

CITY OF ROCKVILLE

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



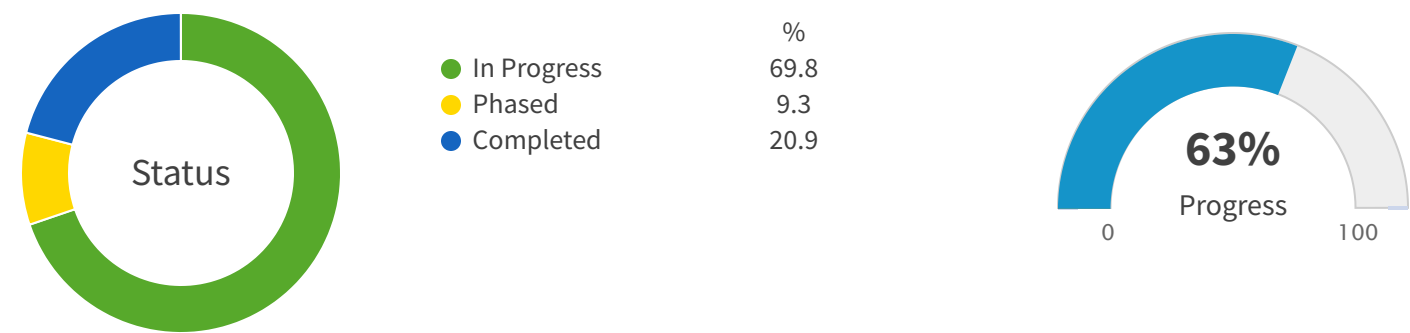
2024 Annual Report



Report Created On: Apr 29, 2025

3	9	43
Goal	Category	Action

Overall Summary



Executive Summary

The legend below explains the various status and progress indicators using a color-coding system.

- Completed: Action is completed or institutionalized.
- In Progress: Action is on track and expected to be completed on time.
- Phased: Action is initiated but needs additional resources to meet goals.
- Upcoming: Action is planned for upcoming implementation.
- Disruption: Action has disruption that is preventing progress or causing a delay.
- Status Pending: Action update has not yet been provided.

Background

The Mayor and Council adopted Rockville’s first Climate Action Plan (CAP) on January 10, 2022 with goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resiliency, and incorporate equity in public engagement and oversight. The CAP sets a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent (from 2005) by 2030 and approach carbon neutrality by 2050. Since plan adoption, the Maryland General Assembly established a more ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent (from 2006) by 2031 and net zero by 2045. Montgomery County’s goal is even more ambitious -- 80% reduction below 2005 levels by 2027 and carbon neutral by 2035.

Rockville's CAP comprises 42 current actions and 8 actions for future monitoring in categories involving energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation, land use management, materials and waste management, resiliency, and public engagement and oversight. The annual report fulfills CAP Action C-26: track and report progress to foster public transparency and accountability.

The following highlights 2024 accomplishments within each category. The remainder of the report provides detailed action-level summaries of progress, issues, next steps, equity considerations, grants, and performance metrics, when available. To learn more about the plan and what you can do to address climate change, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.

2024 Highlights

In the three years since the plan was adopted, notable strides have been made to direct resources towards energy efficiency, clean energy, improved resiliency, and equitable outcomes. The FY 2025 budget appropriated more than \$4.3 million in operating and new capital programs to continue to support climate projects and initiatives. Over the last year, city was awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants and rebate to support CAP initiatives (not including transportation initiatives tracked separately in Vision Zero). The city's fiscally responsible approach to execute the plan involved evaluating technology and markets conditions, leveraging partnerships, and pursuing grants and innovative funding strategies to serve more residents with expanded programs and advance the following climate initiatives.

Energy Efficiency

- Approximately 1,826 homes participated in Pepco's residential energy efficiency programs, close to three times more than last year. (C-05)
- Three Rockville homes utilized Montgomery County's home electrification program, Electrify MC, that provides technical assistance and incentives to help homes transition from fossil fuel to electric home systems (e.g., cooking, hot water, heating, and cooling, etc.). (C-06)
- Replaced 1,045 lightbulbs with energy efficient LEDs at the Senior Center, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, and Rothgeb Maintenance Facility leveraging \$250,000 from grants and rebates. (M-01)
- Awarded MEA grants to upgrade lighting at the Thomas Farm (\$63,000) Community Recreation Center to save energy and improve the visitor experience. (M-01)
- Converted 1,900 city-owned streetlights to energy efficient LED with funding from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). (M-02)

Renewable Energy

- The Environment Commission dedicated more than 30 volunteer hours to promote the Capital Area Solar Switch (formerly the solar co-op); resulting in 682 registrations from Rockville addresses, up from 210 the prior year. (C-09)
- The cumulative total number of solar energy systems permitted by the city rose to 1,162; up from 1,080 the prior year. (C-09)
- The US Department of Energy approved the City's application \$109,900 project to install solar on Lincoln Park Community Center under the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant. (M-04)
- Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced that Rockville will receive technical assistance to evaluate solar feasibility for additional sites. MEA began assessing the Swim and Fitness Center, City Hall, Senior Center, Recreation Services, and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. (M-04)

Transportation

- Rockville's first Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan was nearly finalized in 2024. The number of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles owned in Rockville zip codes again more than doubled in two years to 5,936 and the number of EV charging ports available to the public increased from 184 to 264. (C-11)
- Adopted electric vehicle charging station requirements in the building code for new construction and major renovations including 2% EVSE-installed in most commercial properties and 10% EVSE-installed in multi-unit properties. (C-12)

- In FY 25, the city received over \$860,000 in grant funds from four different sources, including the federal Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment program and the Maryland Carbon Reduction program. The grants cover a variety of projects including complete streets studies, bicycle lanes designs, and new bike share stations. (C-14)
- In 2024, the city fleet included 21 battery electric vehicles (BEV), 1 plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV), and 3 hybrid vehicles. Of the 70 leased vehicles currently suitable for electrification, currently 31% (up from 23% in 2023) have been converted to an electric version. (M-06)
- Pepco completed installation of five public EV charging stations at Mattie Stepanek Park, Thomas Farm Community Center and on-street parking at City Hall/Vinson Street, Fallsgrove Drive/Prettyman Drive, and Twinbrook Station/Bouic Avenue (M-07).

Land Management

- Weed Warriors engaged 465 volunteers to remove non-native invasive plants from city parks. (C-17)
- Planted 1,500 trees and shrubs in the northern section of RedGate Park and Arboretum funded by a \$199,930 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, planted an additional 429 trees on city property, and distributed 200 free native trees to residents. (C-17, C-24)
- Partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust) to administer the Stormwater Incentive Program, a comprehensive program with a total budget of \$300,000 that allocates funds between the RainScapes Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and a new competitive water quality grants program. (C-17, C-20, C-24)
- The RainScapes program issued \$49,043 in rebates to support 56 tree canopy, rain barrel, conservation landscaping, permeable pavement and pavement removal projects at 26 properties. (C-17, C-24)
- Under Montgomery County Council's enacted Bill 18-22, Noise Control- Leaf Removal Equipment - Amendments, the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited starting July 1, 2024 and the use is prohibited starting July 1, 2025. The city began transitioning city-owned landscaping equipment and contracts to comply with the new legislation (FM -03)

Materials and Waste

- Opened a third food waste compost drop-off station at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. The stations collected a total of 114 tons of food scraps for composting. (C-18)
- Continued a waste diversion rate from the landfill of 43%. (C-19)

Resiliency

- Awarded the contract for the Flood Resiliency Master Plan (FRMP) and held a project kick off meeting to discuss project implementation and schedule. The Flood Resiliency Master Plan is partially funded by a \$75,000 grant from Maryland Department of Natural Resources, \$179,000 in technical support from Army Corps of Engineers (50 percent cost-share) and \$700,000 for Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant from Maryland Department of Emergency Management/FEMA. (M-13)
- Developed a residential flooding guide, "Go With the Flow: A Homeowner's Guide to Responsible Stormwater Solutions", to help residents learn about reducing flooding impacts to their home and neighborhood. The guide is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese at www.rockvillemd.gov/flooding. (C-20)
- Partnered with the Montgomery County Green Bank (MCGB) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to leverage additional funding for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) and remove the barrier of upfront investment for low- and moderate-

income property owners in 2024. The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program reimbursed a total of \$22,448 for 14 flood mitigation projects at 11 properties. (C-20)

- Mailed 374 letters to residents with structures or property affected by the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) update. 143 people attended three information sessions. (C-21)

Public Engagement and Oversight

- Awarded \$1.2 million in grants and rebates to support LED streetlight conversions, facility energy retrofits, solar on Lincoln Park Community Center, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, flood resiliency master planning, and tree planning at RedGate park. (M-15)
- Pursued grants and rebates from the State of Maryland, utilities, and the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, partnering with multiple levels of government and community organizations to apply. (M-15, M-16)
- Published 10 issues of the Environment & Sustainability newsletter, which rose to 3,243 subscribers. Hosted 3 virtual Climate Solution education sessions attended by 56 participants and 12 in-person outreach events. (C-25)

Definitions and Acronyms

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent: A unit of measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential. Carbon dioxide equivalents are commonly expressed as "million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MMTCO₂Eq)." The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated global warming potential.

Climate: The "average weather," or the statistical representation of weather patterns over decades to thousands of years described by variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind.

Climate Change: Climate change refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period. Climate change includes major changes in temperature regimes, precipitation intensity, or wind patterns, among others, that occur over several decades or longer.

Electric Vehicle (EV): A vehicle that gets all its power from batteries and electric motors. It contains no internal combustion engine (ICE). The electric motor uses batteries that are recharged by plugging in to an electric power source (a wall socket or EV charger).

Electrification: Converting appliances, HVAC equipment, vehicles, or landscaping equipment that run on fossil fuels to electricity-powered or rechargeable battery-powered versions. Due to Maryland's relatively clean energy grid, electric equipment produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions and allow for renewable energy substitution. Sometimes referred to as "decarbonization."

Energy Use Intensity (EUI): The measurement of the energy used per square foot per year. It is calculated by dividing the total energy consumed by the building in one year (measured in thousand Btu, kBtu) by the floor area of the building.

Equity: Meeting people and communities where they are and allocating resources and opportunities as needed to create equitable outcomes for all community members.

Fossil Fuels: A general term for fuels derived from organic materials formed from decayed plants and animals such as coal, methane (natural gas), gasoline, diesel, heating oil, or propane.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG): The atmospheric gases emitted by human activity (burning or leaking fossil fuels, land use change, and certain chemicals) responsible for causing the majority of recent observed climate change. The main human-caused GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Less prevalent -- but powerful -- are hydrofluorocarbons

(HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). Greenhouse gas emissions are sometimes referred to as “carbon emissions” since carbon dioxide is the most prevalent.

Heat Island: The tendency for higher air temperatures to persist in urban areas because of heat absorbed and emitted by buildings and asphalt, tending to make cities warmer than the surrounding rural areas.

LED: Light-emitting diode. LEDs are a type of highly energy efficient light bulb that use about 50% less energy than fluorescent bulbs and 1/6th as much energy as incandescent bulbs.

Mitigation: In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Examples include energy efficiency for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching to solar energy or wind power, improving the insulation of buildings, reducing leaks and switching to low GWP chemicals, and expanding forests and other "sinks" to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) or Plug-In Hybrid: Uses an electric motor and gas engine to operate. Its electric motor uses batteries that are recharged by plugging in to an electric power source (a wall socket or EV charger). The gas-powered motor can work together with the electric motor, or separately on its own, to power the powertrain.

Resilience: Capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

Historically Excluded Community: A community that is not represented in City or local leadership proportionately to its demographic percentage of the total City population.

Vulnerability: The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity.

Weather: Atmospheric condition at any given time or place (wind, temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, cloudiness, and precipitation). In most places, weather can change from hour-to-hour, day-to-day, and season-to-season.

Plan Summary

Goal 1

Progress 62%

In Progress

Phased

Completed

%	#
60.0	18
13.33	4
26.67	8

Status

REDUCE GREENHOUSE (GHG) EMISSIONS Reduce GHG emissions from the community and municipal government operations to at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 to be on track to reach net zero by or before 2050.

Goal 2

Progress 56%

In Progress

%	#
100.0	9

Status

RESILIENCY 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.

Goal 3

Progress 83%

In Progress

Completed

%	#
75.0	3
25.0	1

Status

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT Incorporate equity in implementation and conduct inclusive engagement to reduce environmental disparities and protect and empower vulnerable communities.

REDUCE GREENHOUSE (GHG) EMISSIONS

Reduce GHG emissions from the community and municipal government operations to at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 to be on track to reach net zero by or before 2050.

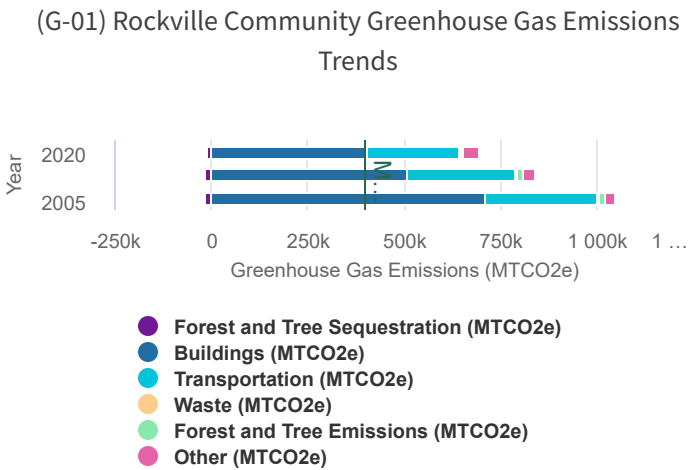
		%	#
In Progress		60.0	18
Phased		13.33	4
Completed		26.67	8

Category: 5 Action: 30

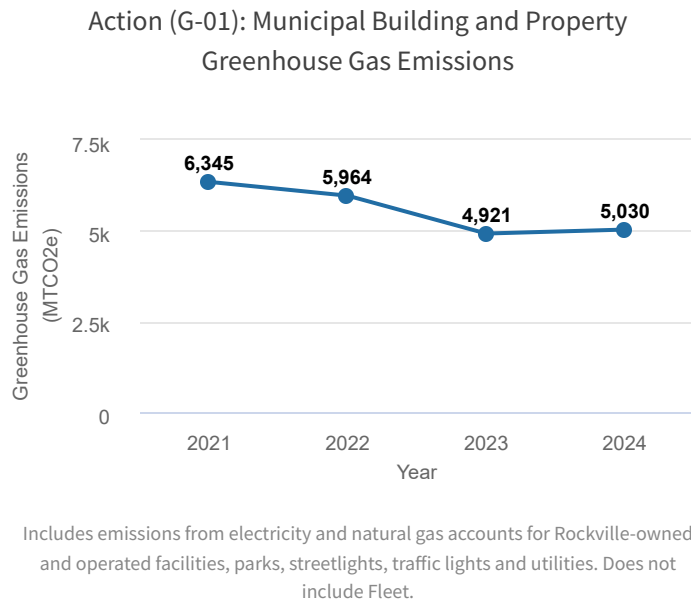
Progress Highlights: Although this is Rockville's first official Climate Action Plan, many projects, programs, and policies have been implemented over the past fifteen years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the community and municipal operations. Since plan adoption, the Maryland General Assembly established a more ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent (from 2006) by 2031 and net zero by 2045.

- Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:** The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) compiles regional data and generates greenhouse gas emissions inventories for 24 local governments. Due to the extensive data and resources needed to generate inventories for the region, MWCOG releases inventories approximately every three years. MWCOG released 2020 inventories in December of 2022. Rockville's largest sources of emissions are energy use from buildings and transportation. Rockville's 2020 greenhouse gas emissions inventory shows pre-CAP progress towards reducing emissions. These factors combined with other broader economic forces and state and federal policies helped Rockville achieve a 34 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since 2005. MWCOG anticipates the next round of inventories for calendar year 2023 will be released in 2025 to align with the regional transportation plan and reflect post-2020 pandemic patterns.
- Municipal Building Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:** Emissions associated with electricity and natural gas used by Rockville-owned and operated buildings, parks, streetlights, traffic lights and utilities increased 2% between 2023 and 2024; although emissions decreased 20% between 2021 and 2024. The slight increase in annual emissions reflects post-pandemic operations and the renovations to the northern wing of the city's newest facility at 6 Taft Court. Estimates do not include fleet emissions (tracked separately in M-06).

(G-01) Rockville Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trends



(G-01) Rockville Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trends



Energy Efficiency

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

Action: 9

		%	#
In Progress		55.56	5
Phased		22.22	2
Completed		22.22	2

Community - 01

Advocate for Montgomery County to adopt a Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS) for existing commercial and multifamily buildings.

Progress Highlights: Maryland's Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) regulation (COMAR 26.28.02) went into effect on December 23, 2024 and applies to buildings 35,000 square feet and larger in Maryland. Montgomery County conducted a series of stakeholder engagement sessions in 2024 to modify the BEPS regulation impacting most buildings 25,000 square feet and larger. The County Council approved the regulations on February 25, 2025. Both regulations apply to existing buildings in Rockville of a certain type and size. The regulations set the interim and final building energy performance standards and timelines for energy use intensity (EUI) -- energy used per square foot per year -- and/or net direct GHG emissions -- on-site combustion of building fuels such as natural gas, propane, or heating oil -- by building type.

Next Steps: Owners of buildings covered by BEPS will need to make energy improvements to meet the net direct GHG emissions, and/or site EUI standards by the interim and final deadlines. The city will evaluate the BEPS requirements for covered city-owned buildings and work with energy consultants and contractors to develop and implement strategies to meet compliance deadlines (see Action M-1).

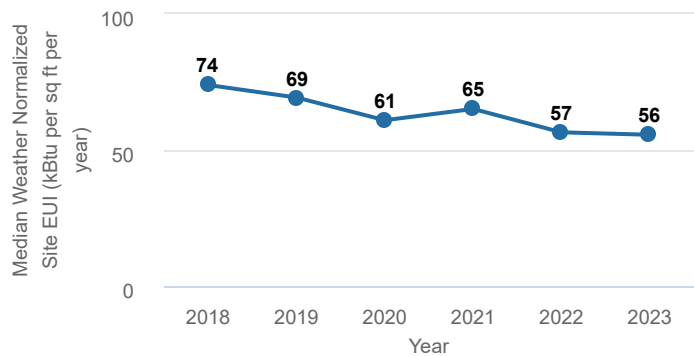
Equity: Montgomery County and Maryland are developing incentive and financing programs to help building owners invest in energy improvements, building on existing programs and leveraging federal funding sources. Programs include but are not limited to the MD PACE program, EmPOWER Maryland, the Department of Housing and Community Development energy programs, and the Montgomery County Green Bank. The Green Bank also provides a Technical Assistance Program to help building owners complete energy benchmarking, data verification, and building energy assessments. The County is exploring additional technical assistance programs as well as direct assistance for under-resourced sectors.

Metric: Approximately 204 buildings in Rockville are required to report building energy benchmarking data annually to Montgomery County to demonstrate energy performance over time. [Montgomery County shares reported data](#), which typically lags by one calendar year. Key metrics for assessing building performance over time include:

- Energy use intensity, or EUI, expressed as energy used per square foot per year. Essentially, the EUI expresses a building's energy use as a function of its size or other characteristics. EUI is calculated by dividing the total energy consumed by a building in one year (including electricity, natural gas, heating oil, etc., measured in kBtu or GJ) by the total gross floor area of the building (measured in square feet or square meters). Weather Normalized Site Energy Use Intensity (EUI) normalizes a building's consumption using 30-year average weather conditions. Lower site EUI equals better performance; however, some property types are more energy intensive by nature of their operations. The median weather normalized site EUI for all reported Rockville buildings decreased by 25% between 2018 and 2023; and 2% over the last year.
- The ENERGY STAR score is a measure of how well a property is performing relative to similar properties, when normalized for local climate and operational characteristics. A higher ENERGY STAR score equals better performance. A score of 50 indicates that a building is performing at the national median, taking into account its size, location, and operating parameters. A score of 75 indicates that a property is performing in the 75th percentile and may be eligible to earn ENERGY STAR Certification. The 2023 median ENERGY STAR scores indicate which property types in Rockville are performing above (blue) or below (green) the national median.

(C-01) Building Energy Use

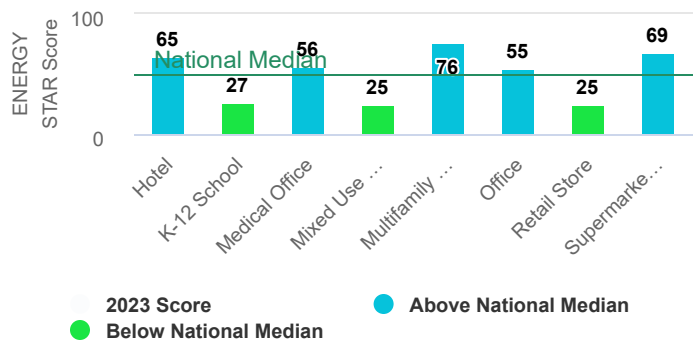
Median Weather Normalized Site EUI - All Benchmarked Buildings in Rockville (kBtu per sq ft per year)



Energy Use Intensity (EUI) refers to the amount of energy used per square foot annually.

(C-01) Average ENERGY STAR Score by Property Type

Average ENERGY STAR Scores by Property Type



The ENERGY STAR score is a measure of how well a property is performing relative to similar properties. A higher score indicates better energy performance.

Community - 02

Expand the low and moderate income (LMI) home repair and weatherization program to increase energy efficiency, resiliency, and renewable energy opportunities.

Progress Highlights: Rockville sought grant resources and partnerships to provide services to low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents and small businesses for energy efficiency, electric appliances, solar panels, and electric vehicle charging stations. This work entailed community outreach in coordination with the Department of Housing and Community Development, seeking funding on behalf of LMI residents, and aiding Rockville Housing Enterprises to connect them to resources.

Projects highlights include:

- Continuing to promote LMI energy efficiency programs through social media, Rockville Reports, the Environment & Sustainability Newsletter, tabling materials, and when working with assistance applicants.
- Partnering with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to apply for \$3 million in grant funding through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for low-and moderate-income housing. This application was not successful.
- Staff provided feedback, data and information and narrative language as well as letters of support for the Maryland Clean Energy Center's EPA Solar for All LMI solar grant application. This application was successful. Most of the funding available for Rockville was administered through special financing through the Montgomery County Green Bank. Although this grant fund is frozen, the Green Bank offers financing through its other funding sources for LMI residents and businesses as previously. Still, very few subscribers have used this program to date.

Rockville Housing Enterprises-specific initiatives include:

- Organizing letters of support from RHE and Rockville for Building Change, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to receive Montgomery County's Healthy, Efficient, Electrified, Climate-Adapted Pilot (HEECAP) Grant Program to retrofit homes of income-eligible community members. The HEECAP program fills a gap by providing funding to implement critical health and safety projects so that the homes can become eligible for other energy upgrades. Both applications were successful. RHE is coordinating with both organizations to provide upgrades for several of their 29 single unit homes.
- Receiving technical support from the Montgomery County Green Bank to apply for the eligibility phase for County electric appliance grant, which was not successful.

Issues: Staff is analyzing potential barriers for residents to access existing energy efficiency and renewable energy programs including an understandable hesitance to commit to financing or loans, even forgivable ones. Another issue is the split incentive between tenants and property owners for investing in energy efficiency. The federal funding freeze on many clean energy programs has affected the Inflation Reduction Act rebate programs that would have been offered through Maryland - the HOMES Residential Energy efficiency Rebate Program and the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program, both of which would have offered much higher discounts for low income residents.

Next Steps: Rockville Housing Enterprises is setting up home energy audits and solar evaluations for several single unit homes and partnering on future Maryland grant applications to upgrade more homes. The Human Services Advisory Commission and the Environment Commission are also exploring different outreach and engagement approaches and expanding communications to landlord property owners.

The Montgomery County Green Bank offers special financing for LMI energy efficiency, solar, and battery installation. Maryland and Pepco have offered state funding for low-and moderate-income energy upgrades at multi-family properties. Rockville will continue to work with partners to connect residents with these ongoing funding opportunities and educate landlords and property owners.

Equity: This action is focused on programs for low-and moderate-income residents, which tend to have disproportionate representation from Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, immigrant, English language learners, seniors, disabled, or other historically excluded groups.

Action 1.1.3

In Progress

Progress 50%

Community - 03

Progressively strengthen green/energy conservation building codes for new construction to reach net zero or equivalent.

Progress Highlights: Staff held public review sessions in 2024 on the draft building code amendments that strengthened the development of renewable energy, energy storage systems, electric vehicle charging stations, climate resilience, building system electrification, and increased energy efficiency. On May 20, 2024, the Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance to amend Chapter 5 of the City Code, "Building and Property Maintenance Regulations," to further strengthen green and energy conservation requirements for new construction and major renovations. Many of the updates went into effect on May 29, 2024, while some of the energy-related local amendments became effective December 1, 2024 to allow for a longer transition period. Rockville's strengthened amendments included:

- Solar-ready wiring and space reserved on commercial rooftops (with exceptions for shade, other roof uses)
- Storage-ready wiring and space reserved in commercial buildings to enable battery energy installation
- Electrification-ready backup electrical outlets for any gas appliances, such as stoves, dryers, or HVAC systems to enable low-cost future electrification
- Grid interactive controls for thermostats and commercial water heaters
- Optional performance-based calculation for energy efficiency compliance
- Electric vehicle charger installation requirements :
 - Parking lots serving most new/renovated commercial buildings must install 2% of parking spaces with Level 2 chargers, and 8% with EV-ready wiring (to enable quick and lower-cost expansion if needed)
 - Parking lots serving multi-unit apartments, condominiums, hotels/motels must include EV chargers installed in 10% of parking spaces and EV-ready wiring in 10% of spaces.

Next Steps: In 2025, staff will draft amendments to the Green Building Regulations (Article XIV of Chapter 5), which will include updates for the International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The city will continue to review and adopt updated building codes on a three year cycle that involves three stages: the national model code publication by the International Code Council (ICC), State of Maryland code adoption, and finally local code adoption. Green/energy conservation building codes are intended to gradually strengthen during the amendment cycles that adopt the 2021 (completed), 2024, 2027 and 2030 ICC codes.

Equity: Development review permit fees were adjusted to incentivize redevelopment and to ensure equitable application. Additionally, the city waived permit fees directly associated with the residential installation of solar photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging stations, and energy-efficiency heating and cooling upgrades in honor of Earth Month in April of 2024. Efforts are ongoing to reduce the burden associated with the permitting process, improve communication of requirements, and provide education to constituents.

Action 1.1.4

Completed

Progress 100%

Community - 04

Opt into Montgomery County's point of sale energy disclosure (Chapter 40, Real Property, Section 40-13B).

Progress Highlights: Continued implementation of the ordinance requiring Montgomery County's point of sale radon testing and home energy disclosure requirements. This law went into effect on January 1, 2023 and is enforced by Montgomery County's Office of Consumer Protection. The law applies to owner-occupied single-family homes and condos which are individually metered by electricity and natural gas utilities. Before signing a contract, the seller of the home must provide copies of applicable electricity, gas, and home heating bills, or cost and usage history for the twelve months prior to the sale, along with information on residential energy efficiency opportunities.

Next Steps: Continue outreach and education.

Equity: Montgomery County provides [information on residential energy efficiency improvements, incentives and financing options](#).

Community - 05

Expand the home energy efficiency outreach program to increase participation in utility energy audits and rebates.

Progress Highlights: Promoted various home energy incentive programs available to Rockville residents to help them complete energy assessment and upgrades:

- Published multiple social media and Rockville Reports promotions involving Pepco's home energy programs, Montgomery County Energy Connection, and Montgomery County's Electrify MC program for electrification discounts and Help Desk (see Action Community-06).
- Shared information on Tax Credits for solar, electric vehicles, chargers, and home energy efficiency in Rockville Reports and the Environment and Sustainability e-newsletter.
- Hosted a Climate Solutions virtual education session with Montgomery County staff on home electrification incentives (14 participants).
- Created a new Climate Incentives webpage to highlight all of the [rebates and incentives](#) available to Rockville residents.
- Pepco also promoted programs at Rockville Science Day, Montgomery County Greenfest and with a multi-cultural campaign on social media.

Issues: While County and Pepco programs are continuing, there is uncertainty regarding other programs going into the future. The higher incentives in the form of federal rebates administered by the state for electric appliances, panel upgrades, and deep home energy efficiency are currently on hold. Regardless, energy efficiency is always a good economic investment, and is made even more accessible by local and utility discount programs.

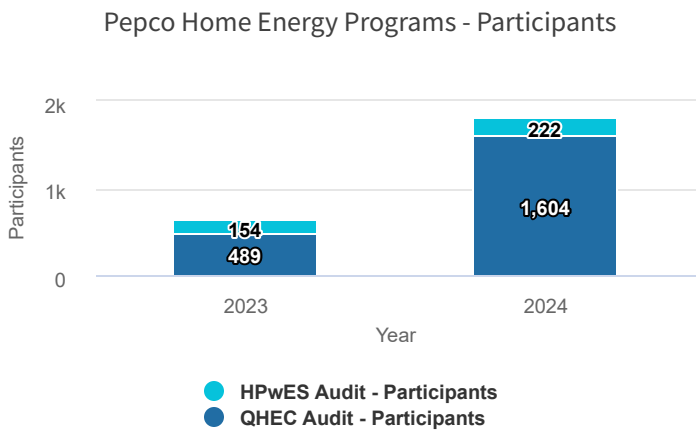
Next Steps: Continue to monitor new programs and promote electrification, utility home programs, rebates and tax credits programs.

Equity: Energy program outreach materials feature information for Income Eligible Energy Efficiency Programs to assist low-to-moderate income (LMI) households. See Action C-02 for a special emphasis on LMI energy programs. Reducing energy use will help address climate change which disproportionately impacts low-income residents and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

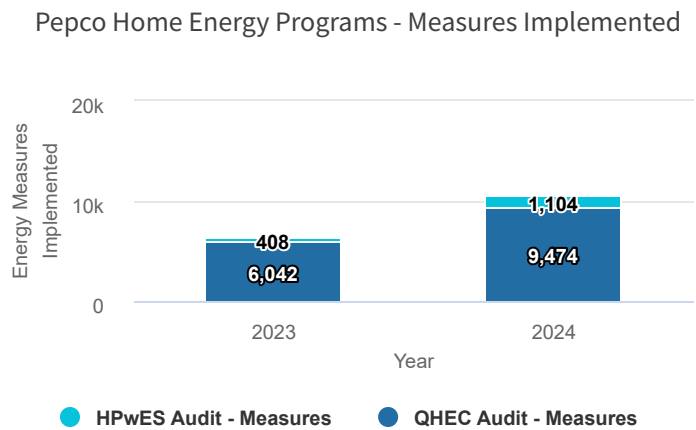
Metric: Pepco reports zip-code level information for customer participation in their residential energy efficiency incentive programs. Data reported for zip codes primarily serving Rockville (20850, 20851, 20852) includes:

- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program (HPwES) provides a detailed home energy assessment and diagnostic testing with up to \$7,500 in rebates for completing eligible projects. 2024 participation included 222 households (44% increase), which implemented 1,104 energy efficiency measures, receiving \$308,493 in incentives with an estimated energy savings of 140 MWh.
- Quick Home Energy Check-up Program (QHEC) provides visual inspections and installation of energy-savings projects at no cost to Pepco customers. Participation included 1,604 households (228% increase), which implemented 9,474 energy efficiency measures, receiving \$385,087 in incentives with an estimated energy savings of 926 MWh.

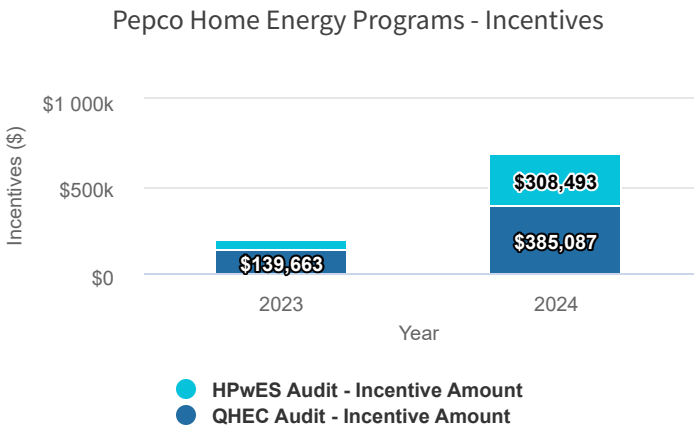
(C-05) Pepco Home Energy Programs - Participants



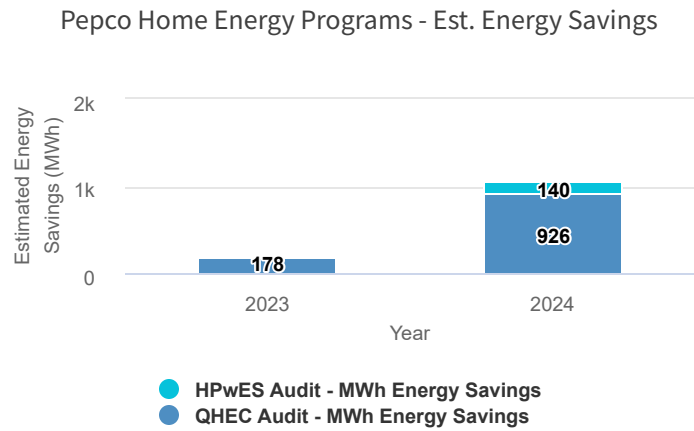
(C-05) Pepco Home Energy Programs - Measures



(C-05) Pepco Home Energy Programs - Incentives



(C-05) Pepco Home Energy Programs - Energy Savings



Action 1.1.6

In Progress

Progress 30%

Community - 06

Coordinate with Montgomery County on electrification incentives for existing building systems.

Progress Highlights: Montgomery County continued to administer the pilot home electrification program, Electrify MC. Rockville residents are eligible for County technical assistance and incentives to help transition home systems from fossil fuels to electricity (e.g., cooking, hot water, heating, and cooling, etc.). The program provides convenient up-front discounts on equipment. Participants are also guided to conduct an energy audit through Pepco's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR and to pursue Pepco energy efficiency rebates. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Tax Credits and MEA's IRA rebate programs will provide additional and higher financial incentives and can be layered with this program. Environmental Management and the Environment Commission hosted a free virtual Climate Solutions Speaker Session on the Montgomery County Electrification Incentives Program on December 5, 2024. Fourteen people attended the session.

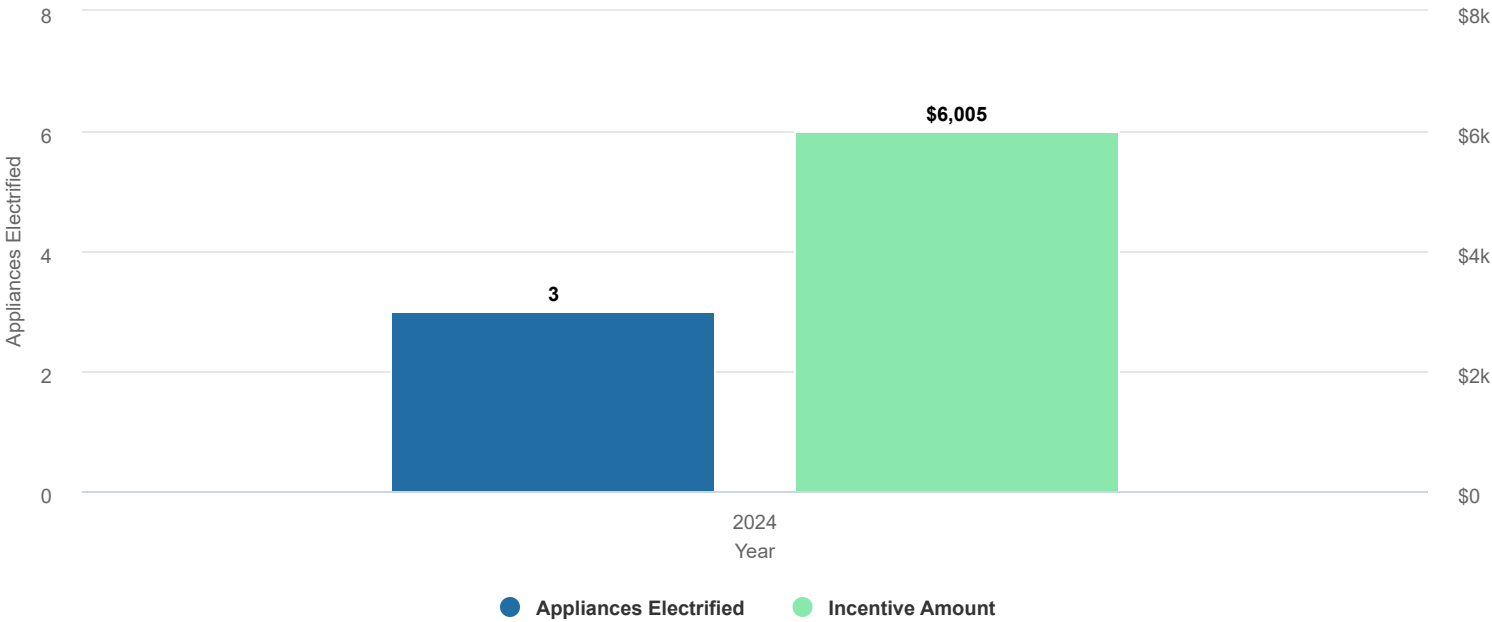
Issues: Electrify MC currently only has one contractor and incentives require that the new electric appliances replace fossil fuel-powered appliances and levels of funding are limited. EmPOWER Maryland still provides rebates for gas-fired equipment, which provides a conflicting incentive.

Next Steps: Advocate for EmPOWER Maryland rebates for efficient electric-only appliances. Continue to promote the County's and IRA programs to reach new diverse participants.

Equity: Electrify MC provides upfront discounts which reduces the upfront cost and hassle of rebates. Materials are also provided in Spanish. Electric appliances particularly benefit the health of those living in smaller dwellings and people with asthma or other health problems.

Metric: Three Rockville homes electrified three appliances and received a total of discounts valued at \$6,005 through the Electrify MC program in 2024.

(C-06) Electrify MC Participation



Electrify MC

Municipal - 01

Complete energy assessments of City facilities and develop a strategic plan to reduce facility energy consumption.

Progress Highlights: As part of the Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) program, the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution 12-13 establishing an energy efficiency goal of reducing per-square-foot electricity consumption by 15 percent. The city has been making incremental energy improvements over time, prioritizing the largest and highest energy-consuming facilities to maximize energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions. In 2024, the city completed the following energy efficiency projects:

- Senior Center: Replaced approximately 820 interior light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures and pair the fixtures with 437 occupancy sensors to modernize and improve occupant light controls, maximize energy savings, and leverage outside funding (\$100,000 from MEA and \$72,592 from Pepco).
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center: Replaced 200 interior light fixtures with 75 occupancy sensors by leveraging \$29,127 from MEA and \$34,340 from Pepco. The lighting upgrades improve lighting in the gymnasium and reduce maintenance costs.
- Rothgeb Maintenance Facility: Replaced 25 exterior lights with energy efficient LED fixtures on the fleet building leveraging \$10,985 from MEA and \$3,640 from Pepco. The lighting retrofit will improve outdoor lighting conditions for staff and reduce maintenance costs.
- The city was awarded a \$63,000 Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant to implement LED lighting upgrades at Thomas Farm Community Center in 2025.
- As required by Montgomery County's Building Energy Benchmarking and Performance Standards Law, the city submitted building energy benchmarking data for City Hall, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, and the Senior Center. Montgomery County granted a benchmarking waiver to 6 Taft Court because the building is currently unoccupied.
- A consultant began the energy audit of the Swim and Fitness Center.

Issues: Staff monitored proposed building energy regulations and outside funding opportunities to strategically plan future audits and improvements. After initial delays, Montgomery County and Maryland adopted regulations for the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) that will apply to city facilities (see Community-01). Maryland's BEPS regulation was finalized in December of 2024 and Montgomery County's BEPS regulation was adopted in February of 2025. BEPS establishes the net direct greenhouse gas emissions and/or site Energy Use Intensity (EUI) standards for different building types to be achieved by interim and final deadlines. The city will work with energy consultants and contractors to develop BEPS facility energy assessments for City Hall, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, the Senior Center, and 6 Taft Court and develop compliance strategies for both the County and State programs.

Next Steps: Continue the different phases of facility energy audits and improvements; including developing a BEPS compliance strategy, seeking grant funding for future energy efficiency audits and projects, and implementing projects at the following locations:

- Thomas Farm Community Center: Replace approximately 252 interior light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures and pair the fixtures with 49 occupancy sensors to modernize and improve occupant light controls and maximize energy savings.
- Monitor opportunities to leverage grant funding and Pepco rebates to implement lighting conversions at other facilities.
- Swim and Fitness Center: Pending finalized of Maryland and Montgomery County BEPS regulation, develop BEPS compliance strategy and seek grant funding.
- Initiate BEPS planning for City Hall and the Senior Center.

Metric: The table summarizes the largest, highest energy-consuming facilities, the status of energy efficient lighting assessments and upgrades, and the status of energy audits and plans for future BEPS compliance.

(M-01) Facility Energy Audits and Projects

Facility	Size (sf)	Lighting Audit	LED Lighting Conversion	Building Energy Audit	Lighting Conversion Status
City Hall	51,848	Complete	Completed 2023- Floors 1 and 3 Completed 2022- Floor 2 Completed 2018 - Parking lot	Pepco Tune-up (2022) Planning for BEPS compliance (Interim 2028)	Complete
Swim and Fitness Center	46,171	Phased	Future- Other interior spaces Planned - outdoor pool Completed 2020 - Locker room Completed 2016 - Indoor pools Completed 2016- Parking lot	Energy Audit (2024-2025); Planning for BEPS compliance (Interim 2030)	Phased
Senior Center	39,170	Complete	Completed 2024 - Interior and Exterior	Planning for BEPS compliance (Interim 2030)	Complete
6 Taft Court	55,350	Phased	Construction 2024 (North Wing) Future (South Wing)	Planning for BEPS compliance (Interim 2028)	Phased
Water Treatment Plant (main building)	8,100	Complete	Completed 2024 (facility renovation)	Completed in 2018 as part of building renovation	Complete
Lincoln Park Community Center	12,516	Complete	Completed 2021		Complete
Twinbrook Community Center	15,740	Complete	Completed 2024 (Interior and Parking lot)		Complete
Thomas Farm Community Center	18,086	Complete	Planned 2025 (Interior and Parking lot)		In process
F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre	24,100	Phased	Phased with renovations		Phased
Rothgeb Maintenance Facility (multiple structures,)	62,400	Phased	Phased Completed 2024 - Fleet exterior		Phased
Glenview Mansion	24,483	Future	Phased with renovations		Future
Recreation Services Building	17,000	Future	Future renovation (2033)		Future
Police Station - Annex + Old Post Office	26,198	Future	Future		Future

Municipal - 02

Convert City-owned streetlights to energy efficient LED (light-emitting diode) (CIP TA22).

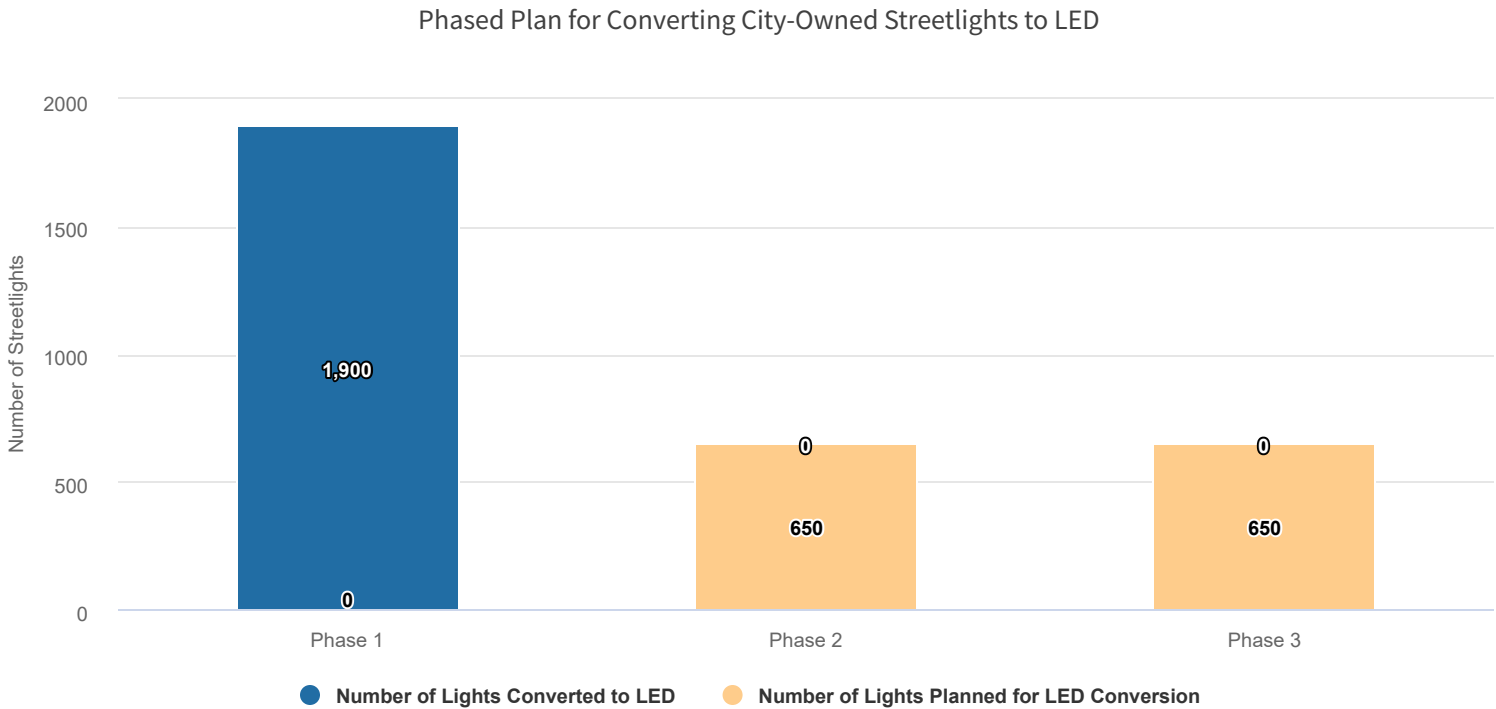
Progress Highlights: The LED Streetlight Conversion Program (CIP TA22) replaces approximately 3,200 city-owned streetlights with energy efficient LED in three phases. Phase 1 was completed in October 2024, replacing approximately 1,900 lights with LED fixtures.

Next Steps: The contract for phase 2 is expected to be awarded in early 2025, and the work is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025. Phase 3 is expected to be awarded in 2025, with the project reaching completion in 2026. Both phase 2 and 3 will replace approximately 650 lights each.

Grants: Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) awarded Rockville a \$445,750 Streetlight and Outdoor Lighting Efficiency grant and Pepco approved \$224,875 in rebates to implement phase 1. MEA awarded a \$124,600 grant to offset costs for phase 2 and \$130,600 to support phase 3. The city also anticipates receiving Pepco rebates through the EmPOWER Maryland program to implement phases 2 and 3.

Metric: The number of streetlights converted during each phase is tracked over time to assess progress. By the end of 2024, approximately 1,900 streetlights (100% of phase 1) were converted to LED.

(M-02) LED Streetlight Replacement Status



Municipal - 03

Advocate for a Pepco-owned streetlight LED conversion agreement that serves the public interest.

Progress Highlights: Close to half (2,925) of Rockville's more than 6,000 streetlights are owned and maintained by Pepco and their electricity use is billed to the City. These streetlights are primarily overhead cobra-style fixtures with mercury vapor or high-pressure sodium light sources. The city continued to monitor the Maryland legislature, the Public Service Commission, and Pepco for proposals for Pepco-owned streetlight LED conversions to determine if they serve the public interest. Pepco has discussed their intentions to convert Pepco-owned streetlights to LED, developed draft tariff schedules to accomplish this, and asked jurisdictions for their preference for billing processes. One option involves paying the capital cost of the LED lights within the monthly rates and the other option involves paying the capital contribution separately from the monthly rates. The timing for implementation of LED conversions and changes to billing is uncertain.

Issues: Due to the high cost of purchase and poor condition of most of Pepco's equipment, staff has concluded that ownership of the equipment is not currently in the City's best interest.

Next Steps: Coordinate with Pepco to further understand their proposed tariff schedules and estimate budget implications for the different options. Continue to track Pepco's developing plans, Maryland legislation, and Public Service Commission actions and comment when appropriate.

Renewable Energy

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

	%	#
In Progress	80.0	4
Completed	20.0	1

Action: 5

Community - 07

Advocate to increase the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2030.

Progress Highlights: Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was established to capture the economic, environmental, fuel diversity, and security benefits of renewable energy. The RPS seeks to establish a market for renewable energy in Maryland and lower the cost of obtaining electricity generated from renewable sources. The program does this by gradually increasing the amount of renewable energy electricity suppliers must procure from renewable sources by 2030 to 50 percent. The Mayor and Council continued to advocate for legislation in the 2024 Maryland General Assembly to support the increase of renewable energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. In 2024, the Mayor and Council supported the Brighter Tomorrow Act which was signed into law in May of 2024 and increases the use of solar energy in the state. This bill's key elements include requiring the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish the Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program, the Maryland Energy Administration to establish the new Maryland Solar Access program to boost solar development in the state, and promoting standardized residential solar permitting processes.

Next Steps: Continue to advocate for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and storage to support a clean-powered electric grid.

Equity: This action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions protects historically excluded communities since they bear higher burdens from climate change and air pollution.

Community - 08

Coordinate with Montgomery County on development of the Community Choice Energy Program to aggregate green power purchasing.

Progress Highlights: After supporting the initiation of the Community Choice Energy (CCA) program, the city has been monitoring progress of the working group that was established to design the enabling regulations needed to implement the program. On January 10, 2024, the Maryland Public Service Commission approved regulations for the Montgomery County Community Choice Aggregation Pilot. In fall 2024, the Public Service Commission issued an order clarifying the utilities' process for procurement of Standard Offer Service (SOS) electricity for the CCA. This approach was proposed by the Office of People's Counsel and supported by the County. The Commission indicated that the CCA must start delivering power on October 1. The year will be determined by the County once all legislatively mandated requirements are met. SOS rates change to winter rates every October 1. The County continues to work on issues related to the establishment of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), including working with stakeholders on the purchase of electricity by utilities serving the County following the start of the CCA.

Issues: This is a complex program that impacts many customers that requires thoughtful program design.

Next Steps: The next steps are developing an aggregation plan to be approved by the PSC and adopting a local law to establish the CCA. The City will continue to monitor the program's development and coordinate as needed.

Equity: A county-wide purchase on behalf of customers would reduce supplier choice misinformation and simplify participation in green power programs. Any cost changes should consider equity in their structure. The County intends to conduct extensive outreach during the development of the CCE to ensure that it is informed by community values and that special attention is given to the needs to vulnerable communities.

Community - 09

Promote private solar and geothermal installations through the solar co-op program, streamlined permitting, and expanding access to low-to-moderate income residents.

Progress Highlights: Rockville expanded efforts to promote private solar and geothermal installations through the following:

- Promoted the Capital Area Solar Switch, the solar co-op hosted by the nonprofit Solar United Neighbors. The program leverages the power of groups to help residents and businesses throughout the Washington metropolitan area learn about and install rooftop solar panels, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging stations. In 2024, the Environment Commission invested 30 volunteer hours over 6 weekends at the Rockville Farmer's Market promoting the Solar Co-op. The city hosted an information session about installing solar with the Solar Switch program in May of 2024.
- The Mayor and Council reduced permit fees for the installation of solar and EV chargers and streamlined the permitting process using an online application. As part of the Earth Month observance in April, the city waived all fees assessed by the Inspections Services Division that are directly associated with the residential installation of solar photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging stations and energy efficient heating and cooling systems, such as heat pumps.
- The Montgomery County Green Bank was awarded funding through the Maryland Clean Energy Center for EPA's Solar For All grant which offers special financing for solar systems and community solar for low-income residents.
- Staff provided technical assistance to Rockville Housing Enterprises to connect them to available resources for solar through state grantees such as Building Change, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland.

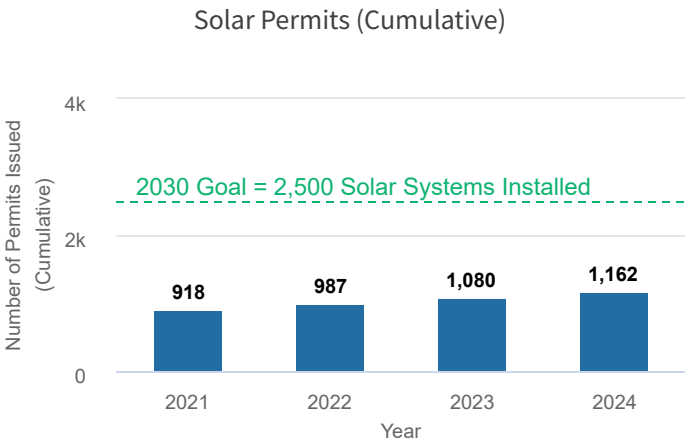
Issues: Federal funding freezes and uncertainty in global markets due to tariffs are contributing to uncertainty in the solar market. Also, residents and the Environment Commission have inquired about opportunities to proactively manage the growth of trees and prevent potential shading of solar systems. Suggestions include considering flexibility in tree species selection and planting locations to limit shading of solar installations.

Next Steps: The 2025 Solar Switch will launch in March and outreach will highlight the 30% federal tax credit and low- and moderate-income solar opportunities through the Green Bank and community solar. Staff will continue ongoing coordination with RHE to support solar development on their properties. Plans to streamline plan review and permitting processes with the SolarAPP+ automated permitting system is anticipated in 2025.

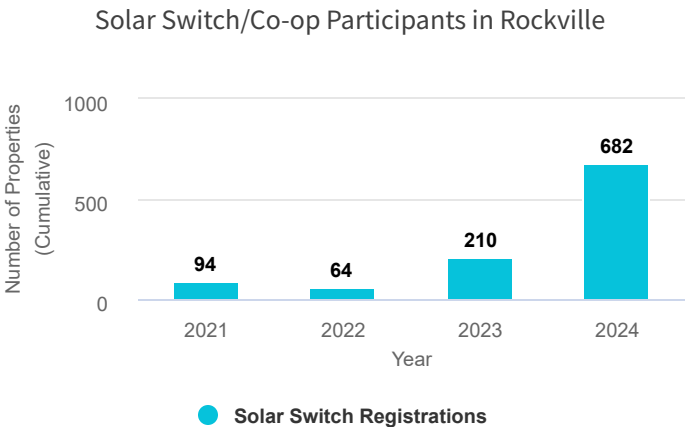
Equity: The Montgomery County Green Bank offers a special financing program for low- and moderate-income homeowners. Several community solar projects available to Rockville offer special discounted electricity rates for low-income subscribers. These programs were advertised through social media, Rockville Reports, and in-person throughout the year and specifically promoted during the Solar Switch outreach campaign.

Metrics: Interest in solar continued to grow. The 2024 Solar Switch program recruited 682 participants with a Rockville address that are interested in solar, but are not required to enter into a contract. The cumulative total number of solar permits issued in Rockville rose to approximately 1,162.

(C-09) Solar Permits



(C-09) Solar Switch



Action 1.2.4



Municipal - 04

Identify and install feasible solar photovoltaic systems on City property.

Progress Highlights: As part of the Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) program, the Mayor and Council adopted a Resolution 12-13 establishing 20 percent renewable energy goal for city facilities. The existing geothermal system at Thomas Farm Community Center contributes to this renewable energy goal. The city has worked with a variety of consultants to evaluate solar feasibility at other facilities and plan for future installations.

- **Parking lot solar canopies:** In 2023, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) awarded Solar Canopy and Dual Use Technology grants to Rockville to install solar canopies over parking lots at the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility (\$250,000) and 6 Taft Court (\$144,000). The city is working to develop a Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) to install solar at both locations, using a Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) cooperative contract. The SPPA is a financial arrangement where a third-party finances, installs, owns, operates and maintains a solar system on the city's property and the city purchases the system's electricity for a predetermined period. Using a SPPA, the City avoids upfront capital costs, is guaranteed system performance, and establishes a known electricity rate during the term of the agreement. Two solar rooftop installations and a parking lot solar canopy are under design at the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility and two solar canopies are in design at 6 Taft Court. The SPPAs are dependent on MCPS finalizing canopy rates which were delayed because of site changes since the original award.
- **Lincoln Park Community Center Solar Rooftop (gym roof):** As part of the Department of Energy's Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) formula funding, the City received approval through the equipment voucher application portal for approximately \$109,900 to install solar on the gym rooftop at Lincoln Park Community Center. The roof replacement contract is an important step to this project and anticipated in 2025. Staff is developing a RFP for rooftop solar installation on the gym roof to meet the EECBG grant requirements. The installation can occur following the roof replacement, RFP award, and DOE project approvals.
- **Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Solar Technical Assistance Program:** In June of 2024, MEA announced that Rockville will receive technical assistance in reviewing additional sites for solar feasibility. MEA's consultant began assessments of the largest facilities for solar rooftop and parking lot canopy feasibility, including the Swim and Fitness Center, City Hall, Senior Center, Recreation Services, and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Issues:

- **Federal funding from the Department of Energy (DOE)** is currently paused, impacting the implementation of the solar rooftop at Lincoln Park Community Center.
- **MCPS contract delays and uncertainty in federal tariffs and tax credits** have delayed the finalization of SPPAs to implement solar canopy projects at Rothgeb and 6 Taft Court.
- **Other building and site conditions:** The city has several lowrise facilities that are shaded by tree cover and/or contain rooftop mechanical equipment that require maintenance access paths and fall protection for safety. These systems compete for limited roof space for solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems. The city explored solar feasibility with assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, MEA, and other private contractors and have identified limited opportunities, as summarized in the table. As sites change, roofs are replaced, and technology changes, feasibility may change. For example, the solar contractor evaluated the roof of the north wing of 6 Taft Court and did not recommend rooftop solar because of orientation, space constraints, and conflicts with rooftop mechanical equipment, maintenance access and fall protection safety equipment. The roof of the main building of the Water Treatment Plant was evaluated and not recommended for solar by a consultant because of orientation, space constraints and conflicts with rooftop mechanical equipment, maintenance access and fall protection safety equipment, and the risk a roof leak could damage the electrical equipment and switchgear located on the third floor.

Next Steps:

- The results from MEA's Solar Technical Assistance Program are anticipated in 2025.
- **Park Lot Canopies:** Staff will continue to coordinate with MCPS, other departments, and Standard Solar (co-grantee for MEA Solar Canopy Grant) to determine market feasibility to design, permit and install solar canopies at 6 Taft Court and the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility. Staff will continue explore the feasibility of installations at other facilities with large, unshaded parking lots.
- **Rooftop:** Two rooftop solar installations are planned at the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility and one rooftop solar installation is planned at Lincoln Park Community Center; both are subject to changes in solar markets and funding. Additional rooftop installations would be coordinated with the roof replacement cycle. The city's roofing contractor is capable of evaluating the structural capacity of a roof to determine if a solar rooftop system can be installed, however, they do not conduct solar feasibility studies that consider other factors like the orientation, system sizing, electrical feasibility, shading from trees, location of mechanical equipment, economics, etc. As the city proceeds through the roof replacement cycle, staff will first assess the buildings for critical limiting factors that would prevent solar installations, such as orientation, shade by trees or mechanical equipment, future building changes, historic designation, presence of a curved/barrel or green roof, and restrictions from fall protection devices.

Metric: The MSEC renewable energy goal translates to a generation capacity target of approximately 3,200 MWh per year. The City's geothermal system at Thomas Farm Community Center accounts for 461 MWh, approximately one-seventh of this goal. The table summarizes solar feasibility assessments and plans for evaluating solar installations at other facilities.

(M-04) Table of Municipal Renewable Energy

Municipal Solar

Location	Solar Screening	Status	Rooftop Solar	Parking Solar Canopy	Notes
Rothgeb Maintenance Facility	Contractor Solar Assessment (Standard Solar, 2023)	Design, 967.41 kW DC canopy and rooftop, 1,227.06 MWh/yr	Designing rooftop for Fleet Services Building and Stockroom/Heated Storage Building	Employee parking lot	MEA awarded Solar Canopy and Dual Use Technology Grant (\$250,000)
6 Taft Court	Contractor Solar Assessment (Standard Solar, 2023)	Design, 226.72 kW DC canopy, 278.9 MWh/yr	North Wing - Contractor assessed 2023. Not feasible due to orientation, size and conflict with rooftop equipment, maintenance access and fall protection. South Wing - Plan to assess during roof replacement/renovation.	Parking lot	MEA awarded Solar Canopy and Dual Use Technology Grant (\$144,000)
Lincoln Park Community Center	Rooftop Solar Evaluation (Solar Energy Services, 2024). Roof replacement (Gale Associates, 2024).	Planned: Roof replacement for gymnasium (Phase 1) + Solar Installation (Phase 2) Concept Design 35 kW gym rooftop 41,817 kWh/yr	Rooftop replacement planned 2025. Following roof replacement, staff will issue RFP for rooftop solar design and installation.	N.A.	Planned project for Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) (\$109,900)
Swim and Fitness Center	Pending contractor assessment (The SEMCAS Group, LLC, 2025). Contractor feasibility assessment planned for rooftop of north pool and parking lot	Feasibility Study Initiated, results anticipated in 2025	Study	Study	MEA Solar Technical Assistance Program

City Hall	Pending contractor assessment (The SEMCAS Group, LLC, 2025, Gale Associates). Contractor feasibility assessment planned for rooftop replacement and parking lot	Feasibility Study Initiated, results anticipated in 2025	Study	Study	MEA Solar Technical Assistance Program
Recreation Services Building	Pending contractor assessment (The SEMCAS Group, LLC, 2025,). Contractor feasibility assessment planned for rooftop.	Feasibility Study Initiated, results anticipated in 2025	Study	N.A.	MEA Solar Technical Assistance Program
Senior Center	Pending contractor assessment (The SEMCAS Group, LLC, 2025). Contractor feasibility assessment planned for rooftop and parking lot	Feasibility Study Initiated, results anticipated in 2025	Study	Study	MEA Solar Technical Assistance Program
F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre	Pending contractor assessment (The SEMCAS Group, LLC, 2025). Contractor feasibility assessment planned for rooftop and parking lot	Feasibility Study Initiated, results anticipated in 2025	Study	Study	MEA Solar Technical Assistance Program. Property also has historic designation.
Twinbrook Community Center	USEPA Contractor Screening (2012), Standard Solar Screening (2024)	Reviewed - Not recommended	N.A. (conflicts with tree shading, roof orientation, mechanical equipment and fall protection)	N.A. (conflicts with tree shading, floodplain, and utilities)	
Thomas Farm Community Center	USEPA Contractor Screening (2012), Standard Solar Screening (2024)	Reviewed - Not recommended	N.A. (conflicts with curved roof and flat roof orientation, shading and size)	N.A. (conflicts with natural gas easement under parking lot and permeable pavement)	Building features geothermal heating and cooling system.
Police Station	Standard Solar Screening (2024)	Reviewed - Not recommended	N.A. (conflicts with green roof, mechanical equipment and historic designation)	N.A. (limited onsite parking)	

Glenview Mansion	Standard Solar Screening (2024)	Reviewed - not recommended, property has	N.A. (historic designation)	N.A. (historic designated environmental setting,	
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Action 1.2.5

Completed

Progress 100%

Municipal - 05

Purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) for municipal electricity.

Progress Highlights: Since 2004, Montgomery County has led a coalition of County agencies and municipalities to cooperatively purchase wind Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to support clean energy. Rockville continued to participate in this partnership in fiscal years 2024/2025. Rockville's annual wind RECs purchase offsets approximatley 40% of electricity consumption used for all municipal facilities, parks, streetlights, traffic lights and utilities.

Issues: Increased demand for renewable energy, as well as renewable energy project development challenges (such as unpredictable equipment prices, rising interest rates, permitting delays, congested interconnection queues, and supply chain constraints) raised the price of Green-e Certified renewable energy credits substantially. Higher REC prices make it harder for jurisdictions with a fixed budget to source their power with renewable energy. Rockville will continue to coordinate with Montgomery County to explore affordable ways to increase the portion of clean energy purchased.

Category 1.3

Progress 76%

	%	#
In Progress	55.56	5
Phased	11.11	1
Completed	33.33	3

Transportation

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

Action: 9

Action 1.3.1

In Progress

Progress 55%

Community - 10

Work with WMATA, MDOT, and Montgomery County to maximize transit accessibility and ridership and enhance mobility options.

Progress Highlights: Public Works continues to evaluate sidewalk gaps and has advanced several different gap segments to the final design and/or construction phase. Public Works also constructed a Complete Streets and Asphalt Art project along Beall Avenue, providing separated bicycle lanes, a bus boarding platform, and an asphalt art mural.

Next Steps: The third group of sidewalk feasibility studies is anticipated to be completed in fall 2025. Multiple traffic calming improvements are under design and planned for construction in 2025. Shared roadways with traffic calming measures along Mannakee Street and bicycle lanes along Martins Lane are anticipated to be constructed in 2025 and 2026, respectively. The city continues to coordinate with the developer and MCDOT on the Great Seneca Transit Network to link the Shady Grove corridor with the Life Science Center and ensure connectivity. The city also continues to coordinate with MCDOT and MDOT SHA on MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit. Lastly, Public Works is evaluating Congressional Lane, Halpine Road, and E. Jefferson Street for multimodal improvements.

Equity: Public transportation provides mobility options and access to everyone in Rockville and serves several marginalized groups including low-income, elderly, youth, and people with disabilities, as well as those who do not have access to an automobile or cannot drive because of cost, age, or physical ability. Public transportation also produces fewer impacts to the environment compared to privately owned automobiles, including transportation related emissions, noise, and vibration which are frequently felt most directly in disadvantaged communities.

Community - 11

Develop a Rockville Community Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan.

Progress Highlights: Rockville's first Draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan was nearly finalized in 2024 and presented to Mayor and Council at a work session in early 2025. An Open House was held in December to present the initial findings and recommendations to the public. The EV Readiness Plan identifies ways the city can work with county, state, regional, utility, and federal programs to better facilitate a rapid adoption of electric vehicles and meet a growing demand for charging. By researching how many, where, and what types of chargers are needed to serve residents, businesses, visitors, and city fleet, the city has been well-prepared to seek partnerships and grant opportunities for EV charging. In addition to this analysis, the plan identifies policy and permitting needs to make EV charger installation faster to meet growing demand. Importantly, the city seeks to ensure equitable access to charging for residents of multi-unit dwelling units or who do not have access to a garage or driveway.

Issues: The EV charging needs assessment revealed a deficit of reliable public charging. Many residents lack home charging, especially those that rent or reside in multiunit residential buildings. Additional work with the private sector and the public is needed to expand charging. Permitting processes offer opportunities for improvement, clarity, and streamlining.

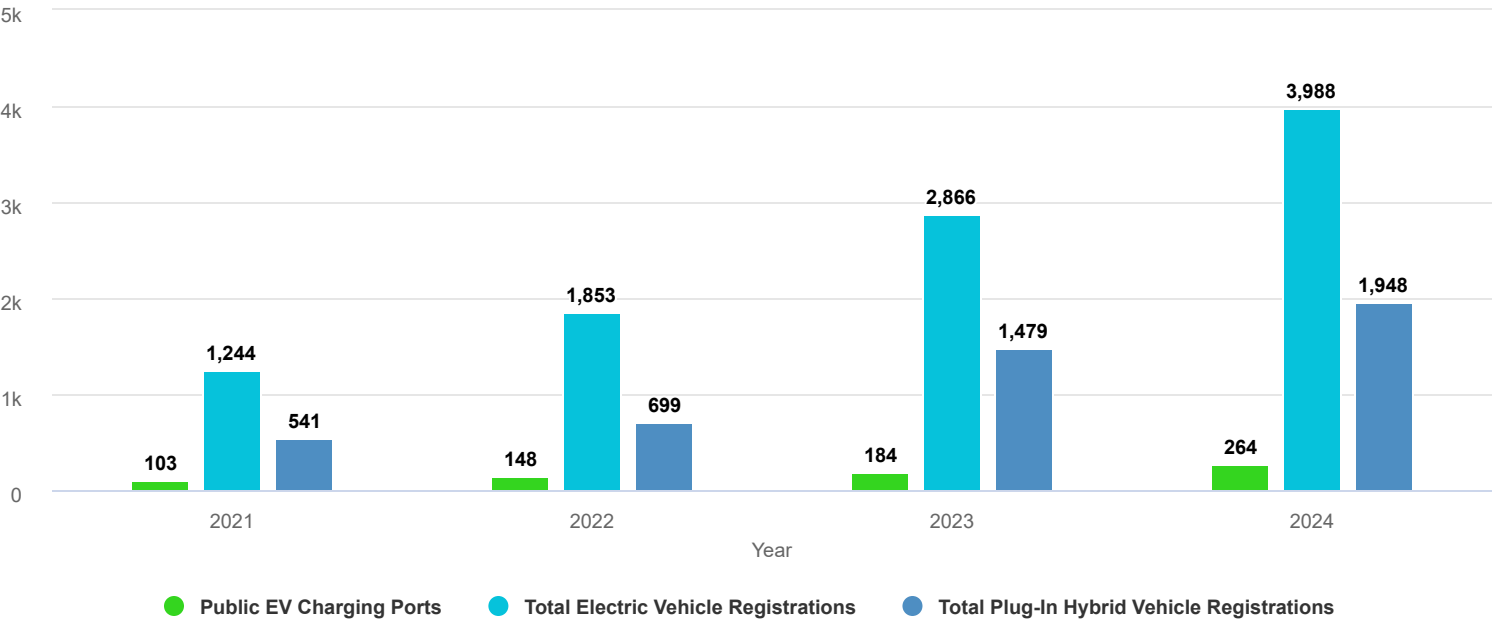
Next Steps: The final plan is scheduled to be presented to Mayor and Council in spring 2025 for adoption. Implementation of fleet electrification, EV charger projects on city property, grant participation, and community engagement is ongoing. Code changes will be incorporated in the Zoning Code Rewrite and other relevant code chapters as they are updated.

Equity: Developing requirements for publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations and establishing locations for grant-sponsored stations on City property serves residents that do not have easy access to home charging. Streamlining permitting reduces burdens on under-resourced applicants. The draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan prioritizes equity wherever possible.

Metric: In Montgomery County, electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids account for 4.8% of all registered light-duty vehicles. In Rockville zip codes, the number of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids has grown from 4,345 to 5,936, a 36% increase from the prior year. Electric vehicle chargers open to the public grew from 184 to 264. Public chargers included in the count does not include restricted access chargers at private residences, for fleets, residents, or employees, so the actual count of total chargers is much higher.

(C-11) Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations

Electric Vehicles Registrations and Public EV Charging Ports in Rockville Zip Codes



Quantities are cumulative.

MD MDOT/MVA Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle Registrations by main Rockville Zip Codes (20580, 20851, 20852). <https://opendata.maryland.gov/Transportation/MD-MDOT-MVA-Electric-and-Plug-in-Hybrid-Vehicle-Registrations-by-main-Rockville-Zip-Codes/>
Public EV charging ports (<https://chargehub.com/en/countries/united-states/maryland/rockville.html>)

Action 1.3.3

In Progress

Progress 67%

Community - 12

Require new developments and redevelopments to be electric vehicle-ready.

Progress Highlights: Green and energy building code amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code and other base building codes were adopted in May and went into effect December 1, 2024 (see Community - 03). Amendments require a percentage of parking spaces in commercial developments and redevelopments to have EV chargers installed, have electrical capacity and wiring to enable quick expansion of charging if/when needed (EV charger-ready), and enable longer term increases in chargers if needed (EV-capable) to provide a flexible way to expand existing stations for visitors and residents. Emphasis is placed on residential charging followed by workplace and visitor charging. The following provides a simplified overview of the base percentage of parking spaces within a newly constructed or renovated parking lot that need to meet each EV readiness category by building occupancy type. There are several exceptions, reductions and specific conditions detailed in the full city code listed online.

- Parking lots serving most new/renovated commercial buildings must install 2% of parking spaces with Level 2 chargers, and 8% with EV-ready wiring (to enable quick and lower-cost expansion if needed).
- Parking lots serving multi-unit apartments, condominiums, hotels/motels must include EV chargers installed in 10% of parking spaces and EV-ready wiring in 10% of spaces.

Next Steps: Implementation and enforcement of the codes and monitoring over time to determine if changes are warranted in the next building code update cycle which occurs every three years. The Zoning Code Rewrite was launched in 2023. Electric vehicle charging considerations will need to be included consistent with the EV Readiness Plan recommendations.

Equity: Publicly accessible charging stations and chargers that are available to multi-family residents benefit those who do not have garages and driveways, including low-income residents and those without designated parking spaces. New federal electric vehicle discounts for used EVs and lowered maintenance and fueling costs assist drivers with lower means to access clean fuel transportation.

Action 1.3.4

Completed

Progress 100%

Community - 13

Promote a regional electric vehicle purchasing cooperative (EVPC).

Progress Highlights: First launched in 2022, the [Montgomery County EV Purchasing Co-op \(EVPC\)](#) continues to work with local dealerships to provide incentives and discounts that will save residents money to purchase or lease new and pre-owned electric vehicles (EVs). In 2024, local dealers participated in the program to provide monthly incentives, which include incentives for purchase, leases, and charging. Rockville continued to promote the program and the monthly EV Purchasing Co-op newsletter.

Action 1.3.5

In Progress

Progress 60%

Community - 14

Expand active transportation and shared micro-mobility network by implementing improvements in the Bicycle Master Plan and Vision Zero Plan.

Progress Highlights: In 2024, 60% of [Vision Zero actions](#) were complete and the remainder are ongoing. A bicycle lane study on Martins Lane and a complete street study on Mannakee Street were completed in 2024. Also, DPW staff installed eight permanent pedestrian and bicycle counters in the city. The FY 2025 capital budget included new appropriations totaling \$8.4 million to support bicycle, pedestrian, and safety projects.

Grants: The city continues to seek external funding to leverage city resources and extend the city’s ability to carry out multimodal safety projects. In FY 25, the city received over \$860,000 in grant funds from four different sources, including the federal Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment program and the Maryland Carbon Reduction program. The grants cover a variety of projects including complete streets studies, bicycle lanes designs, and new bike share stations.

Next Steps: Continue implementing bicycle, pedestrian, and safety projects as outlined in the capital improvement program. City staff will complete the feasibility study and design of bicycle facilities for Halpine Road between E. Jefferson Street and Rockville Pike and along E. Jefferson Street between Rollins Avenue and Congressional Lane. The Department of Public Works will install complete streets improvements along Mannakee Street, and traffic calming improvements in the Twinbrook neighborhood.

Equity: Implementing facilities to accommodate safe and direct active transportation, such as walking, rolling, and bicycling, helps increase the mobility options for all Rockville residents and visitors to reach their destination. This is especially important for residents and visitors who do not have immediate access to an automobile or cannot drive because of cost, age, or physical ability. Moreover, providing walking/rolling, bicycling, and micromobility facilities in Rockville encourages more people to travel by non-private-automobile modes, which reduces transportation related emissions, vibration, and noise, which is most acutely felt by historically excluded communities.

Community - 15

Adopt and implement a Pedestrian Master Plan.

Progress Highlights: The Mayor and Council adopted Rockville’s first [Pedestrian Master Plan](#) in October 2023. The Pedestrian Master Plan includes 46 action items for the city to carry out to improve the pedestrian environment and experience in Rockville. These action items include recommendations for new pedestrian facilities and updating city policies and practices related to pedestrian travel. In 2024, DPW staff prepared an implementation timeline for the action items in the master plan and prepared and approved new crosswalk installation guidelines.

Next Steps: DPW staff will continue implement the action items from the master plan. In 2025, staff will develop a new sidewalk gap prioritization policy, continue to evaluate sidewalk gap segments and design and construct new sidewalks, update the Comprehensive Transportation Review, and evaluate new crossing locations.

Equity: The Pedestrian Master Plan acknowledges that walking and rolling are often the primary mode of transportation for low-income individuals, persons with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups. As such, additional and deliberate measures, especially related to enforcement and roadway design, need to be taken to produce more socially just outcomes.

Municipal - 06

Convert the City fleet to cleaner and more efficient fuel sources.

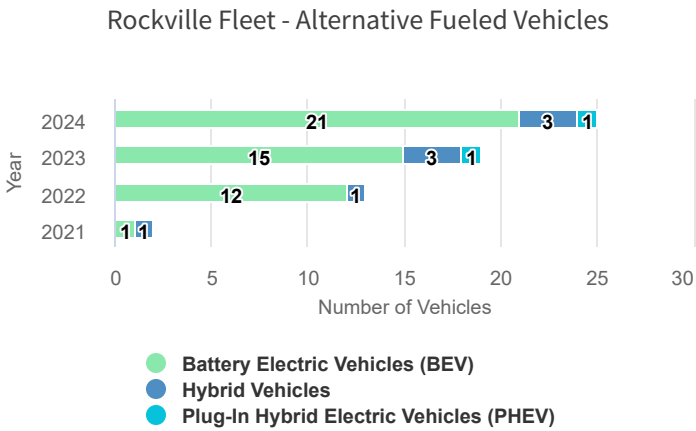
Progress Highlights: The Mayor and Council adopted Resolution 02-22 to transition the city's on-road fleet to cleaner, more efficient vehicles. Since the adoption of the resolution, all leased vehicles up for replacement are substituted with electric models with the exception of police vehicles or those used in snow/ice operations that must be available 24-hours per day. The total number of vehicles currently leased in 2024 was 118 out of 187. Of the 187 vehicles scheduled for the lease program, approximately 70 are currently suitable for electrification (37%). Other vehicles that are purchased by the City, including heavy-duty vehicles, dump trucks and refuse trucks currently do not have electrified models available on the market that suit the vehicle’s duty cycle. When those purchases are made, the Fleet Manager investigates available options and includes an explanation in the staff report as to feasibility of the conversion to an electrified model.

Issues: Staff continues to coordinate the planning and installation of EV charging infrastructure with the vehicle replacement cycle. Work continues to award contracts, amend site plans, and obtain permits for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations to serve fleet at City Hall, Police Station, Recreation Services, 6 Taft Court and the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility (see M-07).

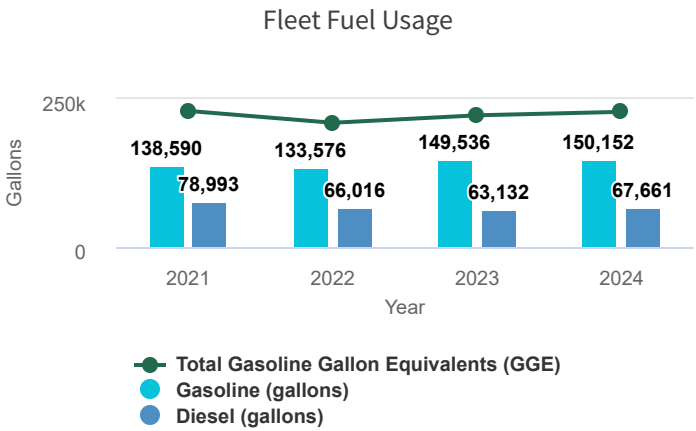
Next Steps: The city will continue electric vehicle replacements for Phase 1 Light Duty - FY 2025 and FY 2026 leases, install EV charging stations to serve the fleet, and monitor bus and heavy-duty opportunities and charging infrastructure needs. The city applied for a grant to purchase electric senior buses in FY 2026. The city will continue to monitor opportunities to move towards the goal of electrifying more of the total fleet as more options become available.

Metric: In 2024, the city fleet included 21 battery electric vehicles (BEV), 1 plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV), and 3 hybrid vehicles. Of the 70 leased vehicles currently suitable for electrification, currently 31% (up from 23% in 2023) have been converted to an electric version. As the City’s fleet electrification is ongoing and the majority of fuel is used by vehicles serving the police, refuse and snow/ice operations, a significant reduction in gasoline and diesel consumption has not yet been realized. Many factors influence total fuel consumption, including the number of snow and ice events occurring per year and the use of diesel fuel consumption for heavy duty operations. One measure to assess total fuel consumption is Gasoline Gallon Equivalents (GGE), this metric can be used to determine the amount of energy produced by alternative fuels as they compare to the energy produced by one gallon of gasoline (114,100 BTUs). GGE includes fleet's use of gasoline, diesel and electricity. Using fuel energy equivalents provides a comparison tool for gauging the consumption of various fuels based on an energy equivalent basis.

(M-06) Rockville Fleet



(M-06) Fleet Fuel



Gasoline Gallon Equivalents (GGE) provides a comparison tool for gauging the consumption of various fuels (e.g., gasoline, diesel and electricity) based on an energy equivalent basis.

Municipal - 07

Establish a new Capital Improvement Project to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure on City property to serve employees, fleet and the community.

Progress Highlights: The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure CIP (GA23) strategically plans, designs and installs chargers at city facilities and rights-of-way in coordination with the fleet electric vehicle acquisition and replacement cycle and Rockville's Electrical Vehicle Readiness Plan. The project expands the network of electrical vehicle charging infrastructure on city property to serve the fleet and potentially employees and the community. Phase 1 involves the purchase and installation of charging infrastructure to serve light duty fleet as aligned with the vehicle replacement schedules. Phase II involves planning for heavy duty fleet, such as buses and refuse, as available models come on the market that meet duty cycles. In support of Phase 1, three Level 2 single ports are installed at City Hall, two Level 2 ports are installed at the Fleet Services facility, and one portable Level 2 charger is available at the Water Treatment Plant. In 2024, staff coordinated with contractors for designs and cost estimates to expand charging infrastructure to serve fleet at City Hall, the Police Station, Recreation Services Building, 6 Taft Court and the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility. The city also continued to explore grants and partnerships to expand community charging and was awarded several, as described below.

Issues: The next round of EV chargers installations require minor site plan amendments, electric upgrades, and changes to parking configurations to support charging accessibility. Additional time is needed for plan and permit approvals. Additionally, uncertainty in federal EV policies, funding and incentives may impact implementation of some projects.

Grants: The city is strategically planning to take advantage of outside funding or the third-party provision of charging infrastructure to reduce installation and maintenance costs.

- **Pepco:** Rockville partnered with Pepco to install public charging stations at five sites: Mattie Stepanek Park, Thomas Farm Community Center and on-street parking at City Hall/Vinson Street, Falls Grove Drive/Prettyman Drive, and Twinbrook Station/Bouic Avenue. These public chargers are integrated into Pepco's Public Charging Network and are managed and maintained by Pepco. The next step in the City's partnership with Pepco is to monitor and report maintenance issues to Pepco as needed.
- **Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) grants:** Rockville was awarded a Solar Canopy and Dual Use Technology grants to fund the installation of solar canopies over parking lots with four EV chargers at Rothgeb and four EV chargers at 6 Taft. The city also received \$5,632 in rebates from MEA for chargers installed at City Hall and the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility and was awarded \$48,000 in grants to install chargers at Recreation Services and the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility.
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:** As part of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant the City, in partnership with the Maryland Clean Energy Center, was awarded funding for four DC fast charging stations at the Swim and Fitness Center. In 2024, the City finalized a contract with Frances Energy to install and operate them. Montgomery County and the City were also awarded funding through Maryland's IIJA-funded Carbon Reduction Program to install six charging stations on City property and rights of way. After the County's agreement with Federal Highways Administration is finalized and a lease agreement with the City is approved, design and site assessments can proceed.

Next Steps: Continue to design and install EV charging stations to serve light duty fleet replacements planned at the Police Station, City Hall, 6 Taft Court, Rothgeb Maintenance Facility, and Recreation Services. Staff will continue to implement the plan and monitor additional opportunities to apply for funding for future needs when projects align with funding requirements and schedules.

Equity: As grant opportunities arise, the city will continue to submit sites or right-of-way (ROW) locations to support charging opportunities for underserved communities (see also Community - 11).

Metric: The table summarizes the locations and status of electric vehicle charging infrastructure planned at city facilities and rights-of-way. Staff will continue to assess charger needs and locations.

(M-07) Table of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on City Property

Location	EV Charger Type	Ports	Service Type	Status	Location Type
City Hall	Level 2	3	Fleet	Complete	Facility/Park
Rothgeb Maintenance Facility	Level 2	2	Fleet	Complete	Facility/Park
Rothgeb Maintenance Facility	Level 1 - Portable	1	Fleet	Complete	Facility/Park
Water Treatment Plant	Level 1 - Portable	1	Fleet	Complete	Facility/Park
Thomas Farm Community Center	Level 2	2	Public (Pepco)	Complete	Facility/Park
Thomas Farm Community Center	Level 3 - DC Fast Charger	2	Public (Pepco)	Complete	Facility/Park
City Hall (Vinson Street)	Level 2	2	Public (Pepco)	Complete	Right-of-Way
Fallsgrove (Prettyman Drive)	Level 2	3	Public (Pepco)	Complete	Right-of-Way
Twinbrook Station (Bouic St.)	Level 2	4	Public (Pepco)	Complete	Right-of-Way
Mattie Stepanek Park	Level 2	4	Public (Pepco)	Complete	Facility/Park
Police Station	Level 2	1	Fleet	Design	Facility/Park
City Hall	Level 2	6	Fleet	Design	Facility/Park
6 Taft Court	Level 2	4	Public (Rockville)	Design	Facility/Park
Rothgeb Maintenance Facility	Level 2	4	Public (Rockville)	Design	Facility/Park
Recreation Services Building	Level 2	4	Fleet	Design	Facility/Park
City Hall	Level 2	1	Public (Rockville)	Feasibility	Facility/Park
Rothgeb Maintenance Facility	Level 2	4	Fleet	Feasibility	Facility/Park
Swim and Fitness Center	Level 3 - DC Fast Charger	4	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Facility/Park
Senior Center	Level 2	4	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Facility/Park
Civic Center Park	Level 2	4	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Facility/Park
Blandford Street ROW	Level 2	2	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Right-of-Way
East Jefferson ROW	Level 2	2	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Right-of-Way
Charles Street/MacArthur ROW	Level 2	2	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Right-of-Way
College Parkway/Yale Place ROW	Level 2	2	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Right-of-Way
David Skull Courts/1st Street ROW (RHE)	Level 2	4	Public (Other Vendor)	Planning	Right-of-Way

Municipal - 08

Update City teleworking and transportation benefit policies to encourage City employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

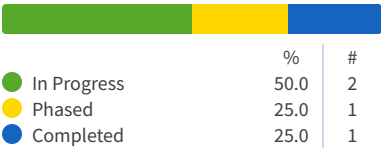
Progress Highlights: Continued implementing the telework policy and request form. Pepco completed the installation of two Level 2 charging stations in the right-of-way along Vinson Street that are available to the public and employees to charge, as part of the Pepco Public Charging Network.

Next Steps: Explore additional steps to reduce emissions from employee commutes, such as advanced incentives or benefits for cleaner transportation choices. Additional public chargers are being planned for 6 Taft Court, Swim and Fitness Center, Senior Center and Rothgeb Maintenance Facility.

Land Management

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

Action: 4



Community - 16

Implement the Comprehensive Plan to steer the densest development/ redevelopment to mixed-use, transit-served locations, reduce VMT and emissions, and conserve/restore environmental areas.

Progress Highlights: After an extensive outreach and engagement period, the first draft of the Town Center Master Plan was released to the public in April 2024. The Planning Commission reviewed the plan and provided direction to staff on modifications to the plan throughout a four-month period lasting from June to September 2024. On Sept. 25, 2024, the Planning Commission approved their version of the plan and transmitted it to the Mayor and Council for consideration. The master plan calls for increased density, production of additional residential housing units, transit oriented development, and development of the Rockville Metro Station. A comprehensive zoning ordinance rewrite initiative is also underway to modernize the city's zoning ordinance and make adjustments to encourage lower parking requirements, incorporate the use of electric vehicles, promote transit oriented and mixed use development, and employ other smart growth principles.

Next Steps: The Mayor and Council adopted the Rockville Town Center Master Plan in January of 2025. The city will continue implementation of the recommendations within the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan, including the 2025 Town Center Master Plan, according to their implementation tables. The zoning ordinance rewrite project is anticipated to be complete in spring 2026.

Equity: Mixed use, transit oriented development can foster affordable housing and with more efficient development and reduce the impacts of climate change and air pollution which are felt most acutely by historically excluded communities. Through these processes, city staff are also looking at new methods of community outreach and engagement to ensure we are hearing from voices that are traditionally left out of public processes or may be harder to engage.

Community - 17

Expand education and incentives to support tree planting and maintenance, environmentally friendly landscape conversions, and management of non-native invasive plants on private property.

Progress Highlights: In 2024, the city continued the Stormwater Incentive Program, a comprehensive program with a total budget of \$300,000 that allocates funds for the RainScapes Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and competitive water quality grants program in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust. By implementing this innovative and broader funding strategy and leveraging the expertise of the Trust to manage and administer these incentive programs, the city is better able to meet the growing demand for environmentally friendly landscape incentives on private property. The city also collaborated with community volunteers to promote environmentally friendly landscapes and management of non-native invasive species, highlights include:

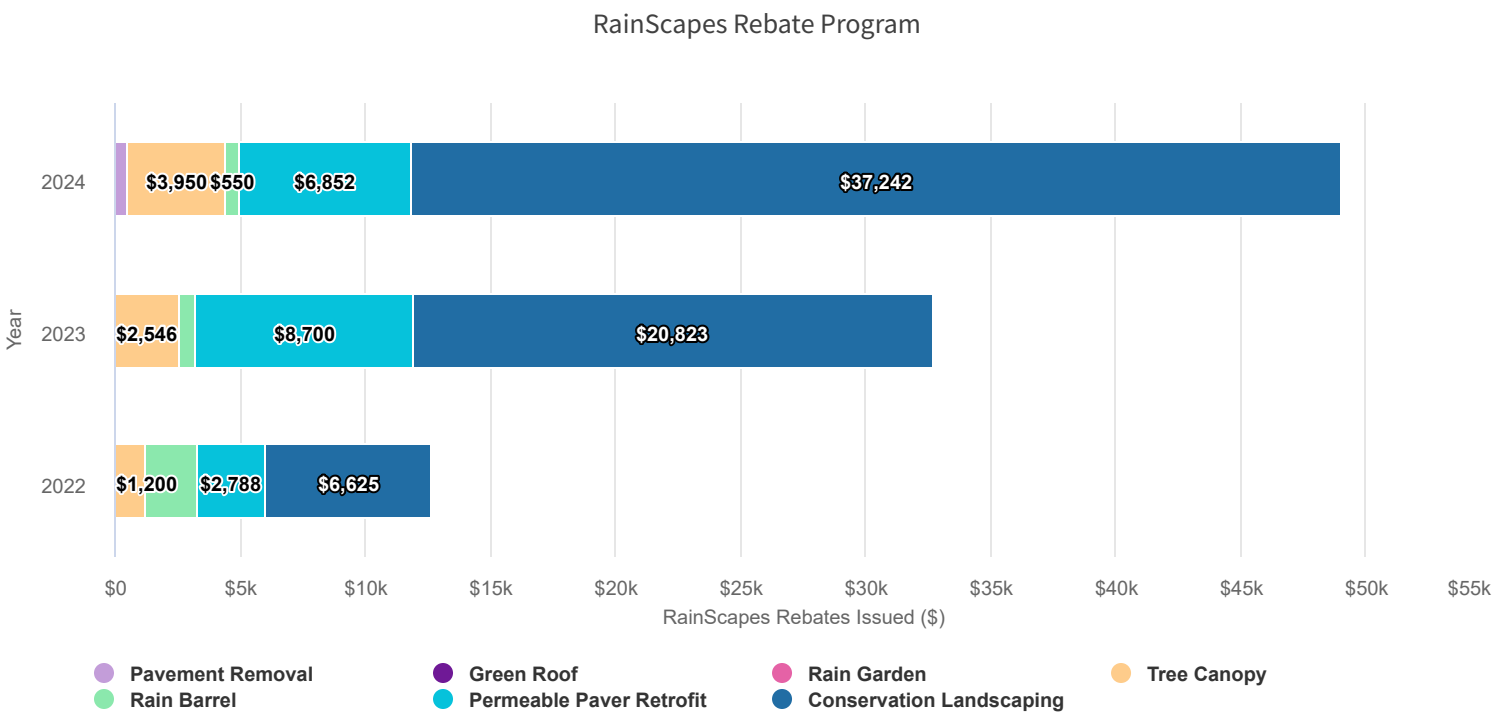
- In 2024, the RainScapes Program issued \$49,043 in rebates to support 56 tree canopy, rain barrel, conservation landscaping, permeable pavement and pavement removal projects at 26 properties.
- Two grant applications were selected to receive a total of \$43,457 in grant funds through the city's competitive watershed grants partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake was awarded \$23,773 to implement projects aimed at engaging faith-based communities located in the City in reducing stormwater pollution and promoting sustainable practices on private property. The Izaak Walton League of America was awarded \$19,684 to establish a targeted Salt Watch program and promote road salt messaging in the city.
- The city distributed 200 native trees at the annual Fall Tree Giveaway, gave away 250 wildflower seeds at community events, hosted the annual native plant sale at Croydon Creek Nature Center, and hosted a Climate Solutions virtual education session on native trees attended by 22 people.
- The city achieved Community Wildlife Habitat Recertification through the National Wildlife Foundation for the 10th year that included 12 homes newly certified as Wildlife Habitats.
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust produced a promotional video that features the city's partnership with the Trust for the Rockville RainScapes Program. The video was filmed in collaboration with city staff and two Rockville residents. The video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/1045480649>.

Next Steps: Staff will continue to promote environmentally friendly landscaping through incentives programs, giveaways, and Climate Solutions education sessions.

Equity: The Competitive Water Quality grant program provides up-front funding to expand or launch water quality restoration and outreach projects within the city. This helps reduce the cost barriers and build capacity in local organizations to deliver programs to residents.

Metric: RainScapes rebates are tracked by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Eligible properties include single-family and townhome residences, homeowners' associations and other nonprofits. In 2024, the amount of rebates issued increased 50% from 2023.

(C-17) RainScapes Rebates



Action 1.4.3

Phased

Progress 30%

Municipal-09

Develop a Green Space Management Plan for public lands to assess and restore trees, forests, meadows, stream valleys and wetlands.

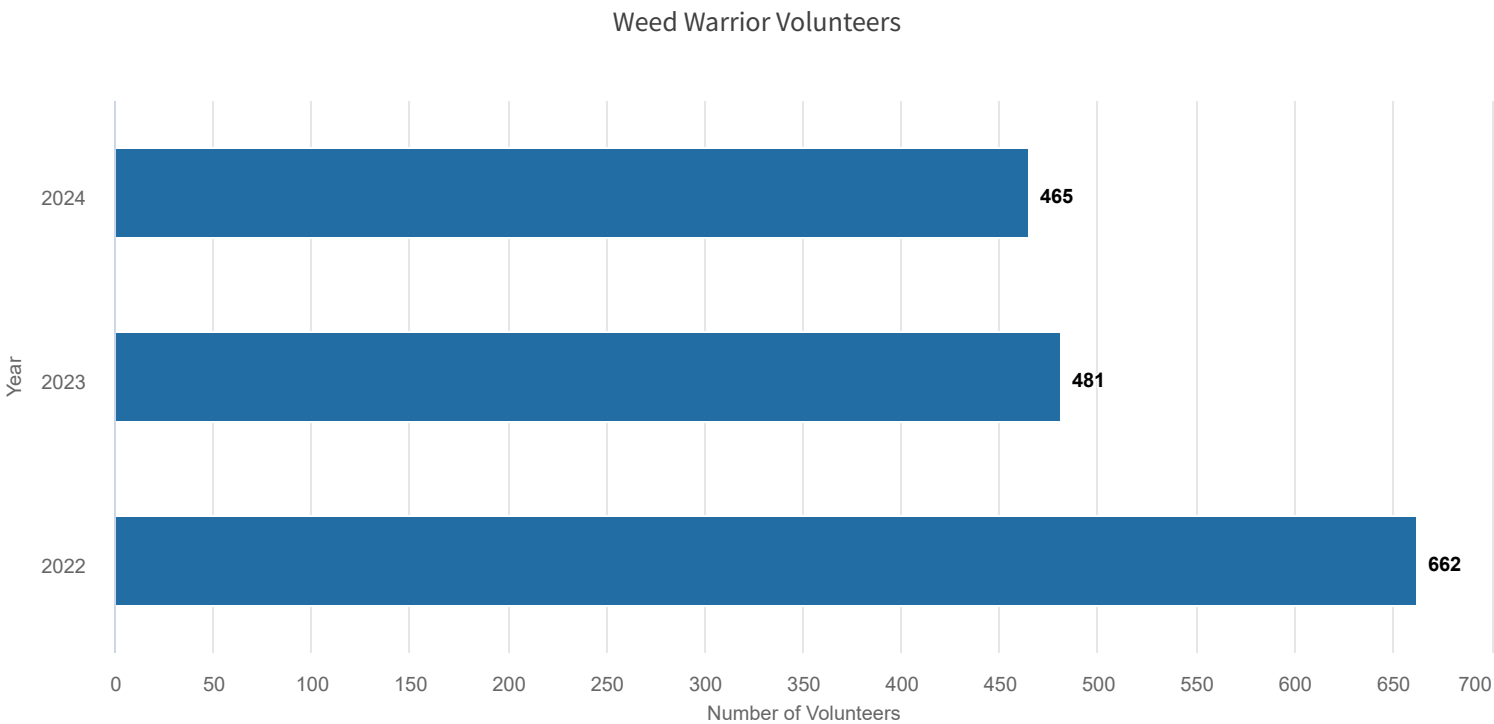
Progress Highlights: Rockville owns and maintains more than 1,100 acres of parkland, including approximately 765 acres of tree canopy. Parkland uses vary from actively maintained ball fields, playgrounds, community gardens, and landscaped parks to passively managed forests, stream corridors, meadows and wetlands. Highlights of planting and management practices from 2024 include:

- Planted 1,500 tree and shrubs in the northern section of RedGate Park and Arboretum. The project was funded by a \$199,930 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- Rockville Weed Warrior Program engaged 465 volunteers to remove non-native invasive plants from Rockville parks.

Grant: In 2024, the Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded Rockville an additional \$181,720 in grant funding to plant 950 trees in the southern section of RedGate Park and Arboretum. These funds will help address the reforestation and arboretum components of the RedGate Park Master Plan. Approximately 29 acres of new forest is included in the Habitat Areas Plan, primarily along the southern, eastern, and northern perimeters of the park where it can most effectively connect existing (but fragmented) forest stands, fill gaps in the forest habitat, and increase riparian buffers along drainage systems. New forest will also help connect the natural habitats of RedGate Park with forested areas associated with the adjacent Rock Creek Regional Park to the west and with Croydon Creek Nature Center/John G. Hayes Forest Preserve to the south.

Next Steps: Continue to manage the Weed Warrior Volunteer Program and implement the RedGate reforestation project. Host a city wide non-native invasive plant removal event in city parks in spring 2025. The FY 2026 proposed budget includes an enhancement to develop a Green Space Management Plan, a collaborative initiative between the Departments of Public Works and Recreation and Parks. The plan supports the Climate Action Plan, Comprehensive Plan and the Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan and is needed to create a strategic approach for the effective deployment of resources in city green spaces to mitigate the negative impacts of non-native invasive species and climate change. Elements of the plan are anticipated to include a coordinated community engagement campaign, an environmental inventory and GIS analysis to evaluate and map existing plant communities and habitat, a habitat vulnerability assessment, equity assessment, non-native invasive plant management strategy, forest stewardship and habitat restoration strategy, and maintenance and restoration resource recommendations.

(M-09) Weed Warrior Volunteers



Action 1.4.4

Completed

Progress 100%

Future Monitoring - 03

Monitor opportunities to reduce air and noise pollution from leaf blowers and yard equipment.

Progress Highlights: The Montgomery County Council enacted Bill 18-22, Noise Control- Leaf Removal Equipment - Amendments, in September 2023 to phase-out the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums in most areas of the county. This bill applies in City of Rockville and will be enforced by Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as part of the noise ordinance. The bill prohibited the sale (starting July 1, 2024) and use (starting July 1, 2025) of handheld, backpack, and walk-behind gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums. To aid in the transition, Montgomery County created an [electric leaf blower rebate program](#) for businesses and residents with Montgomery County addresses. The city began the transition of city-owned landscaping equipment and contracts to comply with the new legislation. This includes the purchase of electric leaf blowers, batteries, and charging stations.

Next Steps: The city will continue coordinate with Montgomery County to help inform the community about the leaf blower legislation and available incentives through the Environment & Sustainability Newsletter, Rockville Reports, and social media.

Equity: Montgomery County's rebate program help offsets the potential financial burden of converting from gas-powered leaf blowers to electric leaf blowers for residents and landscaping companies.

Category 1.5

Progress 55%

Materials and Waste

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

Action: 3

		%	#
In Progress		66.67	2
Completed		33.33	1

Community - 18

Develop a food waste composting program for residents.

Progress Highlights: Rockville expanded the food scraps compost program to include three drop-off sites to make composting easy, keep valuable materials out of landfills, and reduce excessive greenhouse gas emissions. The following sites are accessible 24/7 and the service is free of charge to Rockville residents:

- Rothgeb Maintenance Facility (14625 Rothgeb Drive)
- Senior Center (1150 Carnation Drive)
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center (12920 Twinbrook Parkway)

The drop-off station at Twinbrook opened November 2024.

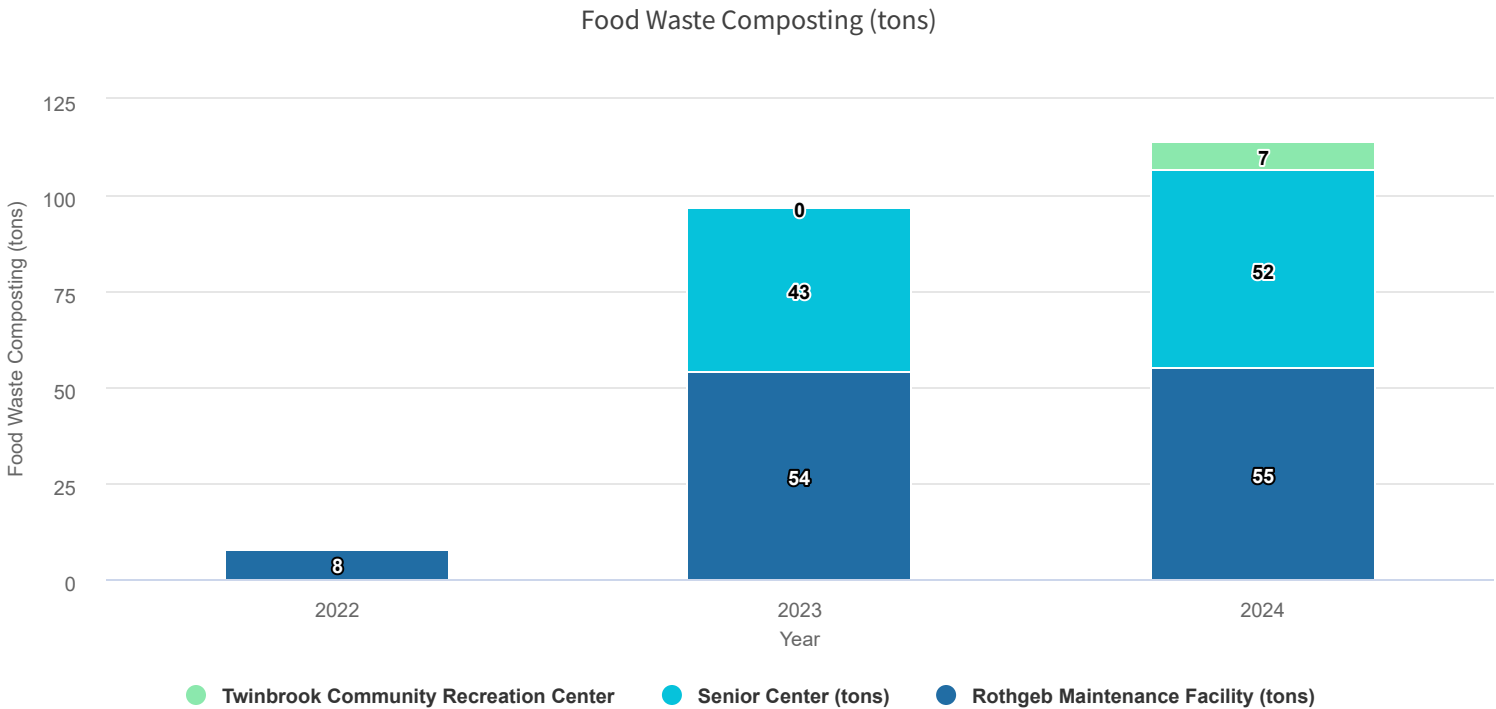
Issues: Rockville does not currently have access to a local commercial compost facility that processes food scraps. Montgomery County only accepts yard waste at the Transfer Station for composting. Therefore, the city uses a private contractor to transport the food scraps from the two drop-off sites to the Prince George’s County compost facility. Due to the high costs of collection and transportation and infrastructure limitations, curbside compost collections are currently not financial feasible. Therefore, the City has first pursued the drop-off model to gauge overall community interest, begin education on this waste diversion opportunity, and build a market for more local commercial food waste compost opportunities.

Next Steps: Open a fourth drop-off location in 2025. Continue to operate drop-off stations and monitor demands and services. Monitor the growth of new food waste composting infrastructure and service opportunities.

Equity: Unlike curbside collections that would only serve single-unit attached and detached homes, the drop-off station model is open to all Rockville residents that live in multi-unit or single-unit homes.

Metric: The three drop-off stations composted a total of 114 tons of food scraps in 2024 (17.5% increase from 2023).

(C-18) Food Waste Composting



Food waste compost drop-off stations opened at the Rothgeb Maintenance Facility in October of 2022, the Senior Center in April of 2023, and Twinbrook Community and Recreation Center in November of 2024.

Community - 19

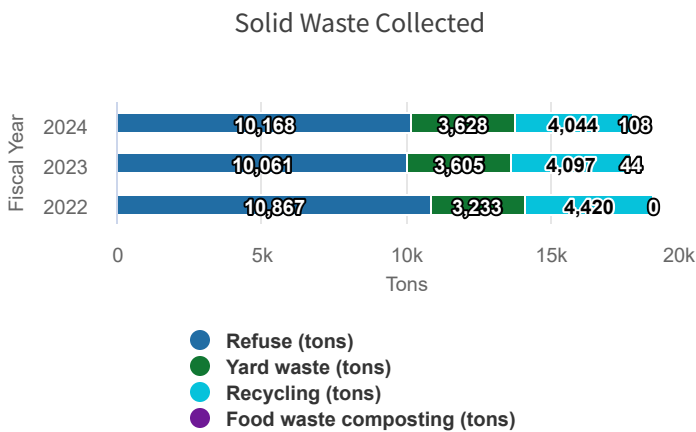
Expand residential recycling and waste reduction outreach program to increase compliance and waste diversion.

Progress Highlights: Distributed multilingual recycling education postcards and included recycling tips in Rockville Reports and social media. Continued to train staff to utilize mobile software to record and track recycling compliance on daily routes. Distributed recycling outreach reminder to 151 homes with reported recycling compliance issues.

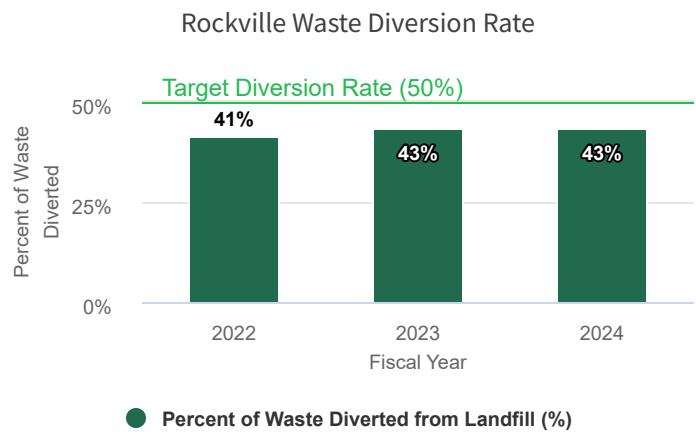
Next Steps: Continue to target recycling outreach to homes with reported recycling compliance issues.

Metric: The percent of waste recycled/diverted from the landfill remained at 43% in 2024. Diversion includes single stream recycling, yard waste and leaf collection composting, food scrap composting, electronics recycling, and bulk metal recycling. The metric reflects City of Rockville collections from single-family homes and most townhouses; it does not include commercial or multi-unit properties.

(C-19) Solid Waste Collected



(C-19) Waste Diversion Rate



Municipal - 10

Develop a City sustainable procurement policy.

Progress Highlights: Section 17-89, Environmentally preferable procurement, of the Procurement Ordinance (Chapter 17) states "the purchasing agent will develop an environmentally preferable procurement policy which shall provide preference, to the greatest extent practicable, to products and services that will enhance and protect the environment, protect the welfare of workers, residents, and the larger global community, and represent the best overall value to the City." While the city has evaluated and improved many purchasing policies, the development of a sustainable procurement policy is still pending. The Environment Commission hosted a meeting with Procurement to discuss best practices, opportunities and barriers for a sustainability procurement policy in July. The City hired a new procurement position that will be focusing on sustainable procurement part time.

Next Steps: The Environmental Management Division, the Environment Commission, Procurement, and others will collaborate to develop and share sustainable procurement resources while longer term policies are developed.

RESILIENCY

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.

Category: 2

Action: 9



Flood Resiliency

Reduce vulnerability and enhance flood resiliency.

Action: 3



Community - 21

Partner with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (100-year floodplain maps) used to implement the National Flood Insurance Program.

Progress Highlights: Staff mailed 374 letters to residents with structures or property affected by the [FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map \(FIRM\) update](#). The letters included information on Rockville’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), how residents can view the draft maps, and details on upcoming information sessions. Three floodplain update information sessions were held in conjunction with Montgomery County and City of Gaithersburg. The three sessions, including one held at the Rockville Senior Center on Saturday, February 10, 2024, were attended by a total of 143 participants. Staff are collecting comments and appeals from property owners to submit to FEMA during the 90-day appeal period which will begin in 2025.

Next Steps: Staff will continue to coordinate with FEMA on the appeal process and update the Floodplain Management ordinance (Chapter 10) of the city code to meet the requirements to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and enhance floodplain management.

Equity: To make the public information sessions more accessible, one of the sessions was broadcast virtually and translation services were offered at two of the in-person sessions. Letters to residents with structures or property in the floodplain were made available in Simplified Chinese and Spanish on the city’s website. Higher insurance premiums would have a disproportionate impact on low-income homeowners and could raise rents. The city offers an expanded Flood Mitigation Assistance Program to offset the costs of floodproofing projects. Implementing floodproofing can not only reduce risk to structures.

Action 2.1.2

In Progress

Progress 50%

Municipal - 12

Advocate for state and federal authorities to update stormwater infrastructure design, operations and maintenance standards to accommodate new rainfall/ storm event projections and help reduce projected flooding issues.

Progress Highlights: To address how climate change is impacting Maryland's rainfall patterns, stormwater runoff and urban flooding, the Maryland General Assembly enacted 2021 Senate Bill 227. The Bill tasks the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) with developing plans to evaluate current flooding risks and update regulations to improve urban stormwater flood management. MDE worked with a stakeholder advisory group and the public on the [Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland \(A-StoRM\) initiative](#). A-StoRM looks to update Maryland stormwater regulations to incorporate recent precipitation data more effectively and to address urban flooding events. Rockville engineering staff participated in stakeholder advisory group meetings.

Based on the A-StoRM initiative, MDE released updates to the proposed changes to Stormwater Management Regulations and the Maryland Design Manual on September 20, 2024 and accepted public comments from the stakeholder group. These updates included:

- Updated precipitation and design storms based on NOAA Atlas 14 values adjusted for climate change.
- Separate Water Quality and Channel Protection Volume treatment: update Water Quality Volume (WQv) treatment from 1 to 1.5 inches (in Rockville) and require Channel Protection Volume treatment for the updated 1-year 24-hour design storm adjusted for climate change. This applies to both new development and redevelopment projects.
- Require Quantity treatment statewide based on the 10-year 24-hour storm adjusted for climate change. This applies to both new development and redevelopment projects.
- Require Adequate Downstream Conveyance Analysis down to the downstream public drainage for the 10-year storm.

Next Steps: MDE plans to move forward with the proposed regulation changes, which, if approved, would go into effect on January 1, 2027. Local municipal and county ordinances would need to be updated with the new regulations. MDE will provide a Model Ordinance and updated Design Manual, and provide examples to help local governments in updating their ordinances. All municipal and county ordinances would be required to receive MDE approval by January 1, 2026 and be approved by the local governing body by January 1, 2027.

Action 2.1.3

In Progress

Progress 45%

Municipal - 13

Assess Rockville's risk of flooding and develop a Flood Resiliency Master Plan to reduce or mitigate flooding impacts.

Progress Highlights: The contract for the Flood Resiliency Master Plan (FRMP) was awarded and a project kick of meeting to discuss project implementation and schedule was held on November 19, 2024. The consultant began outlining the stakeholder engagement process and development of the flood model. Plan development is expected to continue into FY 2026 and will pair with the ongoing United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Planning Assistance to States (PAS) effort focused on two subwatersheds (Twinbrook and Congressional Towers).

Next Steps: The consultant will continue development of the flood model and work with city staff to develop and begin implementing the stakeholder engagement plan for the FRMP. The USACE will continue analysis of the targeted drainage areas, Twinbrook and Congressional Towers, which will continue in FY 2025.

Equity: The consultant will develop a community engagement plan in accordance with the City's values of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. A comprehensive and equitable analysis is needed to evaluate areas at risk for flooding, work with the community to develop risk tolerance and prioritization methodologies, and prioritize mitigation projects to help improve flood resilience in a transparent and equitable manner.

Grants: The Flood Resiliency Master Plan was awarded a \$75,000 grant from Maryland Department of Natural Resources, \$179,000 in technical support from Army Corps of Engineers (50 percent cost-share) and \$700,000 for Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant from FEMA.

Action: 6

Action 2.2.1

In Progress

Progress 25%

Community - 20

Incorporate climate resilient building and infrastructure design features in new buildings and retrofits.

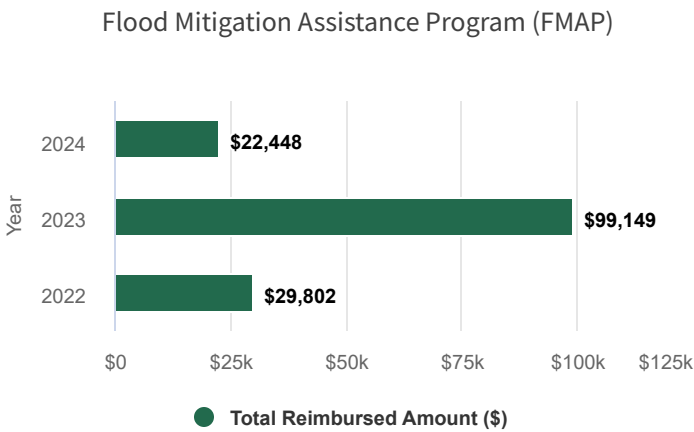
Progress Highlights: In 2024, management and administration of the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) was successfully transitioned to the Chesapeake Bay Trust as part of the comprehensive Stormwater Incentive Program. Leveraging the expertise and capacity of the Trust to manage and administer this program allows the city to better meet the expanding demand for stormwater projects on private property. FMAP provides up to 50% of the total costs for approved flood mitigation measures, up to a maximum amount of \$5,000 per property. Reimbursements are open to both residential and commercial properties, as well as homeowner associations and condominium associations to help promote community flood resiliency. Examples of approved practices include custom window wells, quick dams, sump pumps with battery backup, utility protection, basement floodproofing, and surface drainage improvements. Other program highlights include:

- Staff developed a residential flooding guide, “Go With the Flow: A Homeowner’s Guide to Responsible Stormwater Solutions”, to help residents learn about reducing flooding impacts to their home and neighborhood. The guide is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese at www.rockvillemd.gov/flooding.
- Staff partnered with the Montgomery County Green Bank (MCGB) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to leverage additional funding for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) and remove the barrier of upfront investment for low- and moderate-income property owners: <https://mcgreenbank.org/the-green-bank-partners-with-the-city-of-rockville-to-boost-climate-resilience/>

Next Steps: Continue to implement the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and monitor trends. Consider flood resiliency measures in future building code and floodplain ordinance updates. Monitor needs and opportunities to incorporate other resiliency measures for heat, severe weather, power outages, etc.

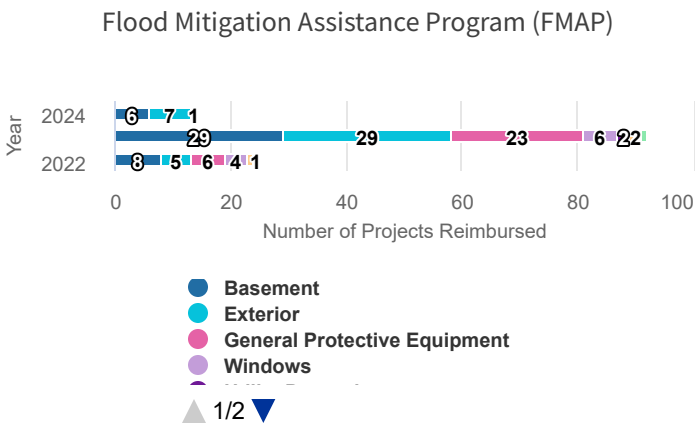
Metric: While there was a regional drought watch in 2024, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program reimbursed a total of \$22,448 for 14 flood mitigation projects at 11 properties.

(C-20) Flood Mitigation Assistance Program Reimbursements



The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) provides up to 50% of the total costs for approved practices, up to a maximum amount of \$5,000.

(C-20) Flood Mitigation Assistance Program Projects



The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) offers reimbursement funds to residents and property owners who make improvements to their properties to mitigate future flood damage.

Action 2.2.2

In Progress

Progress 60%

Community -22

Work with Montgomery County and state agencies to provide cooling centers, resilience hubs, and other services to strengthen community resiliency.

Progress Highlights: Rockville coordinates with Montgomery County, state agencies and members of the community on a variety of programs and projects to strengthen community resiliency.

- Rockville operates four cooling centers when the temperature hits 95-plus degrees, or when a code red air quality alert is issued for Montgomery County. The centers are located at Lincoln Park Community Center, Thomas Farm Community Center, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center and the Rockville Senior Center.
- The "Alert Rockville" emergency communications system sends time-sensitive emergency alerts, notification and updates to devices.
- The "villages" program includes multigenerational and multicultural neighbor support networks. The program fosters social connections through activities and events, and coordinates volunteer help at home using a neighbor-helping-neighbor model. A Villages Facilitator provides monthly newsletters on upcoming events, news and resources. The Villages program has grown with the formation of twelve villages in East Rockville, Falls Grove, Hungerford, King Farm, Lincoln Park, West Rockville, Wootton's Mill, Woodmont, Orchard Falls, New Mark Commons, Rockville Town Center and Twinbrook. The program coordinate friendly visits, check-in phone calls, social events, health and safety events, grocery and pharmacy pickups and delivery and transportation to medical appointments. These volunteer networks can be used to ensure that vulnerable neighbors are checked upon during snowstorms, severe weather or heat waves to strengthen community resiliency.
- To further expand resiliency, the renovation of 6 Taft Court includes plans to install and operate a City multi-purpose operational Emergency Operations Center (EOC) facility.

Next Steps: Rockville will continue to evaluate community needs and partnership opportunities for community resiliency support. Results from the updates to Montgomery County's Hazard Mitigation Plan and Rockville's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) will inform future endeavors.

Equity: To better serve vulnerable populations, Rockville's Housing and Community Development coordinates with Montgomery County to provide comprehensive and wraparound social services that include counseling and mental health services, referral services to food supply, mentoring, emergency assistance for eviction prevention, prescription medications, home energy programs, electric/gas/water utility assistance, and other self-sufficiency programming for residents.

Action 2.2.3

In Progress

Progress 75%

Community - 23

Work with Montgomery County and community partners to measure and map urban heat islands to mitigate exposure to extreme heat.

Progress Highlights: The results of the 2022 urban heat mapping study are published in [Montgomery County's Community Heat Mapping Story Map](#). The study was funded by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant award to Montgomery County. Almost 600 community volunteers used heat sensors mounted onto their cars to record and map temperatures as they traveled their neighborhoods on one of the hottest days of the year. Mapping efforts encompassed densely populated areas like Gaithersburg, Germantown, Rockville, Silver Spring, Bethesda, Fairland, and Olney.

Next Steps: Montgomery County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) continues to work with the [Thriving Earth Exchange team](#) to develop a tool to integrate mapping of the County's tree canopy, land use and land cover, impervious surfaces, and heat maps. The mapping tool can be utilized in concert with maps of vulnerable or high-risk communities to determine areas at highest risk of urban heat island effect for mitigation efforts and resource prioritization.

Equity: Extreme heat can cause dangerous health outcomes for those exposed, especially for seniors, infants, outdoor workers, people with preexisting health conditions, and people without access to air conditioning. Mitigation measures should address vulnerable or high-risk communities.

Community - 24

Increase tree planting, green, cool and photovoltaic roofs, and cool pavements on public and private property.

Progress Highlights: Rockville provides a variety of programs to increase tree planting, green, cool and photovoltaic roofs, and cool pavements on public and private property.

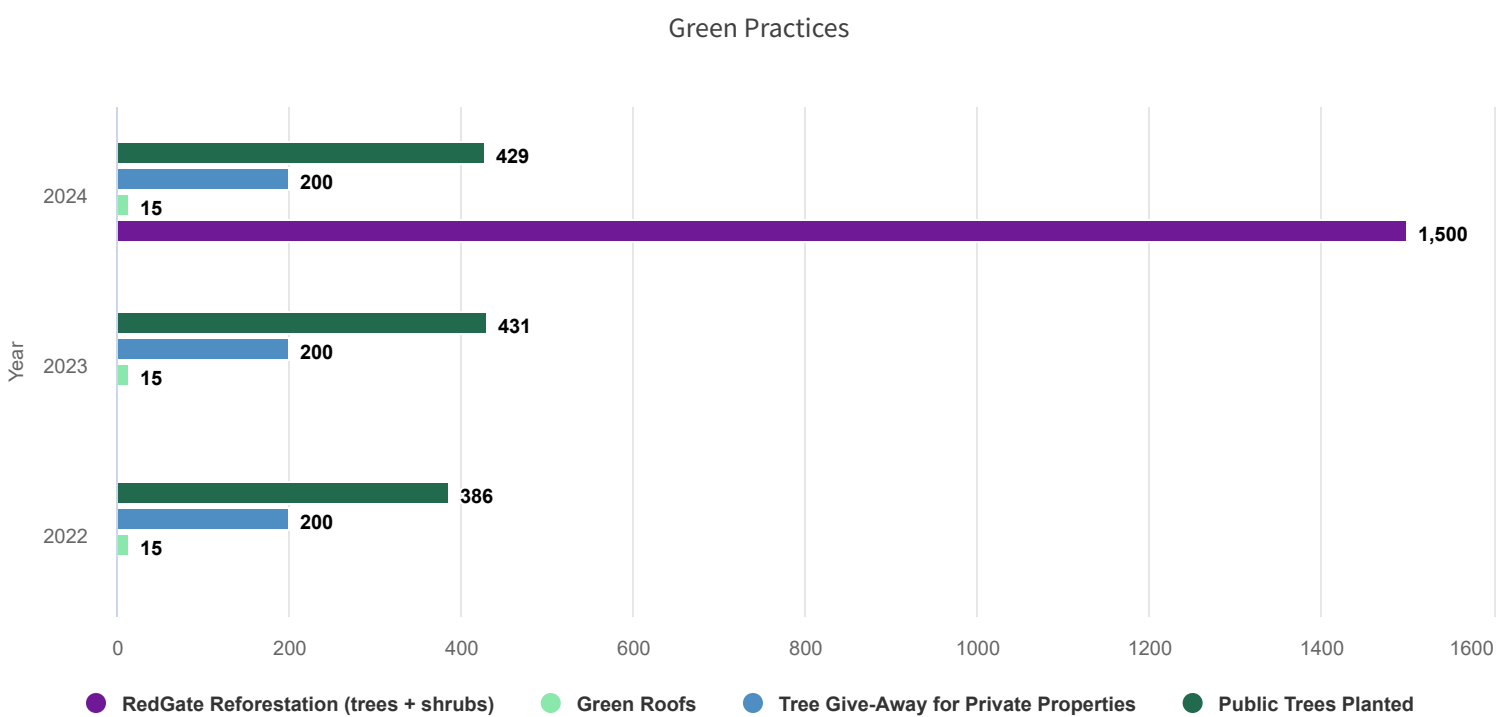
- The city continues to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to administer the RainScapes Rebate Program and competitive water quality grant program to include incentives for the installation of tree plantings and green roofs. Residents and non-profits can receive a rebate for green roof installation at a rate of \$9 per square foot and \$150 per native tree. Eligible properties can receive up to \$5,000 per property across all RainScapes rebate options. Green roofs are also eligible for grant funding under the competitive water quality grant program, which is open to organizations including non-profits, faith-based organizations, community and homeowners' associations, and educational institutions.
- In 2024, the city provided rebates for 27 trees planted on private property through the RainScapes Rebate Program.
- The city distributed 200 native trees to residents during the Fall Tree Giveaway and provided tree care educational information.
- The city planted 429 trees on public property.
- The city planted 1,500 trees and shrubs in the northern section of RedGate Park and Arboretum, funded by a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant (see M-09)
- See Community - 02 and Community - 09 for solar progress highlights.

Next Steps: Continue to promote incentives for green roofs and tree plantings through the RainScapes Rebate Program and new competitive water quality grants. Continue to improve methods to track green roof installations, solar permits, and tree plantings on public and private property.

Equity: Initial data shows a wide distribution of trees distributed to homes from the Fall Tree Giveaway and RainScapes projects across Rockville in all neighborhoods. New expanded RainScapes programs are available to more non-profits and multi-unit residences, expanding the program beyond single-unit homes. The City continues to seek grants to benefit low-income households and to work with Rockville Housing Enterprises to expand funding for green investments.

Metric: Data on green roof installations is available through the city's internal stormwater facility GIS database. Data on tree planting on public property is tracked by the city's Forestry division. Comprehensive data on tree plantings and cool pavement on private property is not currently available.

(C-24) Green Practices



Municipal - 11

Continue assessing the vulnerability of Rockville’s critical infrastructure, facilities, and services, and prioritize areas for improved climate resiliency.

Progress Highlights: Rockville continued emergency planning updates and coordination with Montgomery County, including:

- Rockville’s Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was exercised and finalized following an after-action review (AAR) of a citywide exercise. Continuity planning facilitates the performance of essential government functions during all-hazards emergencies or other situations that may disrupt normal operations. In April 2024, more than 50 staff representing all City Departments and Charter Offices participated in a tabletop exercise that simulated a tornado that impacted City Hall and the Police Department, rendering both facilities unusable for City operations. The exercise focused on roles and activities necessary to keep city essential services operational and accessible to the community.
- On June 25, 2024, Montgomery County adopted the update to the [Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) in accordance with the authority granted to counties by the State of Maryland. The County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan is designed to function as a roadmap for the coordination and execution of hazard mitigation policies and initiatives for jurisdictions within Montgomery County. The plan update factors impacts due to climate change and equity considerations in vulnerability assessments.
- On September 8, 2024, the Mayor & Council adopted the 2024 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan, as required by federal law to allow the City to be eligible for upcoming federal and state emergency relief funding.
- Rockville began developing the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which is a multidisciplinary, all-hazards plan that establishes a comprehensive framework for the management of major emergencies and disasters within the city. The EOP is implemented when it becomes necessary to mobilize the resources of city departments, offices, and cooperating organizations to save lives and protect property and infrastructure. The EOP serves as a complimentary plan to the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Plan (MCEOP).

Next Steps: A tabletop exercise for the City Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is planned in 2025 with City staff and the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management. After review of the result of the exercise, the final document published.

Equity: Montgomery County’s Hazardous Mitigation Plan includes a social vulnerability assessment and incorporates the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). CEJST uses datasets that are indicators of burdens in eight categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development to help identify disadvantaged communities at the census tract level (from 2010 Census). The COOP planning process also ensures that essential functions of City government operate to support vulnerable communities.

Municipal - 14

Develop and implement Heat Illness Prevention Plans for various City services and operations.

Progress Highlights: Human Resources and Public Works continued implementation of the Heat Illness Prevention Plan (HIPP) for Recycling and Refuse operations in the summer of 2024. Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) developed new heat stress standards to prevent heat illness among workers in the state. The standard applies to all workplaces where the heat index is 80° F or higher. The regulation went into effect on September 30, 2024. The standard includes requirements related to heat illness prevention and management plans, acclimatization, access to shade and drinking water, emergency response, and training. Also outlined in the regulation are high-heat procedures, which employers are required to implement when the workplace reaches a heat index of 90° F or higher.

Next Steps: Human Resources is developing city-wide plans to comply with the new Maryland standard.

Equity: The plans are designed to protect the health and safety of employees working outdoors, who are disproportionately socially vulnerable populations, from exposure to high heat conditions during the summer.

Progress 83%

Incorporate equity in implementation and conduct inclusive engagement to reduce environmental disparities and protect and empower vulnerable communities.



	%	#
In Progress	75.0	3
Completed	25.0	1

Category: 2

Action: 4

Progress 79%

Promote public engagement and empowerment.



	%	#
In Progress	100.0	2

Action: 2

In Progress

Progress 71%

Work with community partners to conduct an inclusive public engagement campaign to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts from climate change.

- Published 10 issues of the Environment & Sustainability newsletter with an average open rate of 54% and increased email subscriptions to 3,243. The newsletter shares sustainability events, volunteer opportunities, Climate Action Plan updates, and environmental news and tips within the Rockville community. 2024 newsletters featured information on solar programs, rebate opportunities, native habitat and gardening tips, flooding resources, green events and general pollution prevention. Residents opt in to receive the Environment and Sustainability email newsletter through an online form linked on the city website, in-person sign-up sheets at community events, and through various program and giveaway forms.
- Hosted three Climate Solutions education sessions attended by 56 participants.
- Hosted or participated in twelve in-person community outreach events.
- The Rockville Environment Commission hosted an outreach booth at 6 Farmers Market events.
- New outreach postcards for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and RainScapes Rebate Program were created to include Simplified Chinese and Spanish translations.

Metric: Staff track participation in community events and how many impressions, or the number of community members engaged, are made at each event. The Environment and Sustainability Email Newsletter and subscriptions are created and managed in MailChimp, which provides detailed analytics that allow staff to track subscriptions and evaluate the interest in various issues and topics through open rates and click rates.

(C-25) Outreach and Community Events

Outreach and Community Events

Year	Newsletters	Newsletter Subscriptions	Events	Event Impressions
2022	16	2,629	25	757
2023	12	3,115	17	1,056
2024	10	3,243	12	1,065

Action 3.1.2

In Progress

Progress 88%

Municipal - 16

Develop partnerships and interdepartmental climate action teams to implement and track plan progress.

Progress Highlights: CAP implementation involved a combination of internal and external partnerships and coordination. Interdepartmental teams involved electric vehicle planning and permitting, fleet electric vehicle use, Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) workgroups, building codes, Rockville Housing Enterprises and low-to-moderate income housing, and budget action items. Additionally, Rockville participated in several external policy and implementation partnerships, including Montgomery County Climate Leadership meetings, MWCOG Climate and Energy Policy Committee, MWCOG and Montgomery County EV Workgroups, the Maryland Coalition of Counties and Cities for Climate Action, and the Maryland Clean Energy Center. Rockville participated in several of partnerships with these entities to support multiple applications for federal grant programs.

Issues: Due to the comprehensive nature of the CAP, a single climate action team would not efficiently and effectively execute the CAP. Instead the CAP requires multiple partnerships with external agencies and coordination with interdepartmental teams with expertise to address individual topics. Therefore, this action was updated as follows:

- Original Action: Develop an interdepartmental climate action team to implement and track plan progress.
- Revised Action: Develop partnerships and interdepartmental climate action teams to implement and track plan progress.

Next Steps: Continue to coordinate with external potential partners and expand interdepartmental teams and workgroups to focus on other topics of sustainability and CAP implementation. New efforts by the Housing Action Team (HAT) will increase outreach to landlords regarding environmental home upgrades for energy efficiency, electrification and solar.

Metrics: The exhibit highlights some of the of external partnerships (Federal, state, regional and county agencies) and interdepartmental working groups needed to implement and track the CAP's 42 actions.

Climate Action Plan Partnerships and Coordination



Category 3.2

Progress 88%

Oversight

Execute, plan and monitor progress.

Action: 2

	%	#
In Progress	50.0	1
Completed	50.0	1

Action 3.2.1

In Progress

Progress 75%

Community - 26
Develop metrics and performance indicators for climate actions to establish a data-driven assessment and reporting process.

Progress Highlights: The Environment Commission provides feedback for improvements to the annual report, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) project website, and performance metrics. This is the second annual report developed in the software platform, Envisio, to help provide meaningful visual data representations of metrics to communicate progress. In addition to an annual report, the software supports a new Climate Action Plan interactive public dashboard to report progress updates and performance measures. The dashboard is embedded into the Climate Action Plan website.

Next Steps: Continue to compile annual reports to monitor and demonstrate CAP progress. MWCOG anticipates the next round of greenhouse gas inventories for calendar year 2023 will be released in 2025. Other metrics can be tracked annually or as needed. Develop metrics to track equity in implementation in consultation with the JEDI team.

Equity: Envisio public dashboard is ADA compliant and conforms with WCAG 2.1 AA guidelines.

Municipal - 15

Incorporate climate mitigation, resiliency, and equity considerations into the City's budget prioritization process.

Progress Highlights: The FY 2025 budget continued to incorporate climate resiliency and equity considerations as part of the internal budget development process. Climate sustainability and resiliency resources are provided to staff to assist in documenting climate considerations and new fields for staff to identify climate considerations were added to all capital project and operating enhancement submissions. These fields allow staff to better document climate impacts and provide the City Manager with clearer information to support funding recommendations.

The FY 2025 budget included more than \$4.3 million for CAP initiatives, such as continued food waste composting program, facility energy audits and improvements, LED streetlight replacement, storm drain rehabilitation, stormwater management facility improvements, stream restoration, EV charging infrastructure, and an expanded stormwater incentive program that includes the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, expanded RainScapes Rebates, and competitive watershed grants.

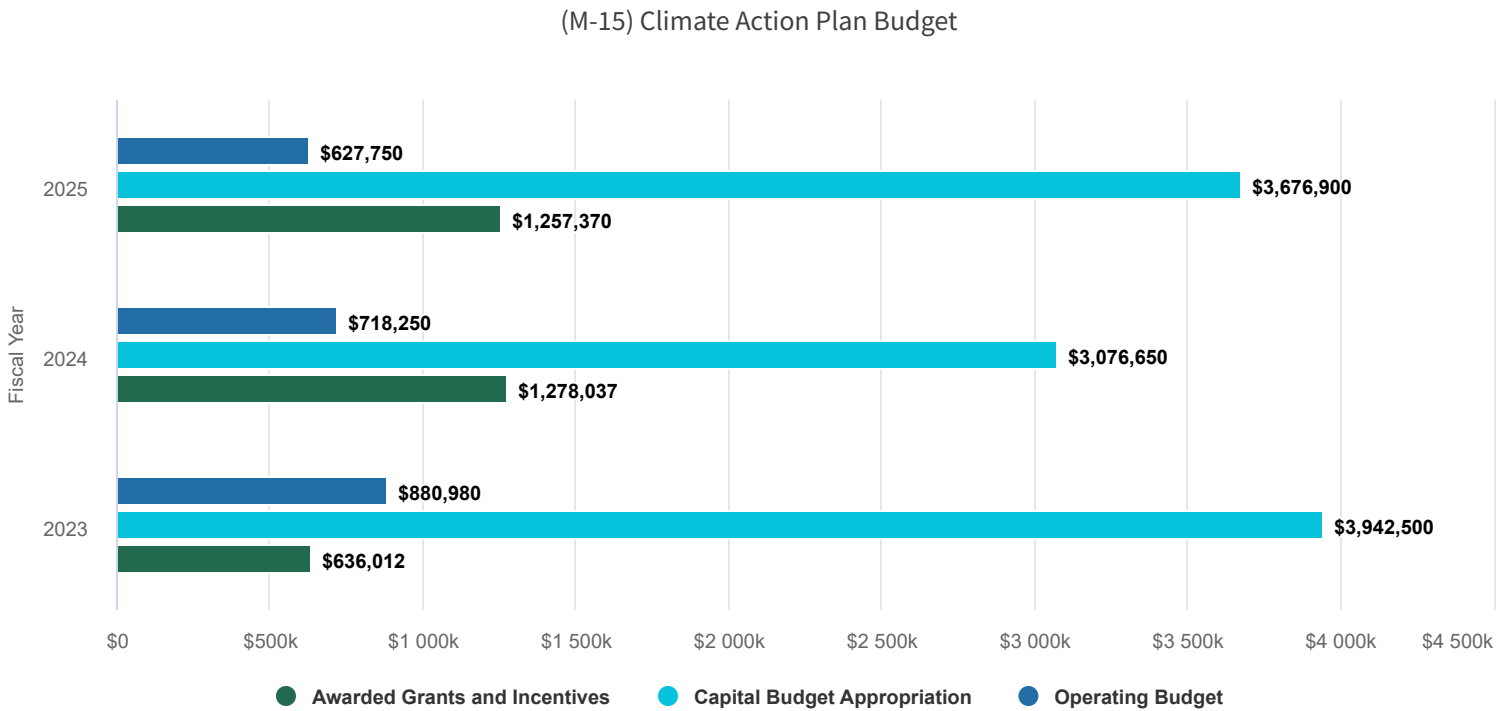
Next Steps: Continue to prioritize CAP measures in the FY 2026 budget process, when feasible. Continue to monitor and seek outside funding to implement CAP projects and programs.

Equity: The operating and capital budgets include equity criteria for prioritization.

Grants: The City continued to leverage outside funding sources to implement CAP projects. In 2024, the city was awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants and rebates to support LED streetlight conversions, facility energy retrofits, solar on Lincoln Park Community Center, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, tree planting at RedGate, and flood resiliency master planning.

Issues: Uncertainty with federal policies, tax credits and grants may impact plan implementation and projects. Staff will continue to monitor federal policies for local impacts..

(M-15) CAP Budget



* Includes new capital appropriations. Does not include transportation appropriations and grants that are summarized in Vision Zero progress reports.