

# Sustainability Network Recommendations for Baltimore County Operations

The Top 12 recommendations are starred in the left column.

Top 12	121 Recommendations	Priority (High, Medium, Low)
<b>Operations Work Group</b>		
**	Complete the Baseline Emissions Inventory for All County Entities	H
**	Analyze and prioritize buildings for audits to determine comprehensive reductions in energy usage	H
**	Hire a county energy coordinator	H
**	Create a comprehensive energy policy/plan for County operations and community-wide	H
**	Maximize efficiency in operations of all County fleets	H
**	Develop department energy champions to report back to department heads/DEPS	
	Provide Comprehensive LEED Training	H
	Develop Lighting Strategy	M
	Recycle	M
	Develop Driver Education Conservation Awareness Training (DECAT) program	M
	Implement LEED for Renovations	M
	Pursue Local and Nutritious Food for All Schools	M
	Implement LEED for Existing Buildings	M
	Optimize Routing	M
	Update School Bus Fleet	M
	Install Electric Meters at County Facilities	M
	Assess Wastewater Pumping Operations Efficiency	M
	Develop and Implement Flex Scheduling and Telecommuting Protocols	M
	Encourage Bicycling and Walking	M
	Promote and Incentivize Renewable Energy Generation	M
	Right Size the Entire County Fleet	L
	Pilot Green Roofs	L
	Develop Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program	L
	Utilize Energy Savings Performance Contracts	L
	Increase Renewable Energy Portfolio	L
	Compost	L
	Incentivize Siting of Composting Facilities	L
	Install and Promote Rain Barrel Usage	L
	Utilize Artificial Turf at County Parks and School Recreation Centers	L

## Built Environment Work Group

**	Have all county buildings, either newly constructed or renovated, to meet LEED standards or be implemented in a way to maximize efficiency that meets LEED guidelines	H
**	Provide training and the capacity for technical and operations personnel to understand and implement energy savings techniques, LEED standards, etc	H
**	Actively Promote Commuter Choice Maryland	H
	Require that an energy performance certificate be obtained and posted in all new buildings at the time of sale or lease	H
	Require the installation of a real-time energy display in all buildings whenever the energy meter is changed out	H
	Establish a revolving loan fund for energy-efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial properties	H
	Require that an energy audit be performed before any building receives County assistance	H
	Require all new commercial and residential buildings to meet LEED Silver standard or the equivalent	H
	Identify and enhance walkable older communities	H
	Select a location and facilitate a pilot, walkable redevelopment project	H
	Establish locational and design guidelines for new public facilities (libraries, parks, schools, etc.) that support walkable communities	H
	Establish and enforce policies to make streets and roads connect when development occurs	H
	Improve the quality and reliability of the MTA bus service	H
	Develop a comprehensive regional transit system	H
	Provide incentives for energy audits to all buildings older than 5 years	M
	Mandate separate energy meters for each unit in new multifamily buildings	M
	Require or incentivize solar heating of the domestic hot water system in all new commercial and residential buildings	M
	Require all new commercial and residential buildings to use WaterSense labeled products for water related use	M
	Inform industry that Baltimore County now permits and regulates the use of gray water	M
	Incentivize the use of on-site renewable energy	M
	Develop tools (computer models) to engage the public about impacts of land use on climate change	M
	Accelerate the conversion of MTA's bus fleet to hybrid	M
	Publicize MTA programs aimed at increasing ridership	M
	Complete and implement County-wide planning of bicycle facilities	M
	Provide additional amenities for bikers	M
	Conduct a public education campaign to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety	M
	Require that refrigerated beverage vending machines be Energy Star qualified	L
	Establish a competition among County employees to save energy	L
	Require all new commercial and residential buildings to be 'solar ready'	L
	Create incentives to use passive solar best practices for heating, cooling, and daylight in new buildings	L
	Train inspectors and building plan reviewers in green building practices	L
	Establish a model curriculum in green building best practices	L
	Design & implement a set of policies & processes to facilitate the development of walkable communities	L

## Education and Outreach Workgroup

**	Develop a professionally designed, effective, ongoing energy plan/ program for all County employees to be made available as a turn-key model that can be utilized by other organizations in the County.	H
	Work with professional consultants to develop an interactive web site that provides a feedback tool for users and compiles data on the number of residents and/or businesses who have committed to sustainable behavior changes.	H
	Promote energy audits and retrofit programs for residential and commercial buildings	H
	Coordinate with and support Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) efforts including private schools, local colleges and universities	H
	Engage community organizations to promote results-oriented sustainable behavior changes, and work to remove legal barriers that prevent sustainable behaviors.	H
	Pilot neighbor-to-neighbor social marketing efforts. Develop a block captain program that deputizes citizens to make personal contact with neighbors to encourage them to engage in one-time and ongoing changes that will reduce their household's carbon footprint.	M
	Work with Chambers of Commerce and small business resource centers to facilitate outreach and technical assistance. Consider a grant-funded position to foster sustainable business practices.	M
	Develop a multi-media public outreach campaign for County residents in cooperation with partner jurisdictions and organizations.	M
	Kick off County employee initiative with an environmental summit for County agency top management to outline goals, promote buy-in and departmental management support and behavioral modeling for employee outreach program.	M
	Promote green employment efforts and opportunities in Baltimore County and the region, both in the public and private spheres.	M
	Publicize a comprehensive array of green resources through the web	M
	Implement training programs for various business sectors including banking and developers regarding opportunities and benefits of sustainability	M
	Utilize coordinated and web-based computer interactions to promote interest, learning, and behavior changes.	M
	Hold ongoing check-in, training and update sessions with quantified reporting and feedback	M
	"Making visible the invisible," e.g. Google's SmartMeter; Ambient's Energy Joule, GE's Dashboard; etc.	M
	Institute green business certification campaign	M
	Hold competitions and other incentive programs to reduce energy consumption among County buildings	M
	Consider hosting a Sustainability Charrette for the public and/or County employees to review drafts of the Sustainability Plan and offer input on goals and strategies for promoting sustainability.	L
	Partner with BGE and USDE's Energy Star Program for County facilities as well as the residential and commercial sectors.	L
	Hold public education sessions in conjunction with local businesses and non-profit organizations	L
	Develop a citizen/scientist program to involve citizens in learning and collecting data regarding tree canopy (including street inventory), monitoring rural forest health, invasive species monitoring, etc.	L
	Promote the "Green Your Ride" County employee carpooling incentive program. Conduct further research to determine barriers to participation and attempt to overcome them.	L

## Natural Resources Workgroup

**	Adopt and implement a no net loss forests policy	H
**	Develop and implement conservation landscaping measures for County buildings and new and redevelopment.	H
	Implement deer control at Oregon Ridge Park as soon as possible	H
	Implement the planned Rural Forest Health Monitoring program to determine forest health of large rural patches	H
	Implement the proposed waste wood utilization project	H
	Develop practical alternatives for dealing with existing street tree-sidewalk conflicts that will save existing healthy non-hazard trees from being cut down	H
	Develop appropriate design standards for street tree pits that provide adequate infiltration and soil volume for tree growth	H
	Develop an urban and community forestry program are areas within the URDL	H
	Expand DEPS reforestation crew and Rural Residential Reforestation programs	H
	Develop a long-term deer management program for the County.	M
	Enlist others to participate in an exotic, invasive species assessment and suppression program for County lands	M
	Incorporate adequate space for urban streetscapes in new developments and to retrofit older neighborhoods	M
	Support state efforts to ban the sale of exotic, invasive plants.	M
	Develop a new County preservation program for forest resources.	M
	Develop a Buy Local brand image to support regional producers.	M
	Create a virtual market interface to facilitate brand development.	M
	Explore current development models, such as a certified development corporation or dedication or expansion of county-based programs.	M
	Encourage and develop LEED-type certification programs for Maryland wood products, organic produce and livestock.	M
	Promote the use of value-added products from local woods.	M
	Provide education for producers in marketing techniques and effective local distribution.	M
	Support development of a pilot program to enlist local farmers to participate in new/young farmer training programs	M
	Develop informational programs for producers on all elements of the agricultural industry.	M
	Improve accessibility of unskilled labor.	M
	Assemble a farmer-led team to review county land-use regulations and policies.	M
	Ensure that zoning does not preclude intelligent, sustainable uses.	M
	Develop a farmer base to coordinate outreach and serve as a first line of response in neighbor/industrial conflict.	M
	Improve Right to Farm protections.	M
	Promote the Chesapeake Bay Bank and/or Upper Chesapeake Nutrient Trading program, once they are established.	M
	Secure federal and state funding for Gypsy moth suppression.	L
	Develop a program for deer fencing for smaller forest patches on private lots	L

	Develop an educational and self-help program for forest landowners to get to know their own forest patches and to carry out preliminary qualitative assessments of forest diversity and stressors	L
	Develop an urban forest identification program for communities	L
	Develop an urban planting program for trees planted by the County for a fee.	L
	Provide cost-share for the Forest Legacy program if funded.	L
	Set up a study project at the new county demonstration farm.	L
	Set up a larger scale version at the landfills that collect and compost biomass for the County for multiple benefits.	L
	Advocate for demonstration projects on private farms for their energy, disposal, and fertilizer/amendment needs.	L
<b>Program med</b>	Conduct forest health assessments and to prepare and implement management plans of large County-owned forested lands.	
	Provide County cost-share for the MDA Gypsy moth suppression.	
	Measure changes in carbon sequestration through implementation of forest management programs.	
	Establish recommended tree/forest canopy goals.	
	Develop a "Big Trees" program for landowners to plant canopy species in larger urban yards	
<b>Easy</b>	Develop educational materials for urban residents about the multiple benefits of healthy urban trees.	
	Identify candidate corridors between forest patches for planting programs.	
	Develop a geo-referenced tracking system for public-private reforestation projects.	
	Increase the capacity of the DEPRM nursery	
	Develop a tree bulletin for the DEPRM website.	
	Promote the Chesapeake Bay Bank to landowners once established.	