



City of Bowie Memorandum

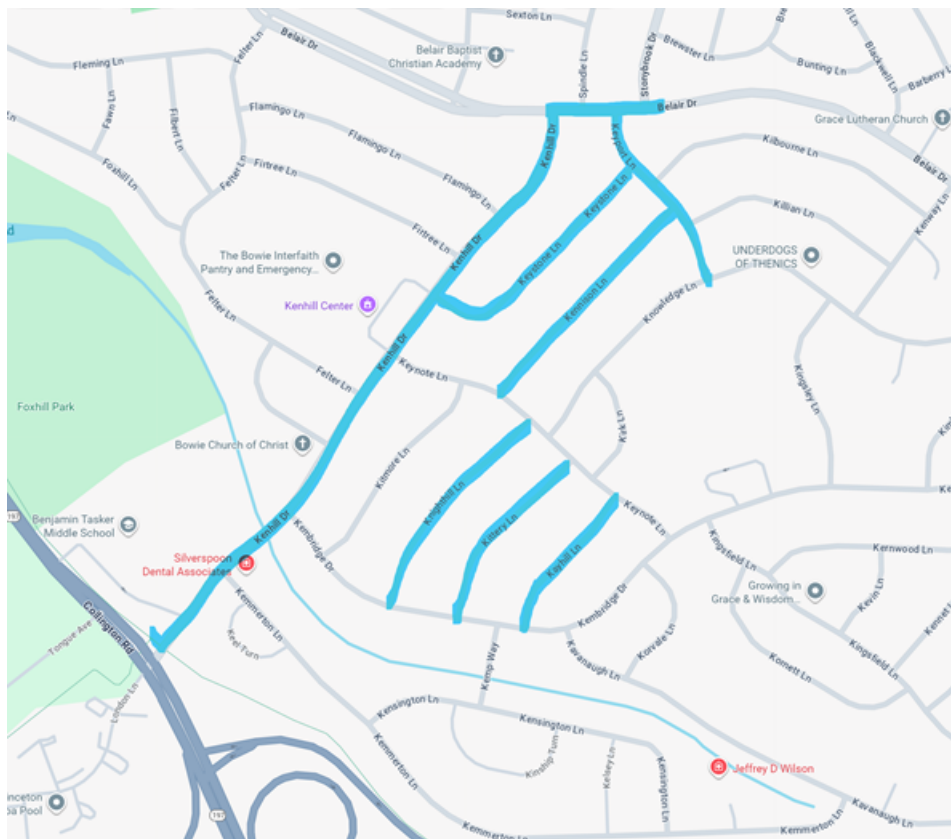
Thursday, August 28, 2025
Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Utility Work – Kenilworth Section

The City of Bowie has contracted with J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. to replace and/or structurally line approximately 2.1 miles of water mains located in the Kenilworth neighborhood. Construction is scheduled to start on September 2, 2025. Due to the extent of work, construction is expected to span over a 9-month period.

The figure below provides the project location with planned water main work areas highlighted in blue.



During this construction, temporary water bypass will be installed along the curbside to provide continued water service. To minimize disruption to the driveway, pipe ramp will be installed on the driveway where the temporary water lines cross the driveway. Work will be performed Monday thru Friday, 7:00 a.m.

to 4:00 p.m., excluding the City-recognized holidays. While the work will require equipment in the street, no road closures are expected to be required. Short disruptions to water service may be required periodically. When required, the contractor will make timely notification to affected residents. Upon completion, all disturbed areas will be restored.

Should you have any questions please contact the City's project manager, Mr. Kui Lin, at 240-544-5689 or the Public Works Department, at 301-809-2344.

2. FY26 Paper Shredding & Styrofoam Recycling Events

The Public Works Department (PWD) has scheduled for FY26 four (4) paper shredding and Styrofoam recycling events at the Public Works Solid Waste/Recycling parking lot located at 16500 Annapolis Road from 8am-2pm on:

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Saturday, March 21, 2025

Saturday, June 20, 2025

Residents can bring up to five tall kitchen bags or five archive boxes for shredding. This event is first come first served.

The PWD has allocated two trucks to this event, if both trucks are filled, we may need to shut down before 2pm.

Documents may be observed while they are being shredded and Styrofoam must be free of any debris (glue or tape).

Our last event in June collected 9 tons of paper and 53 pounds of Styrofoam!

3. Replacement of one Xtreme Vac LCT600 (#396)

The adopted FY2026 budget includes \$72,000 for replacing Unit #396, an Xtreme Vac LCT600 used by the Parks and Grounds Division. Staff have identified Virginia Sheriff's Association Contract #26-07-0711 with Infrastructure Solutions Group, Inc. of Mechanicsville, VA, as an available piggyback contract to make the purchase for \$69,454.00. As provided in Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Infrastructure Solutions Group, Inc. of Mechanicsville, VA, in the amount of \$69,454.00.

4. 2025 State of the Environment Report is here

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the City's environmental activities and sustainability initiatives for Fiscal Year 2025. It includes performance measurements and metrics for Green Bowie programs and actions related to the Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and the Sustainability and Climate Action Plans.

Notable accomplishments this year include: the food waste dropoff site at Kenhill Center diverted 16 tons of material from the landfill; work began with a consultant to draft an Environmental Action Plan for the City; and the volunteer portion of the Midwood Pond landscaping upgrades was completed. Many more

updates are in this information-packed report. Reach out to the Sustainability Division in the Planning Department with any questions (301-809-3073).



**PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
AND SUSTAINABILITY**

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025



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Introduction

The 2025 City of Bowie *State of the Environment Report* provides a comprehensive overview of the City's environmental activities and sustainability initiatives for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025). The report provides performance measurements and metrics for all Green Bowie programs and environmental initiatives, including actions related to the Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and the Council-approved Sustainability and Climate Action Plans.

This report is organized into three main sections:

1. **City Accomplishments.** This section highlights the City's achievements in various categories, drawing inspiration from the Sustainable Maryland Certified program, of which the City has been a member since 2013.
2. **City Environmental Indicators.** This section encompasses the work of multiple departments and divisions including Public Works, Community Services, Parks and Grounds, The Bowie Police, and Planning and Sustainability, and showcases the City's dedication to its sustainability goals.
3. **Environmental Action Plan Progress.** The EAP is a new effort that began in FY25 and is set to be completed by December of 2025. This section will outline the efforts taken to create the plan.

The Department of Planning and Sustainability (DPS) is responsible for tracking and updating this information annually. The Sustainability Manager oversees the process, with valuable input from many City staff.

Thank you to the Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and all departments for your input, especially to Marjorie Reid, Corporal Janet Dollard, Carissa Sullivan, Mati Bazurto, George Jones, and Denise Haworth.

Accomplishments

In this section, we present the achievements of the Green Team Executive Committee, along with its associated subgroups, the Environmental Advisory Committee, dedicated staff, and enthusiastic resident-volunteers. The accomplishments are structured around, and thoughtfully aligned with, the major components of the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program.

Community Action

- Subscriptions to the monthly Green Bowie e-newsletter are up to 1,672 and the Instagram account currently has 332 followers.
- Nine certified Green Schools received recertifications by the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (MAEOE). All schools in Bowie are certified and must recertify every four years.
- As of this report, 16 tons of food waste have been diverted from the landfill and were instead brought to the Prince George's County Organics Compost Facility (OCF) to be turned into compost through our Food Waste Drop Off Site at Kenhill Center,
- The food waste curbside pickup program continued with 273 homes included in the program, meaning about 25% of the program area is actively participating. The program now has a waitlist of 137 homes looking for expansion into their neighborhoods.
- The Department of Planning and Sustainability worked with the Department of Public Works to create a plan and an FY26 budget request for curbside food waste expansion. Implementation and roll out will be forthcoming in FY26.
- The City installed three Little Free Libraries on City property; one at Allen Pond at the playground, one inside of the Ice Rink and one sponsored by Green Bowie behind City Hall at the certified Monarch Waystation.



- The annual Bowie Green Expo, hosted by the Lions Club and sponsored by the City, was held at the Senior Center this year. The new venue made access to all exhibitor tables simple and streamlined and allowed space to gather, learn, and share. There were over 25 “green” or sustainability focused exhibitors and vendors at the event including a climate education story time and Toyota of Bowie with an EV showcase. Ms. Sue Livera was awarded the Bowie Green Citizen award.



Community Based Food Systems

- The City continued its Friday Food Truck Frenzy program, with a total of five events.
- The annual Farmers Market was held on Sundays from May through October and hosted over 10 local vendors
- The Community Gardens program expanded by creating a third garden for residential use at Kenhill Center with nearly all the 82 plots being currently rented by residents. Sustainability Staff also hosted two Community Garden Workdays for Gardeners and volunteer participation.
- The Bowie Crofton Garden Club, with assistance from the Green Team, Environmental Advisory Committee, other volunteers, and some staff, hosted their annual Spring Plant Sale at the Belair Mansion. This event highlights native plants, pollinator-friendly plants, and local vendors.
- The Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry continued its work serving residents in need by harvesting \$12,202 worth of produce (CY2024), making this a record-breaking year for the operation. To the right, you can see an image of some of the produce harvested and packaged for residents needing the service of the Pantry.

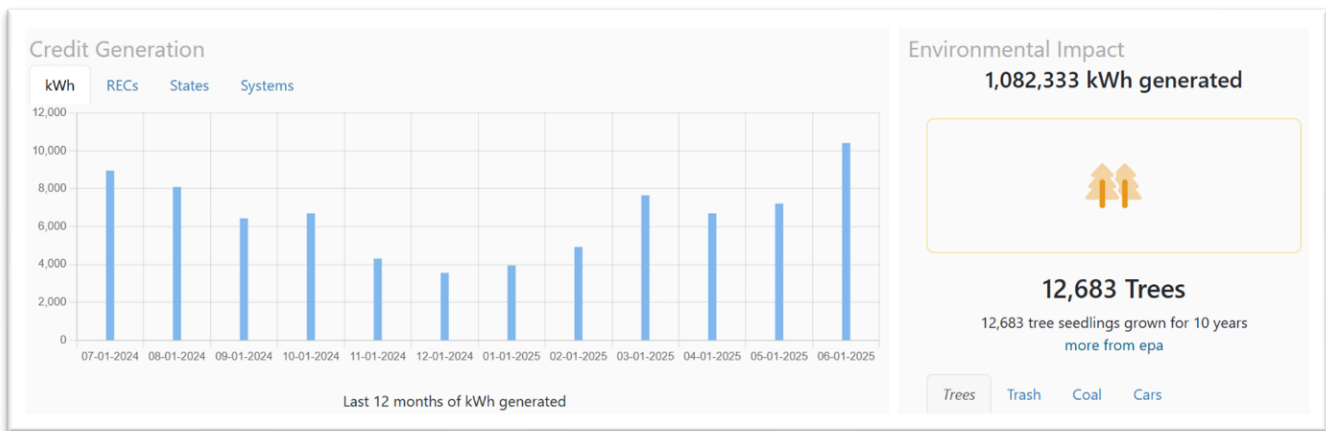


Energy

- The City issued 71 lawn mower rebates, 49 leaf blower rebates, 37 hedge trimmer rebates, 18 weed whacker rebates, 10 edger rebates, and an additional 11 rebates for “suites” or sets purchases which includes a lawn mower and at least two other tools through our Electric Lawn Care Rebate Program. Though the number of electric mowers went down, the number of electric leaf blowers purchased and rebated increased.
- The Energy Audit Program continued with 22 participants receiving a no-cost comprehensive energy audit through BGE’s Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program.
- The Green Team’s Energy subgroup hosted an Energy Expo at the Senior Center in October. This event was the first of its kind and the kickoff to a new annual expo where energy efficiency and renewables are the focus.
- Solar panels were installed at an additional 167 additional buildings within the City, both residential and commercial.
- The Department of Community Services partnered upgraded the outdoor LED lighting at the Kenhill Center, continuing their journey of upgrading all facility indoor and outdoor lights to LEDs.
- Community Services also added an e-bike station to City Hall for staff. There are currently three electric bikes that staff can take training for and then utilize for local trips as an alternative to vehicle.
- The Grants Office funded 15 participants in the Single-Family Rehab Program, focused on weatherization of low or moderate-income (LMI) households or senior homes.
- The City continued its participation in the Demand Response program, where we curtail energy use on high usage days at three facilities, saving over 2 million kilowatt hours of electricity usage.
- The City contracted with a consultant to create an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) through a grant provided by the Department of the Energy. The EECS was completed in December of 2024 and Phase II, the ASHRAE Level II building audits, started in June of 2025. This project will be completed in early FY26 and will provide a workplan for both City Hall and the Kenhill Center for bringing them into MD BEPS compliance.

FY25 State of the Environment

- The Solar Farm, a 2.5-megawatt solar farm on City-owned property that provides energy to the grid through a power purchase agreement (PPA), puts energy to nine different City accounts. Another 2.5-megawatt array is slated for breaking ground during FY26.



- The City-owned solar panels generated over one million kilowatt hours, which offset an number of emissions equal to 12,683 trees that have grown for 10 years (image above).

Health and Wellness

- The annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k hosted upwards of 300 people. This is a very popular City-sponsored event that seeks to celebrate veterans while prioritizing hosting sustainable events and community wellness. It is a fun-run and walk and is open to all.
- The staff Wellness Committee, led by Human Resources, hosted its annual Walk This Way employee walking challenge with 39 teams, and hosted a series of yoga workshops to promote mindfulness for City staff, in addition to their annual Employee Wellness Fair.
- New this year for staff was a Bracket Battle challenge for staff to participate in NCAA March Madness and promote basketball, movement, and camaraderie.
- The Bowie Gym hosted its annual basketball camps and Tiny Tots classes, engaging kids and youth in the City in meaningful, productive ways. New in FY26, there will be tennis camps.
- The Green Team's Wellness subgroup hosted a Zumba and Movie night in the fall at Allen Pond which was well attended. Attendees also did tie-dying on site. This event was created in the spring at the Belair Mansion for a Spring Fling event that had tie-dying, bird feeder making, information tables, yoga, and more.

FY25 State of the Environment

- The City participated in the annual Bike-To-Work Day and partnered with a local Bike repair shop to provide music and snacks to bikers. The event had about 30 riders.
- With the help from consultant, Guide Studio, the Department of Planning and Sustainability developed a Wayfinding Plan for the Bowie Byway. The Byway is from the 2019 Trails Master Plan update and seeks to connect shared-use paths around the City while encouraging place-making through ample signage.
- The City obtained a grant from Sustainable Maryland Certified to fund the procurement of bike racks that will serve key locations in the City. The new racks will help rectify some citing issues at current locations and will expand upon the amount of bike racks in the City. This project will be implemented in late 2025 by the Transportation Planner with help from Community Services and facilities.

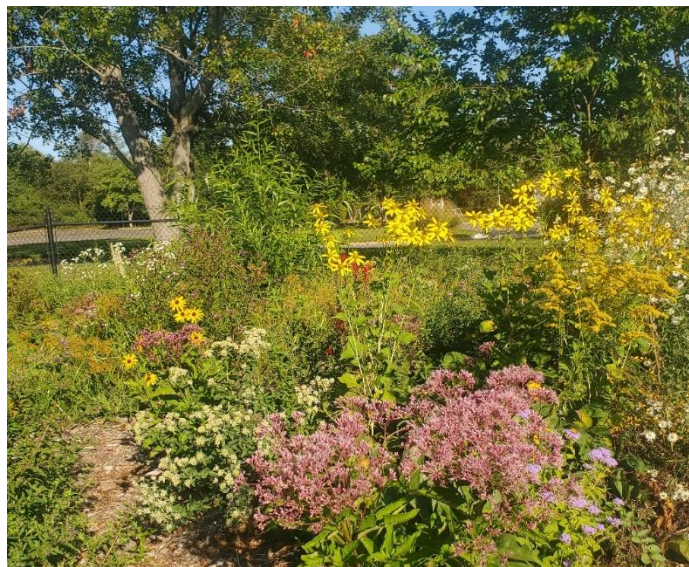


Natural Resources

- The City was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 33 consecutive years as a Tree City USA community. The City has been a part of the foundation since 1992 and hosts the celebration annually at Acorn Hill Park.
- The Plant One Tree on Us program continued with 29 trees planted on 18 private, residential lots. This program did not obtain a contractor to plant the trees for residents, forcing staff to switch tactics to a rebate-based program. The rebate program still did fairly well, and staff will be working on a new Request for Proposals for a contractor in FY26.
- The Green Team's Natural Resources subgroup hosted 15 garden cleanup days for their 4 monarch waystations with upwards of 20 volunteers. They also hosted a Native Plant and Pollinator Drawing Workshop with a local artist, a Pizza Container Garden planting workshop at the Senior Center and hosted a workshop on How to Start a Pollinator Garden.

FY25 State of the Environment

- The City was again recertified as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. We recertify in December of each calendar year.
- Two habitats were added to the certified habitat list of schools, businesses, & homes.
- Work was completed on the ecological landscaping project at the Midwood Lane Stormwater Pond. Staff and 50 volunteers weeded and installed additional plants in the pollinator garden in March of 2025. Contractors planted 100 native trees and 150 native shrubs around the perimeter of the pond and overseeded the turf area with native wildflowers and grasses. Maintenance work will continue on-site, but the active planting has been completed. A showcase event will be held in September of 2025 (FY26) to show off the results. An image of the Midwood Pond Native Garden is below.



Miscellaneous

- Public Works held two special Styrofoam and Paper Shredding events. In November of 2024 they collected 39 lbs. of Styrofoam and 10.28 tons of paper and in June of 2025 they collected 53 lbs. of Styrofoam and 9 tons of paper.
- Public Works held two electronic waste (e-waste) events. In February of 2025 they collected 12.99 tons and in June 2025 they collected an estimated 10.69 tons of electronic waste consisting of things like batteries, monitors, laptops, smart phones, and docking stations.
- The IT department recycled 1,861 lbs. of City-owned electronics.

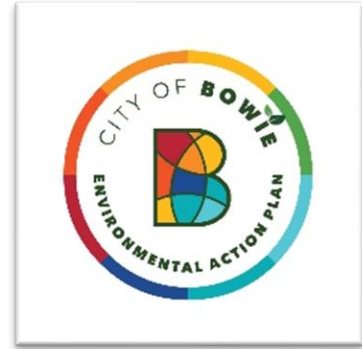
FY25 State of the Environment

- The Police Department participated in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in April 2025, collecting 350 pounds of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications used by humans and pets alike.
- Council passed resolutions recognizing several significant initiatives, including Earth Day, Bike To Work Day, Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, Pollinator Week, and Energy Efficiency Month.
- The battery recycling continued and in fact expanded to allow residents to return old/used batteries. A bin was placed at the front desk at City Hall and at the Senior Center, in addition to the two staff bins in the Police Department and for maintenance staff. In FY25, staff returned 2 full boxes of alkaline batteries through this program, coming in at about 50lbs each.

City Environmental Performance Indicators

Indicator	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Buildings that installed solar panels	80	59	79	105	96	167
Energy audit rebates issued by City	15	4	48	26	23	23
Green (EV or Hybrid) vehicles in City fleet	-	-	-	-	13	14
City-owned electronics recycled (lbs.)	1,216	2,452	2,828	1,530	1,462	1,861
Lawn mower rebates issued	72	78	144	129	131	71
Medications collected at National Prescription Drug Takeback events (lbs., all types)	545	1,013	896	773	346	350
Park trees planted	15	19	15	18	45	10
Street trees planted	200	200	185	202	160	132
Trees planted with Plant One Tree on Us	54	77	91	84	82	29
Stream cleanup participants	No event		211	251	199	111
Trash collected during cleanups (lbs.)	No event		3,930	3,295	2,250	1,840
Weed Warrior Volunteers	36	No events	10	53	25	20
Total refuse collected (tons)	29,556	32,642	29,885	29,740	29,136	28,464
Refuse land filled (tons)	20,267	22,189	20,310	21,032	19,452	20,079
Single Stream Recycling (tons)	9,289	10,452	9,576	8,704	9,864	8,385
Percent of solid waste stream recycled	31	32	32	32	33	29
Tons composted yard waste	3,093	3,095	3,015	2,672	2,322	1,804
Tons composted (curbside food waste)	-	-	-	-	18	9
Tons composted (Kenhill drop-off food waste)	-	-	-	-	7,800	22,950
Food waste program participants added	20	6	10	9	6	2

Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Progress



Over the past several months, the Department of Planning and Sustainability has been diligently working to develop a comprehensive Environmental Action Plan (EAP) to guide our efforts in protecting and enhancing both the built and natural environment. Recognizing that this plan would be narrower in scope than the Sustainability Plan that sunset last year, we began by identifying priority sectors that are most applicable and actionable for a plan of this nature. The five key sectors or focus areas are: transportation and mobility, waste management, green spaces and natural resources, energy efficiency and renewables, and stormwater and green infrastructure. These focus areas were reaffirmed through the resident survey results, which indicated that green spaces and natural resources were the highest priority among respondents.

The EAP will be organized to address both the built and natural environments, allowing us to identify strategies and actions best suited to each. For example, within the built environment under the energy efficiency and renewables category, we may prioritize energy efficiency

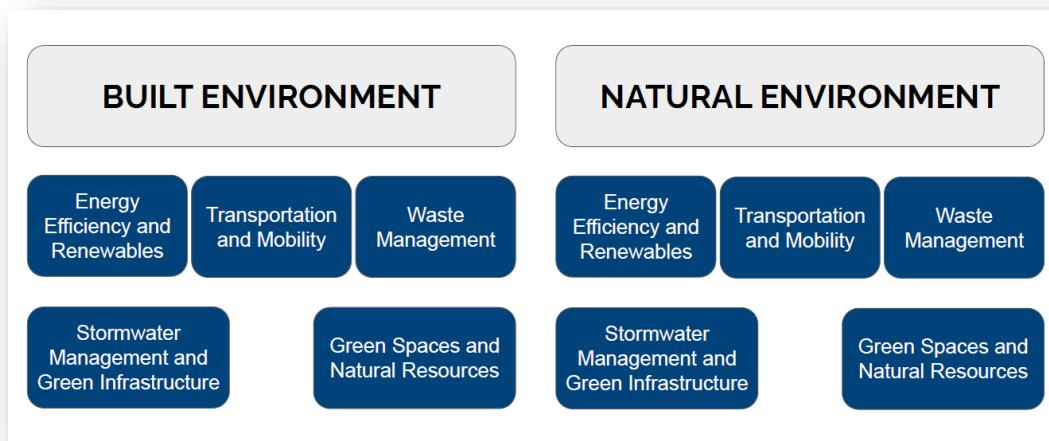


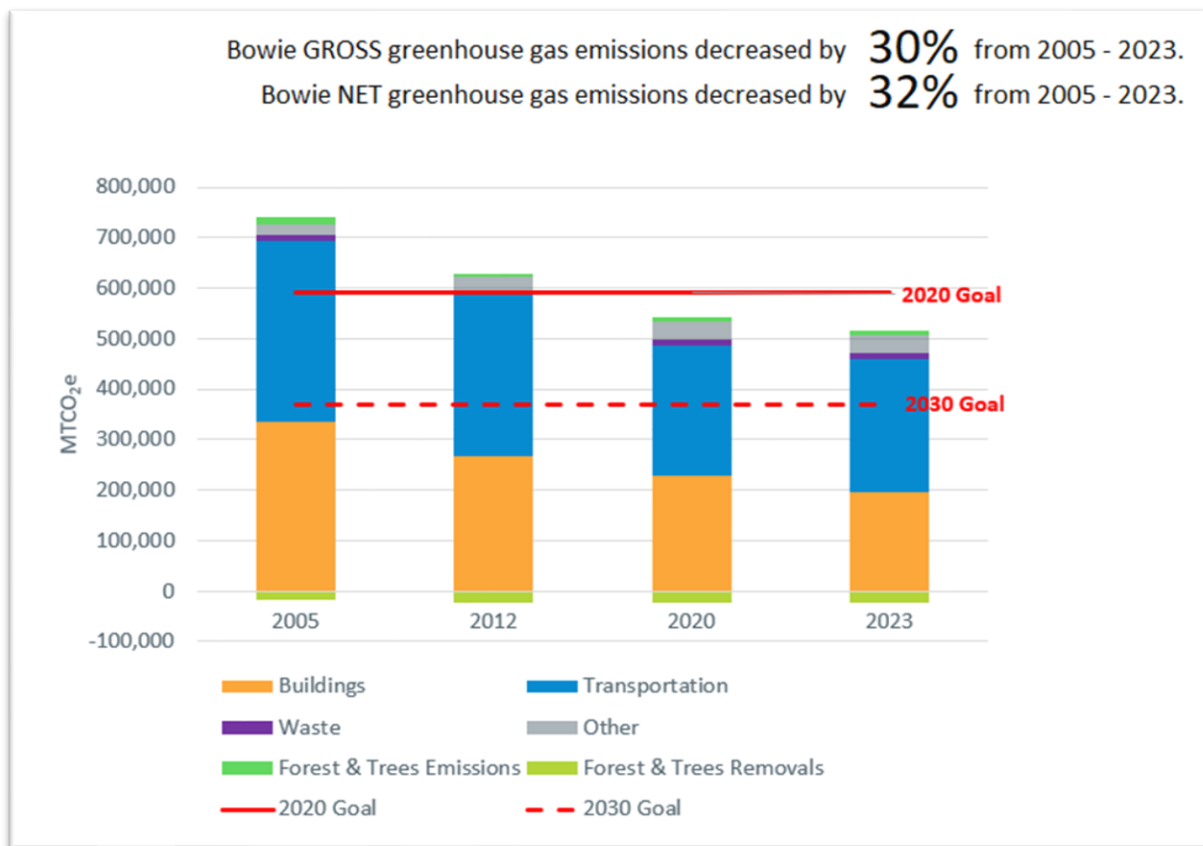
Image courtesy of Blue Strike

upgrades in buildings and create programs or incentives to achieve these goals. Under green infrastructure, we may seek to incorporate practices that reduce urban heat island effects. For the natural environment, priorities may include enhancing the walkability and visibility of pedestrian trails within the transportation and mobility sector.

FY25 State of the Environment

Each sector will include an overarching goal statement, supported by clear strategies, specific actions, and measurable metrics where applicable. In addition, the plan will establish a “north star” goal – a guiding objective for the entire plan – typically focused on reducing community greenhouse gas emissions. This goal is informed by data regarding our emissions from all applicable sectors. This structured approach will enable us to track progress meaningfully across all levels and to communicate impacts clearly to leadership, staff, and the community.

The City receives community-wide greenhouse gas emissions data from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) every two to three years. Recently released draft data shows that the City of Bowie has reduced its emissions by 30% compared to 2005 levels. While we have not yet reached the 2030 goal set by COG, this significant reduction demonstrates transformative progress that will be advanced further through implementation of this plan. The EAP aims to “clean and green” the built environment by reducing its energy use and emissions, while also protecting and enhancing the natural environment to support carbon sequestration and urban resilience. The most recent COG data demonstrating our 30% emissions reduction is provided below.



DRAFT data courtesy of COG

To ensure the Plan’s success, we recognize the importance of staff and resident buy-in. At the outset of this process, we hosted an online survey that garnered 170 responses over a period of one and a half months. We also held an in-person engagement session with approximately 30 residents in attendance. During this session, participants identified macro-level concerns, such as global warming and increased extreme weather events, and discussed how these relate to local issues in Bowie. Attendees then reviewed and prioritized suggested strategies for each sector, engaged in a debrief and Q&A session, and contributed additional ideas in an “idea garden.” All feedback from the survey, in-person session, and consultant meetings with staff and City committees has informed the Plan’s development to date.

Currently, the consultant team is synthesizing all content into a cohesive draft document while working with the project team to refine actions and metrics. Next steps include formatting the draft for leadership and public review, conducting targeted outreach to gather further feedback, and finalizing the plan for adoption in October 2025.



This process has maintained a strong focus on practicality and locality to ensure that the final Environmental Action Plan drives real, measurable improvements in Bowie. A full update on the Plan and its implementation matrix will be included in next year’s State of the Environment Report, which will provide an FY26 update.

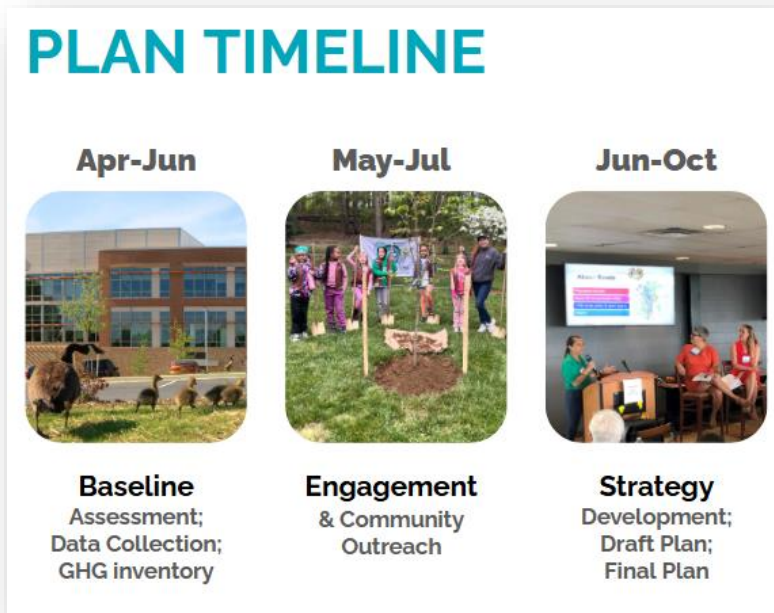


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