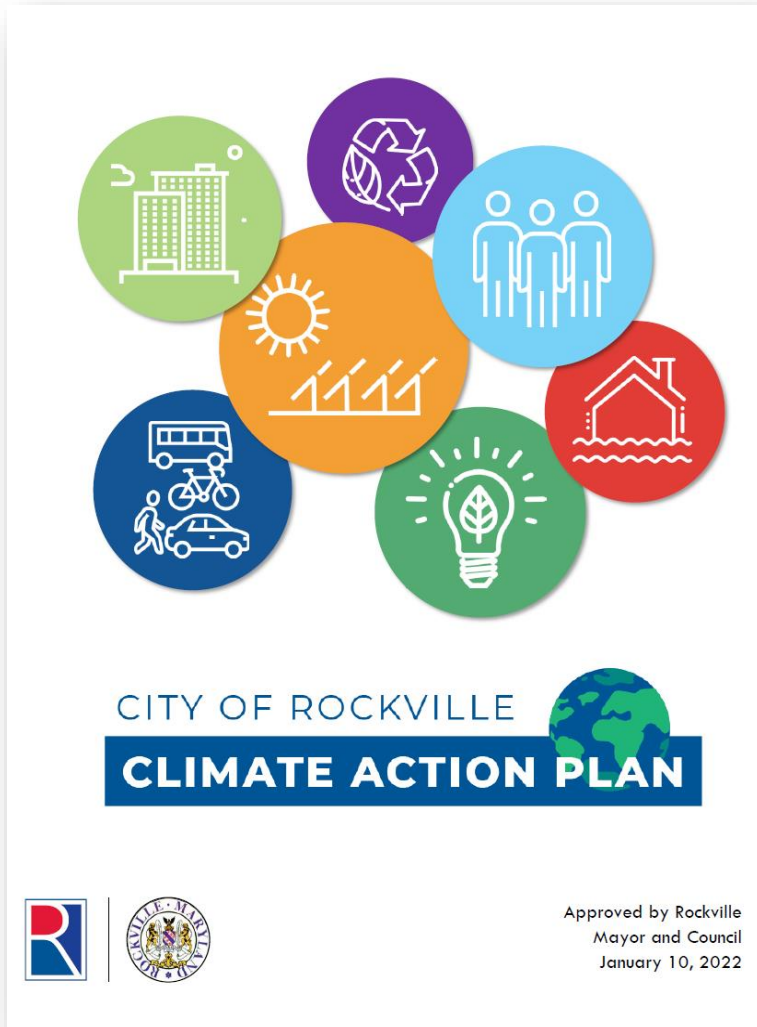
Volunteer Hours in 2022 and 2023: 1,600



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



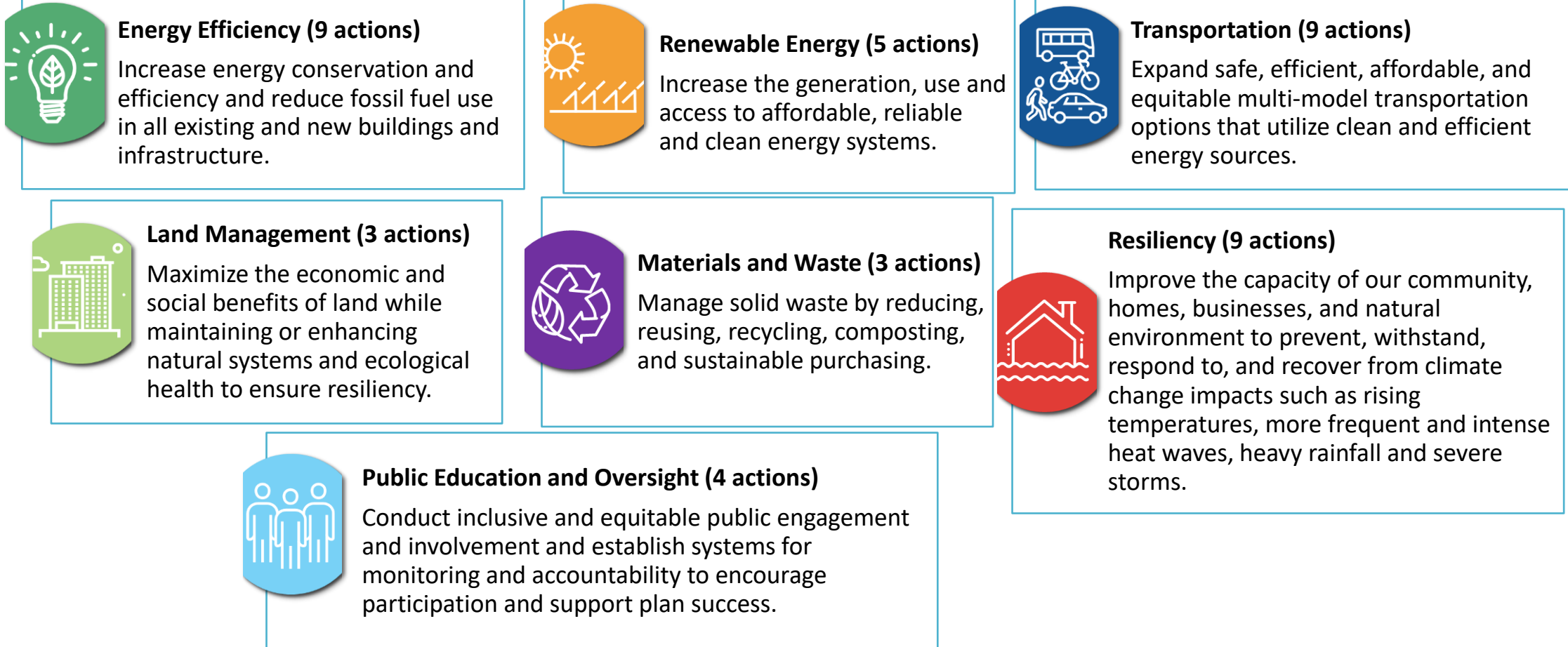
Climate Action Plan

- ❖ 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





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

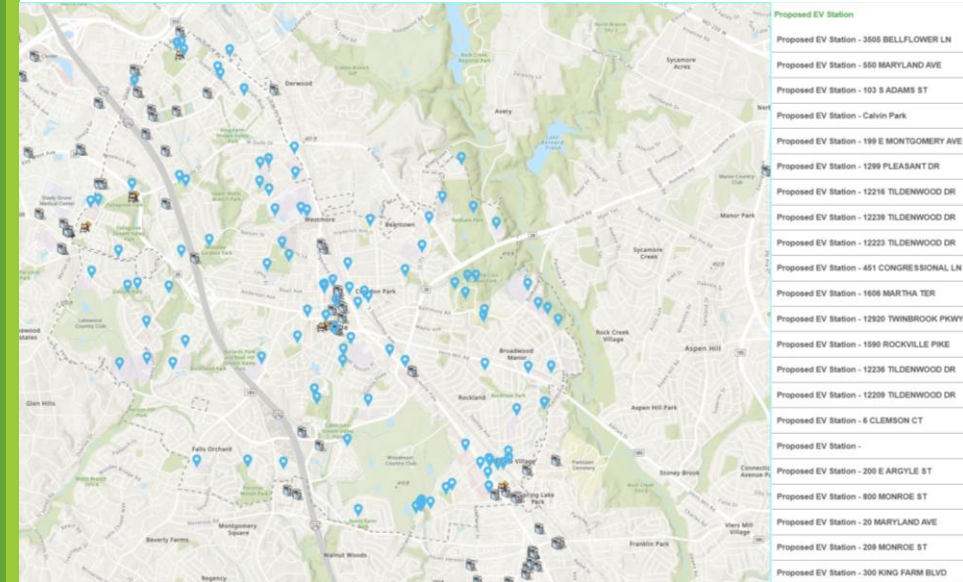
- ❖ Solar Switch/Co-op Farmer's Market outreach
 - ❖ **190 in-person contacts in 2023**
- ❖ Participating and hosting Climate Solutions Talks
- ❖ Hometown Holidays 2022
- ❖ EV Pledge and Electrification Pledge

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



City of Rockville
Get into it

Home Projects Search Sign in Register

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, produce no exhaust, improve air

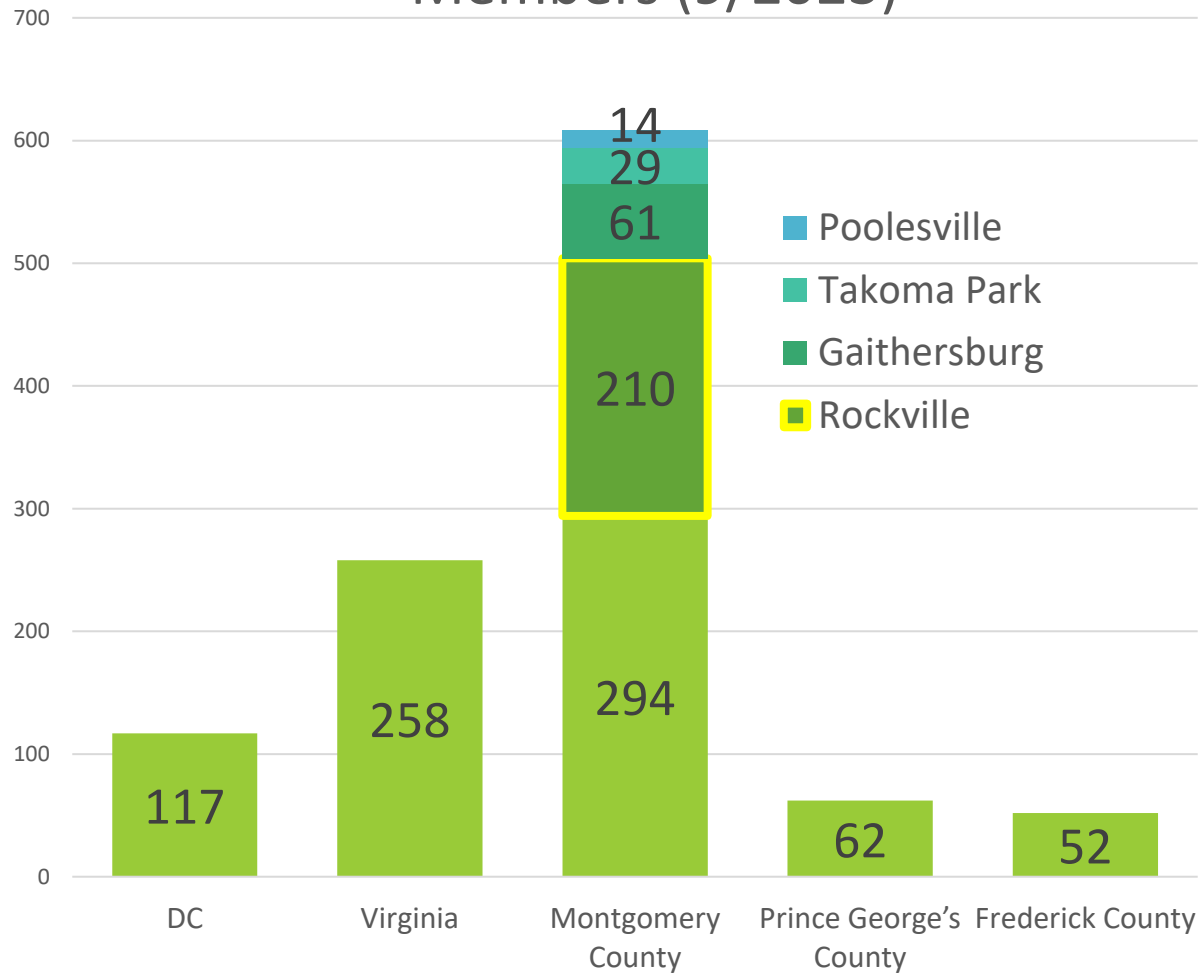
REGISTER to get involved and provide input!

STAY INFORMED
Subscribe for project updates

Your email address... **17**

Subscribe

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



2023 Solar Co-op Results



Environmental Excellence Awards

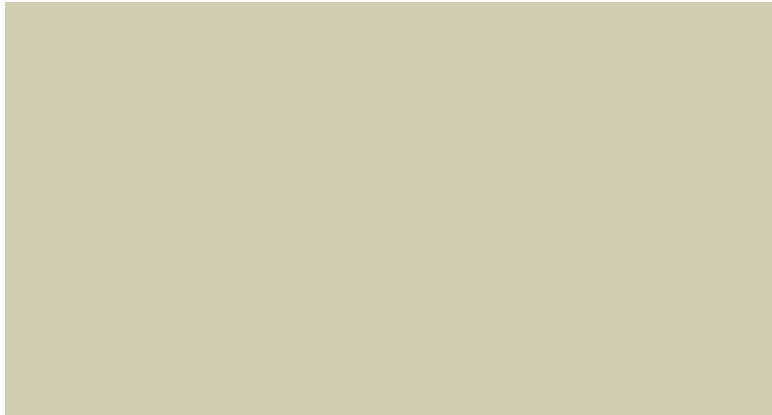
2022

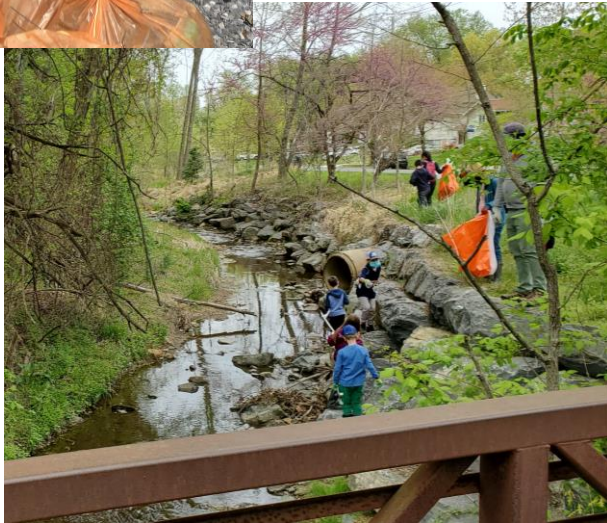
- ❖ Dianne Fasolina
- ❖ Croydon Creek Nature Center
- ❖ Monica Berger

❖ Bill Nickel

2023

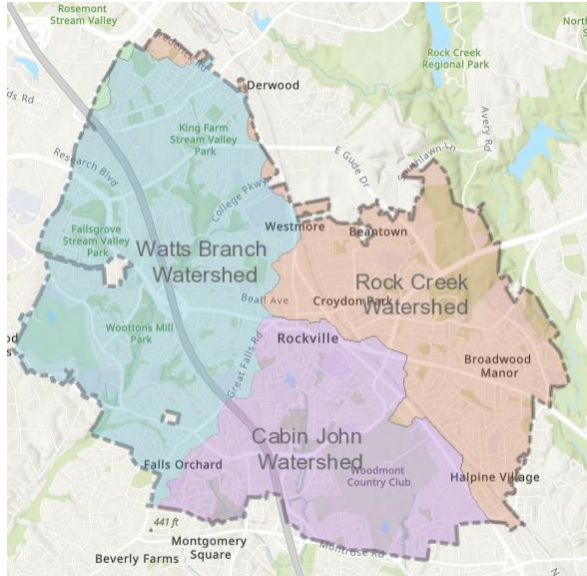
- ❖ Rishi Iyer
- ❖ Mark Wright





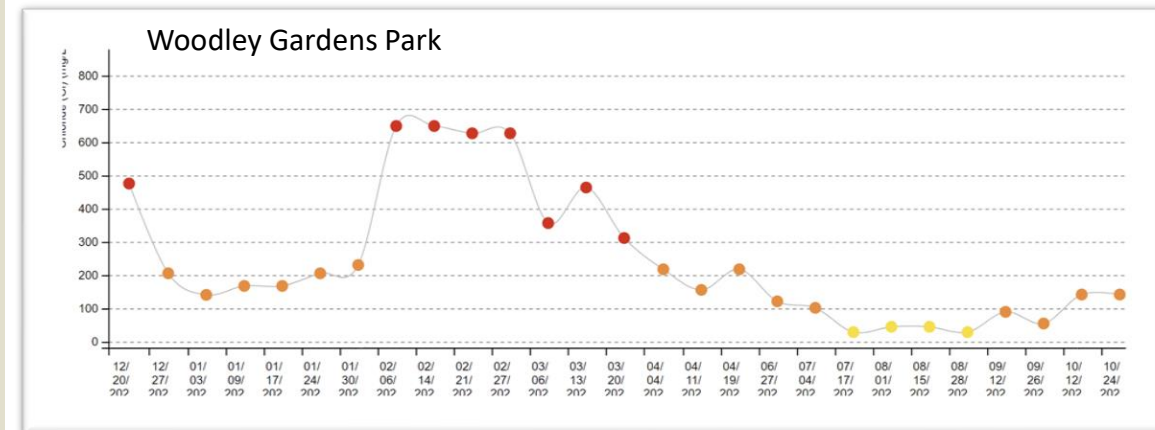
Watershed Stewardship

- ❖ 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

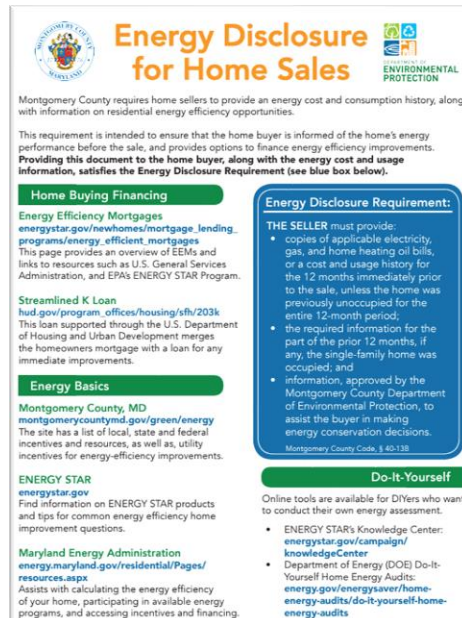
- ❖ The Environment Commission sponsors the Watershed Committee's initiative to conduct salt monitoring in Rockville streams
- ❖ Conducted in partnership with local watershed groups and Izaak Walton League of America





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





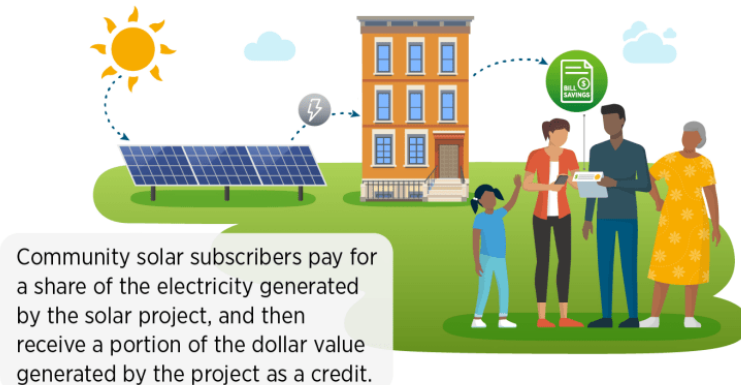
State Advocacy

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

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.



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**
 - **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***

*Potential Mayor and Council agenda items

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

2024 -2025 Work Plan Short-Term, Continued

Plans and Policies

1. 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**

*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: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/98/Boards-Commissions>