



City of Bowie

Memorandum

Thursday, February 29, 2024
Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM,
City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Sustainability Grants for Businesses

POM Studio Architects, located on Mitchellville Road, is the latest recipient of a Sustainability Grant for Businesses, as well as the newest member of the MD Green Registry and the Green Bowie Business Program. POM, under the leadership of Ms. Portia Strahan, took dedicated steps to enhance the insulation for the attic space, installed a fresh air ventilator, and sealed duct work as needed to obtain reimbursement. As part of the grant program, the City requires each business to be in good standing and to join the free MD Green Registry program. Once joining the registry, they are also a Green Bowie Business and are listed on our webpages and promoted on social media. POM's MD Green Registry profile is attached. The Sustainability Grants for Businesses will end at the end of FY24.

2. Partnering with Local Universities

In light of recent discussions brought forth by Councilmember Ndebumadu at the 2/20 Council meeting regarding partnering with local universities to obtain some degree of consulting services when applicable and to provide the students with experiential opportunities for learning, the Department of Planning and Sustainability wanted to share a recent project that addressed this objective.

In fall of 2023, a senior cohort of University of Maryland Environmental Science & Policy students partnered with the Sustainability Manager for their capstone research project. The project was a cost-benefit analysis and a draft policy for prioritizing ecological landscaping, namely through the use of native species, in our City landscape practices. This objective was given in the Council-approved Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan, City Government sector, Action 4 (Carbon Sequestration), Objective 5- Develop a Native Species Promotion Policy for Internal Use. The students completed their study, which is attached here, and presented it to members of Planning & Sustainability and Community Services. At the time, they were not able to present at a Council meeting.

If desired, the Sustainability Manager can further brief the Council on this project at a future meeting.