MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report*** DATE: October 1, 2020

Status Report

1. Encompass Health Stakeholders Meeting
   On Thursday, September 24th, a virtual Stakeholders Meeting was held regarding a Detailed Site Plan application (#DSP-07031-04) for Encompass Health. This organization is proposing the construction of a one-story/61,809 sq. ft./60- bed physical rehabilitation facility on 6.48 acres in Melford. The site is located on the south side of Melford Boulevard, near the intersection of Marconi Drive. After opening remarks by staff and a brief PowerPoint presentation, the meeting was turned over to the applicant's attorney, Mr. Matt Tedesco. Mr. Tedesco introduced the consulting team, as well as the representatives of St. John Properties, owner of the site, who also attended the meeting. Mr. Tedesco reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the Encompass Health group, their locations and the number of employees nationwide. He noted that the facility proposed in Bowie is strictly an inpatient physical rehabilitation facility and will not provide home health or hospice care. Nor will it be a surgical center or offer drug or alcohol rehabilitation services. The average patient age is 71 years old, who stays an average of 13 days. There is a staff of rehabilitation physicians, nurses and a variety of therapists. All rooms are private and all facilities are handicap accessible. Ground breaking of the project is expected in March 2021, with an opening date of May 2022.
   Although two attendees from the public viewed the meeting, they had no questions.
   Virtual City public hearings of this application will be: Bowie Advisory Planning Board, Tuesday, October 13th at 7 PM; and, City Council, Monday, October 19th at 8 PM.

2. Complete Streets Design Guidelines
   Pursuant to Council Resolution R-62-19, staff hired the consulting firm of A. Morton Thomas to assist the City in drafting design guidelines for Complete Streets by the end of September. The draft guidelines were recently shared with the Green Team Executive Committee's Multi-Modal Access and Public Spaces (MAPS) subgroup, which provided written comments and recommendations. Within the next several weeks, the final, revised design guideline document will be formally incorporated into the Public Works

Department's Standards and Specifications for use on complete streets projects within the City, thus satisfying the requirements of R-62-19.

3. "Plant One Tree on Us" is Open
   Since Council passed a resolution in 2012 setting a 45% urban tree canopy goal (R-56-12), the Planning Department has been working to meet it. The latest initiative is a turnkey tree planting program called Plant One Tree on Us aimed at increasing tree canopy on residential properties. After a successful pilot project in two high priority neighborhoods, the program is now open city-wide. Residents are eligible to receive one tree (from an approved tree list) planted in their yard by a contractor at no cost. The reservation form and a tree selection chart are available on the City's Plant One Tree on Us webpage (cityofbowie.org/PlantOneTree).

4. Purchase of Road Deicing Salt
   The Public Works Department has located a Contract for the purchase of road deicing salt between Montgomery County (IFB# 1088536) and Eastern Salt Company, Inc., upon which we will be able to piggyback.
   The current price for salt from Eastern Salt Co., Inc. is $58.83/ton. We will sign a Contract and issue a Purchase Order to Eastern Salt Co., Inc. in the amount of $99,422.70 (1690 tons). This is within the amount budgeted for FY21 in the Public Works Streets Operating Supplies Account.
   As provided in Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to purchase.

5. BBIC-GBCC COVID Grant
   The City received proof Thursday morning (October 1) of a signed agreement between the Bowie BIC and the Greater Bowie Chamber. A consolidated, detailed scope-of-work is expected by Friday. Once the S.O.W. is received staff will review the proposed work, seek any necessary clarification, and prepare the grant paperwork.

6. 2020 State of the Environment Report
   Attached is a copy of the annual State of the Environment Report prepared by the Department of Planning and Community Development. The report tracks the major highlights of the Bowie Green Team, Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan. It also lists many other environmental and sustainability accomplishments achieved by the City in the last fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Please let us know if you have any questions.

ADL: lfr
Attachment

CITY OF BOWIE

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020

September 2020

Department of Planning and Community Development

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Introduction

The *2020 City of Bowie State of the Environment Report* is a summary of the City's environmental actions and sustainability initiatives undertaken during Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). The report provides performance measurements for environmental programs and activities. It specifically highlights the Green Team's Action Plan, as well as many noteworthy City actions undertaken in the past year.

This report has three appendices: Appendix A provides an update on relevant City programs. Appendix B summarizes the current state of the City's Climate Action Plan, and Appendix C is the annual update on the City's Sustainability Plan.

A note about 2020…By the middle of March, all City-sponsored events (Bowiefest, Bike to Workday, etc.) were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included all annual Green Bowie spring events like the Green Expo, stream cleanup, Weed Warrior workdays, Earth Day concert and many more. A large celebration was planned for April 2020 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and instead an online campaign entitled "100 Acts of Green" began. Each day, staff tweeted one Act of Green that residents could commit to for each day of Earth Month 2020. The full list was disseminated via email and social networking sites. We look forward to a brighter 2021 when we can have resume Green Bowie events.

Accomplishments

This section is organized by categories of the Green Team's 3-Year Action Plan. It includes accomplishments made by the Green Team as well as City staff, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and other residents, volunteers, and affiliated groups.

A. Natural Resources

- Compost bin sales continue with a total of just over 700 sold since the beginning of the program in 2014.
- The City's Weed Warrior Program was able to hold two of the six planned workdays at Whitemarsh Park with a total of 36 volunteers. Since its inception, participants have removed English ivy from more than 400 trees at the park.
- The City was designated a "Tree City USA" community for the 28th consecutive year.
- The City planted 215 trees, including 200 along streets and 15 in parks.
- The Urban Greening Cost Share Program provided tree rebates to four residents who planted a total of six native trees in their yards.
- The Plant One Tree on Us pilot program in Meadowbrook resulted in an additional 30 planted native trees.

- The two sets of Big Belly solar-powered trash and recycling compactors, located at either end of Sussex Lane, collected a total of 930 gallons of trash and 1,500 gallons of recycling (roughly equal to 895 and 1,605 pounds). This resulted in 64% of waste collected by the four compactors being diverted from the landfill.

B. Bowie Gardens for Wildlife

- Six additional habitats were added to the City's roster of certified habitats through the National Wildlife Federation. The total number is now 256.
- In July 2019, the City was recertified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

C. Local Economies and D. Food, Health & Wellness

- The Green Bowie business program now has a total of 10 certified businesses.
- Marketing of Bowie's Farmers Market continued.
- The second annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k was held with more than 250 participants. A video was produced for YouTube and the City website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8Wh9XfBvyk

E. Energy and Climate

- The City issued 78 lawn mower rebates, including 25 electric, 8 push, and 39 standard mulching mowers.
- Solar panels were installed at an additional 80 buildings, bringing the total to 1,765 homes and businesses since FY 2011.
- The City continued its lightbulb exchange program for residents to turn in old CFL bulbs in exchange for one free LED bulb. During three exchange events, nearly 300 CFL bulbs were traded in and recycled.
- The Energy Audit Program continued with 15 participants receiving a $100 no-cost comprehensive energy audit through BGE's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program. After completing the audit, homeowners are eligible for up to $7,500 in rebates from BGE for making energy-efficiency improvements to their homes. One homeowner got rebates for home improvements.

F. Green Schools

- The Green Team held a Green Schools forum in November at Whitehall Elementary School.

- City staff worked with students at Yorktown Elementary School to create in-class compost bins for the students to tend to and learn about composting.

G. Outreach

- Subscriptions to the Green Bowie e-newsletter, now sent monthly, are at 954.
- Staff continued posting about Green Bowie activities, events, and achievements to the City's Facebook page and on Twitter (@Green_Bowie) including the 100 Acts of Green campaign.
- The Green Team presented the fourth annual Bowie Green Citizen Award to Ann Fleming for her work with the Benjamin Tasker Middle School Green Team, her promotion of sustainability with her family, and her general work throughout the City on green initiatives.
- Staff provided stormwater and watershed education to students at Tall Oaks Vocational High School. After the presentation, the class painted a design on two storm drains on the school's campus to raise awareness about stormwater pollution.
- City and County (Materials Recycling Facility) staff produced a well-received, informative video about the new recycling emphasis on "Clean, Empty, Dry". The video has had more than 8,000 views on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/bowiemd/videos/2439336203011992/)
- Presentations were made at two HOA meetings (stormwater) and three elementary schools (recycling and composting).

H. Multimodal Connections and Public Spaces (MaPS)

- MaPS members contributed to the Complete Streets policy that seeks to balance the needs of all users on City roads rather than prioritizing cars.
- Several members met with the consultant and staff to provide input on the Trails Master Plan, which was approved by Council in September 2019.
- Members also provided input on the update to the City's Development Review Guidelines and the County's redesign of Race Track Road.

I. Other Items

- Public Works held special recycling collection events in FY20 resulting in:
    - 12.65 tons of paper for shredding (one event held, one cancelled)
    - 20 pounds of expanded polystyrene
    - 0 tons of electronics (event cancelled)
- Storm drain marking continued with volunteers and Scout troops. As of FY20, more than 1,600 storm drain inlets across the city have "No Dumping, Drains to Waterway" medallions.

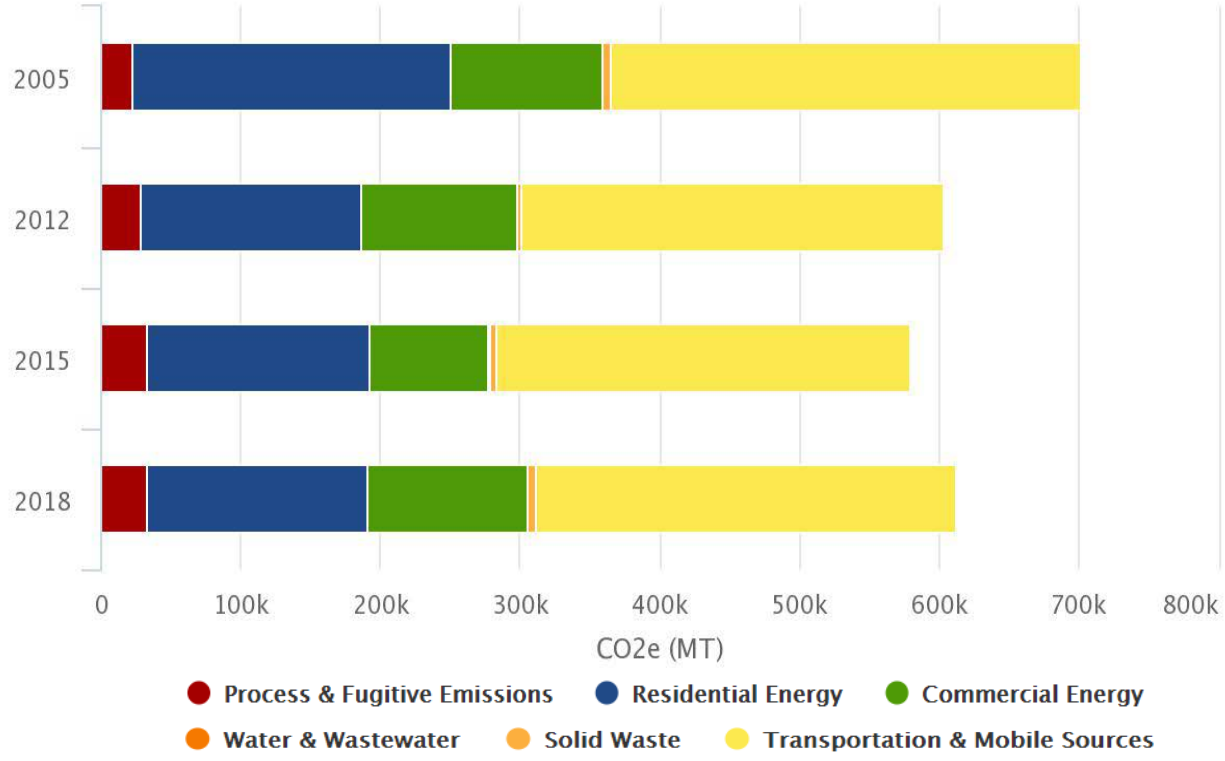
- In December 2019 the City was recertified under the Sustainable Maryland Certified program. The 3-year Green Team action plan is available on the City's website.
- The Police Department participated in the biannual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day (October 2019 and April 2020). More than 545 pounds of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications were collected.
- The Staff Sustainability Team continued meeting bi-monthly to discuss internal sustainability goals such as green purchasing and electric vehicles.
- The City continued to participate in PJM's Demand Response Program, which requires switching to generator power at three City facilities on days identified by the electric utility as high demand power days. The City received $14,599 in rebates for FY20 (no rebate was received for June 2020).
- Council passed resolutions recognizing several significant initiatives, including Energy Efficiency Month (October), Earth Month (April), Earth Day (April 22), National Bike Month (May), Bike to Work Day (May 17), Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 1-9), and Pollinator Week (June 17-23).

Appendix A: Additional Performance Indicators

Indicator	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Number of…					
Buildings certified LEED®	0	4	2	0	0
Buildings that installed solar panels*	494	357	146	81	80
Certified NWF habitats	14	12	8	8	6
Energy audit rebates issued by City	98	100	64	71	15
Food waste program participants (started FY17)	-	83	62	67	20
Lawn mower rebates issued	48	73	116	239	72
Public schools that received MAEOE Green Schools certification (includes TOHS and HBES)	5	2	3	0	0
Park trees planted	20	15	5	15	15
Rain barrels registered (self-reported)	17	31	9	27	4
Storm drains with "No Dumping" markers	247	354	140	26	176
Stream cleanup participants	63	44	69	100	event cancelled
Street trees planted	510	225	295	300	200
Trees planted under City rebate program	9	23	7	17	4
Trees planted with Plant One Tree on Us (pilot program starting FY19)	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	54
Weed Warrior Volunteers	113	114	116	89	36 (four events cancelled)
Trash/Recycling collected during cleanups lbs)	750	1,130	960	1,775	event cancelled
Solid Waste Division Data					
Total number of tons collected	32,076	36,000	29,525	30,143	29,556
Number of tons land filled	19,802	20,300	20,589	20,645	20,267
Number of tons recycled	7,497	11,000	8,936	9,498	9,289
Percent of solid waste stream recycled	23	31	30	32	31
**Starting in FY20, all buildings (homes, businesses, etc) will be included in this number.*					

Appendix B: Climate Action Plan Progress

City Council adopted an updated Climate Action Plan for 2020-2025. The plan is aggressive in that it seeks to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission by 50% by 2030, from the 2015 baseline. As of 2018, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has provided data (below) showing a 13% emission decrease. (Source: ClearPath Outlet)



The updated Climate Action Plan outlines actions in four major sectors: City government, residential, commercial, and intergovernmental. Reductions in these sectors will be complemented by an increased focus on communication to residents about climate change and the City's climate efforts.

Major actions include:

- Improve the energy efficiency of City facilities, residential houses, and commercial buildings.
- Adopt solar and other renewable energy options for meeting electricity requirements.
- Promote the use of electric vehicles, EV infrastructure, mass transit, and walking/biking options.
- Develop green purchasing, sustainable consumption, and zero-waste policies.
- Expand the City urban tree canopy and promote ecological landscaping practices.
- Develop a City Municipal Resiliency Plan.

Appendix C: Sustainability Plan Annual Report

The annual update for the Sustainability Plan is a stand-alone document and is included here. It begins on the following page.

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CITY OF BOWIE
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2020

The Sustainability Plan

Sustainability may not have been a common word a few years ago, but its full meaning is increasingly acknowledged by more people and with greater urgency. There is a clearer understanding of the need to plan and provide for a truly sustainable future. The City's Sustainability Plan was created because the City's planners recognize that specific strategies are needed to address an array of issues beyond those in the existing Climate Action Plan. The Sustainability Plan builds upon the Climate Action Plan and all of the other work that has come before it.

The City of Bowie has a strong economy and an enviable quality of life for its citizens. As the City grows, its urbanization, diversity, and way of life will require adaptation, communication, and collaboration among all stakeholders. This plan is the result of a collaborative process with those stakeholders and reflects a commitment to implement a new vision for sustainability in the City of Bowie. The path to a sustainable future enhances what is already great about Bowie, and prepares the City and its residents to thrive in the face of change.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?
Experts define sustainability as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Consisting of three pillars, sustainable development seeks to achieve, in a balanced manner, economic development, social development, and environmental protection. As part of the public input process, the Bowie community defines sustainability in a number of ways as shown in the word cloud below.

Vision for a Sustainable Bowie

Plan Vision

The City of Bowie will be a diverse and vibrant community that is committed to its citizens, economy, and natural environment. It will be a community that successfully unites and integrates its neighborhoods and one that communicates openly with all stakeholders. It will support efforts that protect resources, improve health, increase connectivity, advance education, and expand business in order to continue providing a place to live and thrive for future generations.

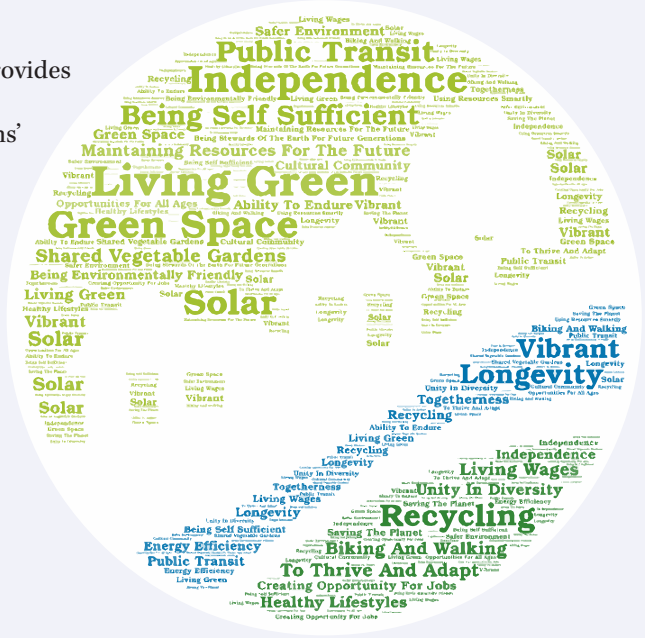
Mission for the City of Bowie

The City of Bowie, in partnership with the community, provides a cost-effective system of city services and facilitates compatible economic development that enhances citizens' quality of life within a positive and sustaining physical environment.

Vision for The City of Bowie

Bowie is a model city in partnership with state, county, and regional entities that:

- Nurtures a safe, united, and culturally diverse community in which to live, work, and play.
- Preserves the community's natural environment.
- Has economically vibrant commercial centers.
- Has high-quality city services and infrastructure.



Progress Over the Past Year

Progress has been made on:

20 Goals

35 Strategies

60 Actions

In total, there are 25 goals, 57 strategies, and 103 actions that are designated to be completed in the short-term (1–2 years), mid-term (3–5 years), or long-term (6 or more years) time frame.

Jobs and Business

A robust business community is one that creates local jobs and expands the city tax base, has businesses that provide goods and services needed by the community, employs people from the community, and, in many cases, has businesses managed or owned by individuals who live in the community. A community that supports an independent, diverse, and green-minded business network will help create a local economy that recycles a much larger share of revenue back into itself—enriching the whole community. The goals in this section focus on increasing commercial occupancy, supporting small businesses, and getting businesses to go green.

Strategies in Progress: 4

Goals

Goal JB1: Achieve 100 percent occupancy of retail space and under 10 percent vacancy of office space in the City

Retail occupancy is 97.3 percent and office vacancy is 16.1 percent.

Goal JB2: Increase the number of businesses participating in Bowie Small and Independent Business Programs annually from 46 to 100

Over 200 businesses participating in Small and Independent Business Programs.

Goal JB3: Increase the number of participants in the Green Bowie Business Certification Program from 2 to 150.

There are 10 Green Bowie Businesses.

Highlights

- Maryland Procurement Technical Assistance Center has 189 active Bowie clients.
- Bowie Businees Innovation Center helped 50 local companies create 500 new jobs.

Health and Wellness

An analysis of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's 1997 arrival data from the Jessup, Maryland terminal market found that the average pound of produce distributed at the facility traveled more than 1,685 miles, which suggests that your meal travels approximately that distance from farms to your plate. Though this varies based upon where you live, it is not uncommon to see strawberries from California in a store in Maryland. These "fresh foods" may be a few days old before they reach your grocery shelves. Local foods need not travel so many miles—they can often be harvested within a few hours or a day of being delivered to the farm stand, farmers market, or the grocery store's local produce section. Fresh food has a high nutritional value and a high concentration of vitamins. You are likely to have more choices locally because more fragile varieties do not have to endure the trauma of shipping.

According to the County and state health departments and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the incidence of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity is higher in Prince George's County than in the State of Maryland and in the United States. These are conditions that can be controlled through policies, access to healthy food, and education. The goals in this section focus on participation in activities related to well-being, producing and consuming locally grown food, and health-related policies and programs.

Strategies in Progress: 2

Goals

Goal FW1: Achieve 20 percent resident participation in programs that promote the production, distribution, purchase, and consumption of food that is sourced within 200 miles.

We continue to promote the farmers market, national farmers market week, and the new community garden.

Goal FW2: Increase participation in physical fitness and wellness programs and events by 20 percent.

The City held its second 5k with over 200 participants.

Highlights

- The Second Annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k was held on November 9, 2019. This City-sponsored event promotes health and wellness while celebrating our many veteran residents and staff. Registration is free and comes with an event t-shirt and race bib.
- Farmers markets continued in a socially distant manner.

Nature and Wildlife

Protecting and maintaining the natural environment for the benefit of people, plants, and animals is an important element of a healthy, beautiful community. Creating or enhancing green spaces, parks, and trails, as well as cleaning up litter in the City, ranked in the top priorities of the community engagement voting activity conducted as a part of this plan preparation. This indicates that Bowie's natural environment contributes to an aspect of the City that many residents and visitors are attracted to and highly value.

Bowie's previous Green Infrastructure and Environmental Infrastructure Plans gave the City a head start protecting its natural resources in 2003 and 2007. In 2012 and 2013, studies were conducted to determine how to best manage and improve forest conditions by increasing tree canopy, increasing forest diversity, and removing invasive species. The goals in this section address ways to implement tree planting, create and maintain habitat, and reduce litter.

Strategies in Progress: 9

Goals

Goal NW1: Protect, preserve, and enhance existing forest and tree canopy coverage to reach the 45 percent tree canopy goal.

Tree rebates provided to 4 residents for a total of 6 native trees planted. One tree planting workshop was held in the fall.

Goal NW2: Create native landscaping on 300 additional public and private properties to help improve water quality and create new habitats for wildlife.

No goal update.

Goal NW3: Remove invasive plant species from at least 300 acres of land.

No goal update available yet.

Goal NW4: Increase participation in City cleanup and litter educational programs by 30 percent.

Litter campaign started FY 2020.

Highlights

- The City's Weed Warrior Program continued at Whitemarsh Park with 36 participants and 2 work days. Work days are open to 30 participants and take place at Belair Meadows and Whitemarsh Park.
- The City secured grant funding to begin an adopt-a-road program.

Communication

The purpose of communication varies from information and promotion to education and public safety. From a City perspective, it has the large task of meeting all of those purposes and reaching all members of a community. During the ImagineBowie campaign, extra efforts were made to reach all stakeholders, including those which have been hard to reach (African-American, Hispanic, and millennial demographics). Such efforts need to continue throughout the plan's implementation by expanding the City's use of electronic communication methods, while also increasing public participation in order to enter a new phase of communication. The goals in this section focus on engaging the community through various media outlets such as social media and e-newsletters.

Strategies in Progress: 4

Goals

Goal CC1: Increase City Alert System subscriptions from 4,907 to 10,000.

- Currently 7,450 subscribers

Goal CC2: Increase the reach of the City's social media from 6,800 to 16,000 people.

- City Facebook: 6,657
  - Animal Control Facebook: 2,731
  - Police Facebook: 3,592
  - City Instagram: 1,485
  - Total: 19,293
- City Twitter: 3,132
  - Green Bowie Twitter: 226
  - Police Twitter: 1,297
  - Bowie Gym: 173

Goal CC3: Increase Green Bowie e-newsletter subscribers from 588 to 1,500.

- Currently: 954

Highlights

- The City posted over 100 videos on its YouTube channel, which has 677 subscribers.
- 2020 was proclaimed to be "Earth Year" and a social media campaign was executed in April promoting "100 Acts of Green."

Community

A strong community provides a sense of belonging, which enables individuals to look outside themselves and contribute to the welfare of others. Community and "sense of community" were consistent themes throughout the engagement process. Bowie residents embrace neighbor-to-neighbor interactions and opportunities to share ideas and problem solve together. People want to connect; it makes them feel like they are a part of something, and it improves their quality of life. People also feel good when they do something positive for someone else, or for something bigger than themselves.

Strategies in Progress: 6

Goals

Goal CT1: Create or enhance 10 public gathering spaces.

New public seating area, and other enhancements, at Centennial Park

Goal CT2: Increase resident participation in Emergency Services programs from 100 to 300.

No goal update available yet.

Goal CT3: Increase the number of public art pieces from 7 to 20.

Currently 7 – There are three in the pipeline.

Goal CT4: Involve 500 residents in a City-led resident sustainability certification and award program.

No goal update available yet.

Goal CT5: Involve 6,000 residents in events and programs that strengthen neighborhood connections.

No goal update available yet.

Highlights

- The 5k was an event held that strengthened our sense of community.
- The Fourth Annual Sustainability Award was given to Ann Fleming.
- Whitemarsh Park renovations began with new play equipment, solar-powered phone chargers, and a new concession stand.

Education

Education drives action. Someone might not think twice about the rush of water and pollutants that go down the storm drains without someone pointing out the range of impacts from erosion, to habitat disruption, to impacts on the Chesapeake Bay. When a community shows that it cares and knowledge is shared in a common cause, much progress can occur. Driving action through education can happen at all ages, starting with our children in schools, through higher education, and on to formal and informal adult education. In the school environment, incorporating sustainability into the curriculum can make learning more fun, as problem-solving connects students to the real world in their backyards and in their neighborhoods. When they are engaged and excited about what they are learning in school, students take those lessons home. For example, if they are growing their own food and composting at school, they might encourage their families to do the same at home because it is fun and they understand the value.

Strategies in Progress:2

Goals

Goal ED1: Achieve Green Schools Certification at all schools within the City limits.

All schools certified.

Goal ED2: Increase Green Bowie program awareness to 90% for residents over 18.

No goal update available yet.

Goal ED3: Provide a way for all community members in the City to report sustainability actions and have at least 2,000 participate in reporting.

No goal update available yet.

Highlights

- The Green Team's Green Schools Resource List was updated in 2020.
- One Green School forum was held in November.

Mobility and Connectivity

Bowie enjoys the benefit of convenient access to Baltimore, Washington, D.C., western Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Eastern Shore. Bowie Town Center serves as a transit hub with the nearby Park and Ride serving as a transfer station for nearly all of the buses serving the City. The MARC station provides another transit center at the north end of the City. Many actions in the Climate Action Plan address the need to develop transit-oriented communities, increase usage of public transport, and expand the City's biking and hiking networks to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.

However, more needs to be accomplished in terms of decreasing traffic by creating interconnected trails and sidewalks throughout the City. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, which includes suburbs in Maryland and Virginia, is ranked first nationally in the cost of traffic congestion per commuter, with congestion costing $1,834 per commuter and causing 82 hours of delay annually. The goals in this section address increasing the City's Walk Score and encouraging more walking and biking trips.

Strategies in Progress: 2

City residents take advantage of the trail located at Whitemarsh Park.

Goals

Goal MC1: Increase City's Walk Score from 25 to 50 and encourage more walking and biking trips.

Currently: 25

Highlights

- The City began working on the trails master plan update.
- A resolution was passed to accept a complete streets policy. The policy will be accepted in FY 2021.

Water

Water is one of Earth's most valuable resources and it needs to be protected by keeping it clean and using it efficiently. When it rains, water runs off roofs, parking lots, streets, and lawns instead of soaking into the soil the way it did before development. This water (e.g. stormwater), along with everything it picks up along the way (fertilizers, oil and grease, litter, etc.), ends up in storm sewers and ditches that discharge to streams, rivers, and lakes. This process contributes to the presence of toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay. Only 2.5 percent of the Earth's water is freshwater, and only 1 percent of that is accessible. To ensure future supplies of fresh, clean water, this precious resource must be conserved. The goals in this section focus on ways to save and clean water at a local level.

Strategies in Progress: 3

A rain barrel decorated with the Maryland Flag.

Goals

Goal WA1: Implement practices and programs to save and clean water on 2,000 properties in the City.

No goal update available yet.

Highlights

- The Watershed Manager gave stormwater management presentations at two HOA meetings and at Tall Oaks School.

Recycling and Composting

Recycling and composting are two of the easiest and most familiar actions individuals can take to be sustainable and help their community. The City's current recycling rate is about 33 percent, but other nearby areas have reached a recycling rate of over 50 percent, and there is plenty of room for improvement.

Food waste presents a huge opportunity to reduce landfill waste, though it is often ignored. Home food waste results from meal preparation, clean up, unpacking foods, and discarding purchased foods or food that has been left uneaten during a meal.

In 2010, an estimated 133 billion pounds or 31% of food from U.S. retail food stores, restaurants, and homes–valued at approximately $161 billion–went uneaten. Recycling and composting are also important actions in the Climate Action Plan, since these efforts reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but the goals in this section expand on the goals in the Climate Action Plan.

Strategies in Progress: 3

Curbside food waste collection bins getting ready for delivery.

Goals

Goal RC1: Decrease the tonnage of residential waste sent to the landfill by 30 percent.

No update available yet.

Highlights

- There have been over 700 total residents that have started composting since the program began in 2015.
- The Food Waste program has 230 participants.
- Upward of 300 CFLs were collected over 3 Lightbulb Exchanges.

Energy and Climate

Energy and Climate are major topics for action in the Climate Action Plan adopted in 2015. However, it is a five-year plan, and this plan looks to 2026. Climate change will be an issue for many decades to come, and will need to be continually addressed. In 2020, the City will need to consider updating its Climate Action Plan. In addition, solar projects in Bowie are of high importance to continue and increase past 2020. Switching to renewable energy sources can drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and solar has been positively received in the City, with solar capacity increasing by over 50 percent each year since 2010.

Strategies in Progress: 5

Residents attend a Bowie Solar Co-op information session at City Hall.

Goals

Goal EC1: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 percent.

- Currently 13 percent according to MWCOG, from 2005 baseline.

Goal EC2: Increase renewable energy generation from 9 to 40 MW hour production.

- Currently: Approximately 98 MW hours

Highlights

- The City systems now equal 82 KW total, with annual generation of about 98 MW hours.
- The city installed new EV chargers and purchased three new EVs for the fleet.
- The new Climate Action Plan was adopted.

Strategy Status

● Completed ● In Progress ○ Not Started ⊗ Not Moving Forward

Strategy	Time frame	Status
GROWTH		
JB1.1: Continue to nurture a diverse and stable business environment that supports all community needs.	Short-Term	●
JB2.1: Support and foster small and independent businesses.	Short-Term	●
JB2.2: Start a Buy Local Campaign to support Bowie businesses.	Mid-Term	○
JB3.1: Organize two green business workshop or networking events per year.	Short-Term	●
JB3.2: Schedule in-person assessments with 10-15 businesses per year to identify ways to go green.	Short-Term	●
FW1.1: Create and maintain a community garden with plots on City property that residents can use to grow food.	Short-Term	●
FW1.2: Expand Bowie Farmers Market.	Mid-Term	●
FW1.3: Adopt a Community Food System Plan.	Mid-Term	⊗
FW1.4: Create a vertical farm or food forest for residents to use.	Long-Term	●
FW2.1: Create a City-sponsored wellness initiative by partnering with local organizations.	Short-Term	●
NW1.1: Use social marketing to develop a tree planting campaign.	Short-Term	●
NW1.2: Enhance and maintain the City's current tree rebate program.	Short-Term	●
NW2.1: Achieve and maintain National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Wildlife Habitat Designation (at least 200 homes, 6 community sites, and 5 schools certified as wildlife habitats plus additional requirements).	Short-Term	●
NW2.2: Increase the number of certified Monarch Waystations.	Short-Term	●
NW2.3: Encourage resident participation in the Bay-Wise certification program.	Short-Term	●
NW3.1: Encourage the removal of invasive species from private land.	Short-Term	○
NW3.2: Remove invasive species from public land.	Short-Term	●
NW4.1: Host volunteer cleanups around the community.	Short-Term	●
NW4.2: Create an educational and public awareness campaign to sensitize residents to the negative impacts of litter on the environment.	Mid-Term	●

NOTE: "Complete" does not denote finished. Several complete programs continue to be implemented or marketed.

Strategy	Time frame	Status
UNITY		
CC1.1: Provide 10 workshops per year about emergency responses for storms, flooding, etc. for residents and promote City Alert System at all workshops.	Short-Term	
CC1.2: Encourage residents to sign up for City Alert at all City events.	Short-Term	
CC2.1: Encourage residents to like or follow the City on social media at all City events.	Short-Term	
CC3.1: Encourage residents to sign up for the Green Bowie e-newsletter on the spot at all Green Bowie events.	Short-Term	
CC3.2: Change Green Bowie e-newsletter to a monthly distribution from quarterly.	Mid-Term	
CT1.1: Investigate areas to create more green space.	Short-Term	
CT1.2: Install more amenities in the public gathering spaces (interpretive signs, park benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, etc.).	Mid-Term	
CT2.1: Recruit and train more Community Emergency Response Team leaders.	Short-Term	
CT2.2: Offer home emergency kits for residents to purchase.	Short-Term	
CT3.1: Expand the City's Public Art Master Plan.	Mid-Term	
CT4.1: Develop a citizen sustainability certification program that encompasses a range of sustainability efforts.	Short-Term	
CT4.2: Provide an annual award to residents who make significant achievements in sustainability.	Short-Term	
CT5.1: Hold quarterly community roundtables hosted by City and/or community organizations to discuss community issues.	Short-Term	
CT5.2: Work with churches, non-profits, businesses, and other organizations to host diversity and cultural awareness gatherings and/or events.	Short-Term	
CT5.3: Increase promotion, benefits and participation in the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program".	Short-Term	
ED1.1: Provide biannual workshops to assist with meeting Green School requirements.	Short-Term	
ED1.2: Partner with Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the City's Education Committee to provide grants to schools that pursue green projects.	Short-Term	
ED2.1: Develop an outreach campaign to reach audiences that are underrepresented or not represented in current program activities.	Short-Term	
ED3.1: Develop a sustainability projects monitoring and tracking system.	Short-Term	
MC1.1: Develop and implement a promotional campaign to bring awareness of existing trails for biking, hiking and family walks.	Short-Term	
MC1.2: Expand existing trails for biking, hiking, and family walks into a safe interconnected network.	Long-Term	

Strategy	Time frame	Status
PROGRESS		
WA1.1: Encourage the installation of rain gardens.	Short-Term	●
WA1.2: Encourage the installation of rain barrels.	Short-Term	●
WA1.3: Increase participation in the mulching mower rebate program for residents.	Short-Term	●
WA1.4: Increase resident awareness of practices and programs to save and clean water.	Short-Term	●
WA1.5: Create and adopt a Watershed Plan.	Short-Term	⊗
WA1.6: Install five additional pet waste stations.	Short-Term	●
WA1.7: Encourage planting of native vegetation within the stream buffer.	Mid-Term	●
RC1.1: Enhance educational programs on household recycling and composting.	Short-Term	●
RC1.2: Increase the number of households that are composting to 2000.	Short-Term	●
RC1.3: Investigate a Food Recovery Program to collect food that would otherwise go to waste from restaurants, stores, and other places to give to local emergency food programs, such as the Bowie Food Pantry.	Short-Term	○
RC1.4: Install public recycling bins at all City parks and other public areas.	Mid-Term	●
RC1.5: Investigate implementing a Pay-as-You-Throw pricing structure.	Long-Term	⊗
EC1.1: Continue to implement the Climate Action Plan.	Short-Term	●
EC1.2: Evaluate and update the Climate Action Plan in 2020.	Mid-Term	●
EC2.1: Assist with developing a Community Solar Program for renters and low-income residents by organizing partnerships.	Mid-Term	●
EC2.2: Investigate ways to support solar battery storage projects for City facilities, residential properties, and businesses.	Long-Term	●
EC2.3: Investigate the feasibility of a renewable microgrid project.	Long-Term	●