City of Bowie
Memorandum

Thursday, September 15, 2022
Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM,
City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Rustic Woods Water and Sewer Amendment (#22/W-02)
The applicant has withdrawn the current category change request to amend the Prince George's County Water and Sewer Plan, to allow some time to investigate other alternatives to developing the 31 acre former Montessori school site with 38 single-family detached homes. The site is located at 5004 Randonstone Lane. The attorney representing the property owners indicates that they may re-file the request in a later review cycle. The City sponsored a Community Informational Meeting on August 29th, and the case was scheduled for a City Council public hearing on October 3rd.

2. Bowie Marketplace Consolidated Storage and Car Wash
The City has established a review schedule for the proposed consolidated storage and car wash proposal that is intended to replace the approved 225-unit multi-family apartment building on the vacant five acres behind the retail shopping center. The City will conduct a Virtual Stakeholders Meeting on Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m. Because the County Planning Board hearing will not be scheduled until early 2023, the City's public hearings will not be scheduled until December 6th with the Bowie Advisory Planning Board and Tuesday, January 3rd with the City Council. The developer will be holding a Virtual Neighborhood Meeting on Monday, October 3rd at 8:30 p.m. To register in Zoom, go to: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83201968966.

3. Status Report - 2022 State of the Environment Report
Attached is a copy of the annual State of the Environment Report prepared by the Department of Planning and Sustainability. The report tracks the major accomplishments of the Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, staff, and resident-volunteers. Guiding documents with updates in the report are the Sustainability Plan and the updated Climate Action Plan. The report includes an appendix with data from the last five years for select, quantifiable metrics to help track trends.

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September 14, 2022

Honorable Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chairman
Prince George's County Council
Wayne K. Curry Administration Building, 2nd Fl.
1301 McCormick Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

Re: CR-97-2022; Rustic Woods; 22/W-02
June 2022 Cycle;

Dear Chairman Hawkins:

Please be advised that I represent School Properties, Inc., the owner of the property which is the subject of a water and sewer category change application, referenced as Rustic Woods. The application has been assigned number 22/W-02 in the June, 2022 cycle of amendments. On behalf of the owner, I hereby formally withdraw the application from this cycle. We reserve the right to submit a new application in a future cycle.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

GIBBS AND HALLER

Thomas H. Haller

cc: Shirley A. Branch
Joe Meinert

CITY OF BOWIE

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022

September 2022

Department of Planning and Sustainability

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Introduction

The 2022 City of Bowie *State of the Environment Report* is a summary of the City's environmental activities and sustainability initiatives for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022). The report provides performance measurements and metrics for all Green Bowie programs, including actions related to the Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Sustainability Plan, and the Climate Action Plan.

This report has three appendices: Appendix A provides five years of quantifiable metrics to help identify trends. 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.

Lastly, because sustainability has become such an integral part of the City's services, the Department of Planning and Community Development was renamed the Department of Planning and Sustainability. There are currently two full-time staff dedicated to environmental work, and another staff position, Sustainability Planner, was approved for hire in Fiscal Year 2023.

Accomplishments

This section includes accomplishments made by the Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, staff, and resident-volunteers. It is organized by some of the major pieces of the Green Team's 3-Year Action Plan.

Natural Resources

- Two of the six planned weed warrior events were held at Whitemarsh Park with a total of 10 volunteers.
- The City was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 30th consecutive year as a Tree City USA community.
- The City planted 200 trees, including 185 along City streets and 15 in parks.
- The Plant One Tree on Us program continued with 91 trees planted on private, residential lots.
- Treatment of invasive bamboo on City properties included a second round in White Marsh Park (1.5 acres) and Amber Meadows (2.5 acres), as well as a first round on 1.5 acres in Centennial Park along the bike trail.
- Five habitats were added to the certified habitat line-up of schools, businesses, & homes.

- Compost bin sales continued, with a total of 48 bins. A new order of bins is expected in FY23.
- The Green Team helped plant gardens at Northview Elementary and C. Elizabeth Reig Regional Schools.
- The annual Green Schools forum was held and each school that participated received a free tree to plant on school grounds.

Energy and Climate

- The City issued 144 lawn mower rebates including 77 mulching, 58 electric, and nine push-reel mowers. Council approved an expansion of this program to begin in FY23, which will include other types of electric yard equipment (weed whackers, leaf blowers, and hedge trimmers).
- The Energy Audit Program continued with 48 participants receiving a $100 no-cost comprehensive energy audit through BGE's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program.
- Solar panels were installed at an additional 79 buildings, bringing the total to 1,903 homes and businesses since FY 2011.
- Public electric vehicle charging stations were installed through an agreement with BGE at both City Hall and Kenhill Center. The City hosted a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate both the new public stations and the new electric Code Compliance vehicles.
- The City's 2.4 MW solar array became fully functional. This first solar array offsets the electricity generated by nine of the City's facilities. A second array is currently in design.
- The Grants Office funded 13 home energy audits for participants in the low-income single family housing rehabilitation grant program.

Outreach

- Subscriptions to the monthly Green Bowie e-newsletter are up to 1,044.
- Five of the 13 certified Green Schools received recertification by Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators). All schools are certified.
- Planning staff continued the Sustainability Webinar Series and began a more conversational series called Coffee and Climate. Together five webinars were held and are available on the City's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCydiXmeCO7FNmfC1eC89qiQ.

Miscellaneous

- The Planning Department hired its first Transportation Specialist to focus on transportation and trails.

- The Sustainability Planner was promoted to Sustainability Manager, and Council approved hiring a new Sustainably Planner in FY23.
- Public Works held special three recycling events and collected 25.21 tons of paper from two shredding events and 100 pounds of polystyrene from one collection event.
- The two sets of Big Belly solar-powered trash and recycling compactors collected a total of 360 gallons of trash and 480 gallons of recycling. This resulted in 64% of waste being diverted from the landfill.
- The Police Department participated in both National Prescription Drug Take Back Days (April & October), collecting over 896 pounds of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications used by humans and pets alike. This number will be included in Appendix A moving forward.
- The Staff Sustainability Team continued meeting bi-monthly to discuss internal sustainability goals such as green purchasing and electric vehicles. The group purchased several Big Green Box household battery recycling receptacles for select City buildings. The weight of batteries recycled will be included in Appendix A moving forward.
- The City's PJM Demand Response Program, which requires switching to generator power at three City facilities when requested by BGE, yielded $45,443.60 in rebates for FY22.
- Council passed resolutions recognizing several significant initiatives, including Earth Month (April), Energy Efficiency Month (October), Earth Day (April 22), National Bike Month (May), Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 4-12), and Pollinator Week (June 20-26).
- The Information Technology Department recycled 2,828 pounds of City-owned electronics. This number will be included in Appendix A moving forward.
- The Adopt-A-Road program grew rapidly, and all 15 eligible roads have been adopted. Groups have cleaned all roads at least once and have collected 21 bags of trash.
- Nine water bottle filling stations were installed at City Hall, Senior Center, Kenhill Center, and the City Gym. Each time the filter is changed, the fountain displays the number of "saved plastic bottles." This number will be included in Appendix A moving forward.

Appendix A: Additional Performance Indicators

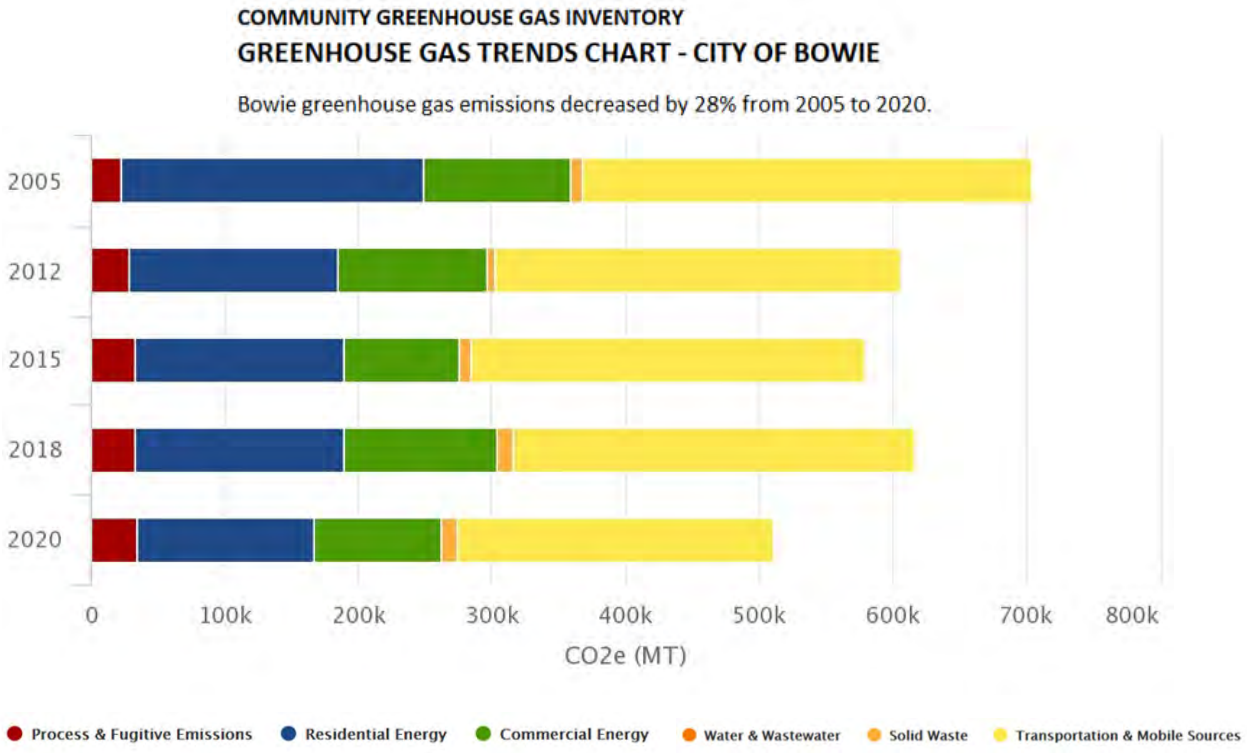
Indicator	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Number of…					
Batteries recycled with the Big Green Box (lbs)	-	-	11	0	87
Buildings that installed solar panels*	146	81	80	59	79
Certified NWF habitats	8	8	6	1	5
Energy audit rebates issued by City	64	71	15	4	48
City-owned electronics recycled (lbs)	3,449	3,167	1,216	2,452	2,828
Food waste program participants	62	67	20	6	10
Lawn mower rebates issued	116	239	72	78	144
Medications collected at National Prescription Drug Takeback events (lbs, all types)	-	758	545	1,013	896
Park trees planted	5	15	15	19	15
Rain barrels registered (self-reported)	9	27	4	7	2
Single-use plastic bottles saved by using City-owned bottle filler fountains	-	-	-	-	5,364
Storm drains with "No Dumping" markers	140	26	176	events cancelled	no events
Stream cleanup participants	69	100	event cancelled	event cancelled	211
Street trees planted	295	300	200	200	185
Trees planted with Plant One Tree on Us	N/A	13	54	77	91
Trash/Recycling collected at all cleanups (lbs)	960	1,775	event cancelled	event cancelled	3,930
Weed Warrior Volunteers	116	89	36 (four events cancelled)	all events cancelled	10 (four events cancelled)
Solid Waste Division Data					
Total number of tons collected	29,525	30,143	29,556	32,642	29,885
Number of tons land filled	20,589	20,645	20,267	22,189	20,310
Number of tons recycled	8,936	9,498	9,289	10,452	9,576
Percent of solid waste stream recycled	30	32	31	32	32

**Starting in FY20, all buildings (homes, businesses, etc.) will be included in this number.*
Orange shading indicates a new metric for this year's report.
A dash indicates information was not available or doesn't exist.

Appendix B: Climate Action Plan Progress

The City's current Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2020, set a **50% reduction** goal in greenhouse gas emissions from 2015 levels by 2030. The most recent update from COG is shown in the graphic below. Note COG data is still in draft form, subject to change after further examination and refinement by COG. The City has reduced emissions by 28% since COG's 2005 baseline.

This appendix now includes two sets of tables for each sector – one with objectives and actions from the CAP Implementation Plan and one with the next steps needed to reach them. Future reports will include updates to the Next Steps tables.



City Government Objectives				
Action #	**Action Area**	**Action Item**	**Objectives**	**Metrics**
1	Energy Efficiency & Renewables	Commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in City operations **PGCAP: CO-4, M-1**	1. Prioritize solar & renewable projects in Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) energy projects; ongoing	# of CIP projects with an energy efficiency or renewables focus
			2. Budget for and purchase software for in-house emissions benchmarking of City facilities by 2024	Acquisition of benchmarking software
			3. Evaluate the feasibility of LED light replacements at City facilities and parks annually and on an individual basis as needed.	Completion of LED and/or generator replacement projects
			4. Evaluate the feasibility of generator replacements with renewable sources annually and on an individual basis as needed.	
2	Transportation	Promote EV infrastructure **PGCAP: M-4, M-6**	1. Update budget guidance language for vehicle acquisitions to reflect efficiency goals & cost reduction over the lifetime of an electric vehicle (EV) vs. an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle by FY24	Completed/update budget guidance language
				Completion of fuel usage study/ Creation of Fuel Reduction Plan
			2. Adopt a Fuel Reduction Plan by reviewing baseline fuel usage, Miles Per Gallon (MPG) of vehicles, and Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) data while incorporating future goals by 2025.	# of EVs or hybrids acquired for City operation and # of charging stations at City facilities
			3. Promote telework for City employees where possible, noting that this will not be possible for all positions; ongoing.	# or % employees teleworking
3	Operations	Green purchasing & zero-waste procurement **PGCAP: M-10**	1. Expand upon current green purchase policy and begin tracking items purchased via database/resources	Promotion of green-friendly procurement database & tracking of green procurement
			2. Implement food waste program at City Hall for staff by 2024	Implementation of food waste program at City Hall for staff
			3. Move away from plastic or wasteful giveaways	
			4. Expand upon healthful and/or less wasteful vending machine options	# of items in machines that are sustainably packaged and/or healthier options
4	Carbon Sequestration	Expand Urban Tree Canopy **PGCAP: M-11, A-5**	1. Establish a new/updated No Net Loss Policy, combining the 2013 Street Trees Policy with the new Development Review Guidelines by 2023	Completion of updated No Net Loss Policy
			2. Regularly measure tree canopy for assessment towards the adopted 45% goal	Completion of tree canopy assessments as data is provided
			3. Expand tree planting rebate program by 2024	# of Plant One Tree On Us (POTOU) trees given/budgeted
			4. Convert as much turf to ecological landscaping (incorporating trees and promoting native species), when possible and feasible	Creation of map showing potential areas for conversion to ecological landscaping & sq. feet of non-park properties or public rights-of-way

City Government Objectives				
Action #	**Action Area**	**Action Item**	**Objectives**	**Metrics**
				converted to ecological landscaping
			5. Develop a native species promotion policy for internal operations by 12/31/22.	# of park and street trees lost and replanted
			6. Update Public Works Specifications to address native species policy for stormwater management projects	Completion of native species promotion policy for internal operations
				Discussion and/or completion of update to Public Works Specifications
5	Operations & resilience	Develop a Municipal Resiliency Plan Resilience: the ability to recover after a disaster and developing systems for mitigation. **PGCAP: M3, A1-A8**	1. Assess the need for a Smart Cities Task Force and/or Smart Cities workshops by 2023.	Compilation of Smart Cities data and distribution to Directors and appropriate staff
			2. Incorporate Emergency Response Plan into overall Resiliency Plan	Creation of Resiliency Plan, if deemed necessary through analysis
			3. Incorporate a climate equity policy into resilience planning to equitably provide emergency services	

City Government Next Steps		
Action #	**Objective**	**Next Steps**
1	1	Business Operations and Community Services will continue to evaluate and prioritize energy efficiency and renewable based projects for City facilities using the energy efficiency CIP. Typically, one project is executed per year.
	2	Business Operations will request funding for FY23 for emissions tracking software. Update TBD.
	3, 4	Because of the large-scale nature of these objectives, they will need to be assessed on a yearly basis and approached as needed and as is feasible. Community Services plans to replace old vehicles (where possible) with EVs as they are phased out. In the foreseeable future they will be acquiring an electric truck and an SUV and running conduit (EV readiness) as part of an overall security enhancement to the Senior Center bus lot.
2	1	Community Services will update budget guidance to state the intent of focusing on better MPG for City vehicles by September 2022, in time for the next budget cycle.
	2	Staff Sustainability Team or Sustainability Planner will execute fuel usage study to review 2019 as a baseline analysis. The Team will work on fuel reduction plan by 2025. Immediate next steps involve Community Services moving forward with running of conduit and security enhancements for Senior Center bus lot.
3	1	The Staff Sustainability Team, or other appropriate staff, will compile a green database, based off Maryland Department of the Environment resources by 2023. The database will be distributed to directors and associated purchasing staff. Allow for self-reporting via SST, focusing on green purchases from IT and maintenance.

City Government Next Steps		
Action #	**Objective**	**Next Steps**
4	1	Planning Department will write up the new resolution by 2023 with SST review.
	2	Watershed Manager will continue using data from Chesapeake Bay Conservancy to analyze the City tree canopy rate when available.
	3	Planning Department will assess the feasibility of a tree program expansion and submit budget requests by FY24.
	4	Meet with Parks and Grounds to discuss ecological landscaping where feasible. Native plants and ground cover are easier to maintain thus maintenance would go down. P & G will continue to replace both street and park trees when losses occur.
	5, 6	Schedule meeting with DPW to discuss internal policy and implementation by 2023.
5	1	Business Operations will assess the need for a Smart Cities Task Force by 2023. A handbook will be compiled and distributed to stakeholders with information on Smart Cities.
	2	Apply for a grant for a resiliency plan next round (2023) through the Maryland Resiliency Fund. The Staff Sustainability Team will discuss feasible projects.

Residential Objectives				
Action #	**Action Area**	**Action Item**	**Objectives**	**Metrics**
6	Energy Efficiency & Renewables	Increase home energy efficiency and energy conservation **PGCAP: M-8**	1. Increase communication efforts to get homeowners to optimally improve the efficiency of their homestead	Council Of Governments (COG) tracking of residential kWh and therms
			2. Provide guidance on utility information sources, carbon footprint websites, and home meters for assessing individual energy use	# of home energy audits completed
			3. Develop energy efficiency tips/handouts for Levitt homeowners by 2023	# of yard tool rebates
			4. Expand mower rebate program to include other electric yard tools by 2022	Completion of new energy efficiency documents, videos, online guides, etc. (TBD what final product will be)
7	Energy Efficiency & Renewables	Increase installation of solar on residential homes and encourage use of renewable energy sources **PGCAP: CO-4, M-2**	1. Publicize City solar initiatives to lead by example	COG: emissions per kWh and proportion of various energy sources powering the MD utility grid
			2. Consider the creation of a Solar Task Force with members of Green Team (GT) and Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), IT and other staff and Council- by 2024 pending County outcome	# of public forums convened by Task Force, if created
			3. Expand education and outreach on MD Clean Energy choices as well as different options for residential panels and community solar by 2023	# of permits issued for residential solar panels
			4. Creation of new solar data webpage by 9/30/22	# of residents sourcing renewable energy
				Creation of solar data webpage
8	Transportation	Promote transportation	1. Increase efforts to publicize and promote electric vehicles (EV)	COG: VMT and emissions per VMT

Residential Objectives				
Action #	**Action Area**	**Action Item**	**Objectives**	**Metrics**
		choices that reduce GHG emissions **PGCAP: M-5**	and infrastructure in line with current State goals- ongoing.	
			2. Encourage the use of PGC Link, Metro Bus, and MARC train	# of EV registered in Bowie, # of EV charging stations
			3. Execute Trails Master Plan and implement Complete Streets Policy	Completion of updated bike rack inventory
			4. Complete an inventory of existing bike racks in the City by 6/30/22.	
			5. Revitalize walking or biking efforts via Green Team and City staff by 12/31/22.	Miles of trails maintained by the City
				# of walking and biking events held per year
			6. Create new walking and biking tour maps by 2024	Completion of walking/biking tour map
9	Waste Management & Diversion	Modify Community-wide View of Diets & Handling of Food Waste **PGCAP: M-10, A-10**	1. Create social media campaign to promote plant-rich diets, which are proven to be the most environmentally friendly relative to land and resources use and composting by 2023. Ongoing education and outreach.	COG: landfill emissions data & creation of social media campaign. Completion of monthly plant-based recipe in Green Bowie e-newsletter
			2. Expand residential curbside pickup of food waste for composting, aspiring to go City-wide by 2025 AND add community drop off point at Public Works or Kenhill Center (pending discussions)	# of houses included in expanded food waste program
				# of tons diverted from the landfill; $ saved by diversion from landfill
			3. Make presentation to City Council re: food waste expansion by 12/31/22, if necessary	Completed presentation to Council re: food waste expansion
			4. Conduct City-wide survey about food waste (may be part of a larger sustainability survey) by 6/30/23.	
				Completion of City-wide survey about food waste and analysis of data received
10	Waste Management & Diversion	Promote Sustainable Consumption & Use of Goods/Services	1. Create social media campaign to increase resident awareness of carbon footprints, recycling requirements/standards, and the perils of plastic	Completion of campaign, # webinars/workshops
			2. Investigate the feasibility of a set quarterly Styrofoam drop-off event by 12/31/22.	# of Styrofoam pickup events OR containers/bags brought to events
				Host viewing of plastic or environmental films 2x per year

Residential Next Steps		
Action Item	**Objective**	**Next Steps**
6	1,2	The Sustainability Planner will continue using social media to expand the messaging on energy efficiency, including hosting webinars like Coffee & Climate and the Sustainability Webinar series.
	3	Formulate a new way to advertise home energy efficiency and energy audits. This may be done through a consultant, a video with Communications, or something else entirely.
	4	After FY23 budget approval, begin the process of expanding the program. The Sustainability Planner will focus on outreach efforts.
7	1	Meet with Communications team to confirm messaging strategies and amplified messaging.
	1	Start Green Bowie Instagram account by July 2022.
	2	Will need to wait and see how the County Solar Task Force materializes. Sustainability Planner and Energy subgroup may be able to team up with them for events and outreach. Consider a member representative from County group.
	3	Continue to focus on outreach regarding clean energy choices, working with communications to assemble a “resources” page for residents interested in solar.
8	1	Meet with Communications and start Green Bowie Instagram account when ready. Research # EVs registered in Bowie (through MVA) and # of chargers in total. Complete and advertise by 2023 and going forward.
	2	Use County materials to advertise PGC Link as well as electronic signs to target drivers specifically. The Sustainability Planner will work with the County to host informational sessions by Fall 2022.
	3	Revitalize walking or biking outreach efforts via Green Team and/or Sustainability Planner and create an updated, interactive map by 2024. Immediate next step- acquisition of transportation planner by summer 2022.
9	1	Green Bowie Instagram creation. Social media campaign to be completed by 2024 and then ongoing.
	2, 3	Dependent on DPW, Council directives, and final FY23 numbers.
	4	The Sustainability Planner will begin putting together an online survey for residents. Discussions about the survey will take place through SST meeting and with the Communications Department.
10	1	Green Bowie Instagram and a possible Coffee & Climate focused on consumerism, life cycles of products, carbon footprints, etc. This should be completed by Fall 2022.
	2	Sustainability Planner/Planning Department will have discussions with DPW about implementing a more set schedule of Styrofoam focused events. Decision by June 2022.

Commercial Objectives				
Action #	**Action Area**	**Action Item**	**Objectives**	**Metrics**
11	Energy Efficiency & Renewables	Reduce Commercial Energy Consumption **PGCAP: M-8**	1. Promote energy efficiency in commercial buildings and the use of smart meters to monitor and control energy use.	COG: commercial kWh and therms
			2. Implement Sustainability Grants for Businesses program	# of workshops held to promote grant program
				# of advertisements for commercial grant program
				# of grants awarded (or dollar amount) that focus on reducing energy consumption
12	Energy Efficiency & Renewables	Increase use of renewable energy sources **PGCAP: CO-4, M-2**	1. Encourage incorporation of solar panels (any renewable) on commercial property	COG: emissions per kWh
			2. Implement Sustainability Grants for Businesses program in FY23	# of workshops held on the grant program
				# of grants awarded (or dollar amount) that focus on increasing renewables
				# of permits for commercial solar panels, # of buildings sourcing renewable energy
13	Transportation	Sustainable Transportation Options **PGCAP: M-5**	1. Encourage businesses to acquire EV fleet vehicles	COG: vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and emissions per VMT
			2. Encourage installation of EV infrastructure	# of EV charging stations on commercial property
			3. Complete a study to assess pedestrian and bike friendly accessibility to commercial properties by 10/31/22	# of advertisements promoting sustainable transportation options
			4. Implement Sustainability Grants for Businesses program in FY23	Completion of commercial center accessibility study
				# of businesses using EVs for local deliveries
				# of grants awarded that focus on sustainable transportation
14	Waste Management & Diversion	Move Toward Green Purchasing and Zero Waste Policies **PGCAP: M-10**	1. Encourage local business to recycle materials and compost food waste	tons of material diverted from the landfill by recycling and composting
			2. Implement Sustainability Grants for Businesses program in FY23	# of grants awarded focusing on zero waste
15	Operations	Create Partnerships to Promote Green Businesses	1. Hold forums for local businesses and the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) to explore strategies for GHG reduction	# of green forums held
			2. Promote the City as a center for green commercial ventures and startups	# of green Bowie businesses
				# of marketing promotions of the City as a center for green business

Commercial Next Steps		
Action Item	**Objective**	**Next Steps**
11	1,2	Implement and promote Sustainability Grants for businesses. Plan workshops and events to promote the program.
12	1, 2	Implement and promote Sustainability Grants for businesses. Plan workshops and events for promotion.
13	1, 2	Explore option of City-offered rebates and promote State and Federal rebates. MAPS subgroup and/or Sustainability & Transportation Planners will interview management to get a picture of struggles/opportunities for businesses to switch to greener fleets. Have transportation specialist work with MAPS subgroup of Green Team on bike rack inventory for shopping centers.
	3	Acquire transportation specialist. Complete study assessing pedestrian and bike friendly accessibility to commercial properties by 10/31/22
14	1	Consider ways with the schools and the County on waste reduction in schools (schools are lumped into commercial data via COG reporting) specifically regarding.
15	1,2	The sustainability planner will create a video via City Communications and work with the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce to hold 1-2 workshops to educate the business community about green programs. Bring this program and climate change awareness/opportunities to the Economic Development Committee.

Intergovernmental Objectives				
Action #	**Action Area**	**Action Item**	**Objectives**	**Metrics**
16	Transportation	Promote Development of Mass Transit Options within the County & Region	1. Implement PGC Link micro-transit service in the City	# of micro transit trips in Bowie per day
			2. Continue to advocate for more frequent service and expanded transit options	# of position statements/letters sent per year advocating for improved transit service
17	All	Develop/Support a Comprehensive Master Plan **PGCAP: CO-5, M-7**	1. Participate in development of a comprehensive Bowie and Vicinity Area Master Plan for sustainable growth and development	# of development proposals that conform to or deviate from adopted plans
			2. Advocate for County and City officials to follow adopted land use plans	# of projects from plan completed
			3. Implement Master Plan recommendations	# of recommendations completed
18	Energy Efficiency/ Transportation	Promote Development Guidelines that enhance energy efficiency of building & transportation infrastructure **PGCAP: M-9, A-9**	1. Advocate for development guidelines and building codes that optimize energy efficiency	# of development proposals that conform to or deviate from current guidelines and codes
			2. Advocate for building codes to require EV ready infrastructure for new or renovated parking spaces for non-residential buildings	# of external communications
				# of meetings attended
				# of green features on new developments

Intergovernmental Next Steps		
Action Item	**Objective**	**Next Steps**
16	1	The Planning Department and Communications will work with County DPW&T to advertise the launch of the PG Link in April of 2022.
	2	The City will continue promoting alternative transportation connections through COG transportation group, and through continued discussions with County Park & Planning.
17	2	Continue to advocate for legislation for sustainable growth in the County and State. Designate a point person to continually review bills. Continue engagement and involvement for the County Master Plan of Transportation.
18	1, 2	Continue advocating to the County and to COG for building efficiency codes, development guidelines, and EV infrastructure.

Appendix C: Sustainability Plan Annual Update

The annual Sustainability Plan update begins on the following page.

CITY OF BOWIE
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ANNUAL UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2022

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.

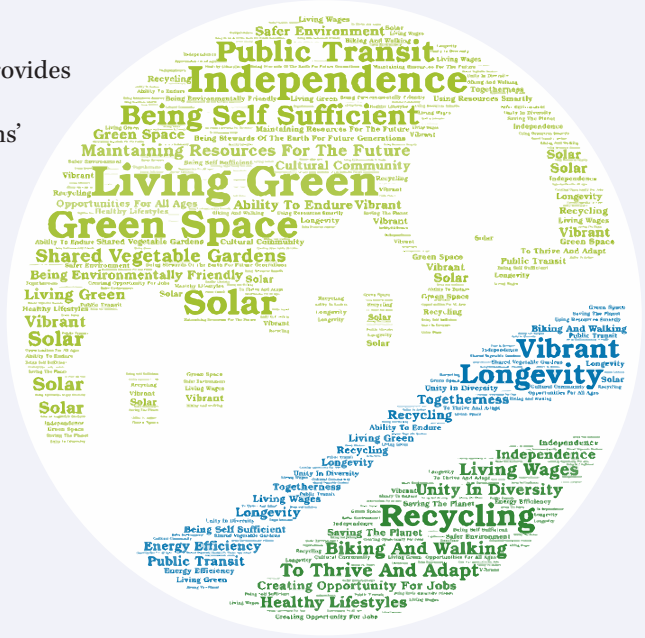
Mission for the City of Bowie

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.



Breakdown:

25 Goals

57 Strategies

103 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.

Goals

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

- Retail occupancy is 93.4% and office vacancy is 20.3%.

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

- Over 300 clients were served by 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

- The City launched the Bowie Restaurant Reimbursement Grant program to help restaurants cope with the expense of modifying their facilities to meet COVID-19 safety rules. As of this report, 10 restaurants have applied.

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. This suggests that your meal travels approximately that far from farms to your plate. Though this varies based on 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 are often 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 items 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.

Goals

Goal FW1: Achieve 20% 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 plots.

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

- The City's Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k returned for the third year with more than 200 participants.

Highlights

- Farmers markets continued in a socially distant manner.
- The Green Bowie e-newsletter provides readers with a plant-based recipe each month.
- The first yoga event was held on June 18, 2022, at Belair Mansion.

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.

Goals

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

Staff determined the City's canopy is currently at 44%.

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

No progress was made.

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

Five acres of City property were cleared

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

All 15 eligible City roads in the Adopt-a-Road program have been adopted and received their first cleanup.

Highlights

- The Plant One On Us program, which provides free native trees to residents, resulted in 91 trees planted.
- Information from the Chesapeake Conservancy show the City's current tree canopy is 44%.

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.

Goals

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

- Currently 8,778 subscribers

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

GOAL HAS BEEN MET!

- City Facebook: 8,066
- Animal Control Facebook: 3,104
- Police Facebook: 4,721
- City Instagram: 2,121
- City Twitter: 3,860
- Green Bowie Twitter: 287
- Police Twitter: 2,240
- Bowie Gym: 177
- Emergency Management Twitter: 296
- Total: **24,872**

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

- Currently: 1,044

Highlights

- The Sustainability Webinar Series continued with three new episodes.
- The Coffee and Climate series of conversational-type webinars was launched in early 2022. The first two covered clean energy and trees.
- **Goal CC2 was met!**

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.

Goals

Goal CT1: Create or enhance 10 public gathering spaces.

We are constantly working to update and enhance public gathering spaces, parks, and amenities.

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

This goal is no longer relevant.

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

A tenth public art installation is planned for FY23.

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.

The neighborhood mini grant program was launched.

Highlights

• Water fountains at four City facilities were retrofitted with water bottle filling stations.

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.

Goals

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

➔ All schools have been certified, and five schools re-certified this year.

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 Schools subgroup held its annual forum and delivered a tree to each school that attended.

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.

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.

We're still at 25, but the new Transportation Specialist will start working on this goal.

Highlights

- The City hired a Transportation Specialist to improve transit, trails and biking options for residents.

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% of the Earth's water is freshwater, and only 1% 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.

A new pet waste station installed at Whitemarsh Park.

Goals

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

No update available.

Highlights

- Staff held a Welcome to Your Watershed webinar and a webinar about the benefits of tree canopy on stormwater.

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%, but other nearby areas have reached a recycling rate of over 50%, 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.

Curbside food waste collection bins getting ready for delivery.

Goals

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

Residents have many ways to reduce residential waste including recycling, composting and food waste programs, plus special events for collecting unused medications, shredding, styrofoam and electronics.

Highlights

- The Food Waste program has 263 participants.

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% each year since 2010.

Solar panels at the wastewater treatment plant.

Goals

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

We will continue tracking emissions via MWCOG.

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

GOAL HAS BEEN MET!

This goal was achieved. Even before the solar array came on-line, 78 MW of solar energy was being generated on or at other facilities.

Highlights

- The solar farm came on-line and offsets electricity usage from nine City facilities.
- **Goal EC2 has been met!**

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 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 necessarily mean "finished" Many of these programs continue to be implemented & 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	●