

Worksession

Agenda Item #	4
Meeting Date	January 22, 2008
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Reviewed By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Update from the Committee on the Environment
Background	<p>The Committee on the Environment was established by Ordinance 2005-9 to serve in an official advisory/approval role to the City Council on all matters related to environmental protection and preservation.</p> <p>The Committee is defined as having seven to 11 members appointed by the Council. All members must be Takoma Park residents. Board members are appointed for staggered, three-year terms. Terms begin on July 1 and end on June 30. At this time, there are five individuals serving on the Committee. One member, Catherine Tunis, is serving a term which expired on June 30, 2007. Ms. Tunis has indicated her interest in reappointment. There are no other applications pending at this time.</p> <p>Members of the Committee will be present at the January 22 worksession to update the Council on what they have accomplished in the past year and what they have planned for 2008. The Committee last reported to the Council in December 2006.</p> <p>Materials provided by the Committee are attached.</p>
Policy	The Committee on the Environment shall prepare an annual report to the Council on the activities of the Committee and provide additional briefings as needed
Fiscal Impact	None
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on the Environment Roster • Ordinance Establishing the Committee on the Environment • Materials Provided by the Committee on the Environment
Recommendation	Hear the update of the Committee on the Environment
Special Consideration	

Committee on the Environment*
January 2008

Name	Ward	Term Expiration
1. Timothy Male	1	June 30, 2009
2. Albert Nunez	3	June 30, 2008
3. Margaret Robnett	1	June 30, 2008
4. Catherine Tunis	2	June 30, 2007
5. Jonathan Wrotny	1	June 30, 2009
6. Vacant		June 30, 2010
7. Vacant		June 30, 2008
8. Vacant		June 30, 2009
9. Vacant		June 30, 2009
10. Vacant		June 30, 2010
11. Vacant		June 30, 2010

*Seven to 11 members; three year terms.

Introduced By: Councilmember Williams

First Reading: April 11, 2005
Second Reading: April 25, 2005
Effective Date: July 1, 2005

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-9

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE
TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AS A STATUTORY
COUNCIL-APPOINTED COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the City Council established the Committee on the Environment in April, 1992, to provide advice, assistance and guidance to the Council on matters related to environmental protection and preservation; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on the Environment (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) has been active since its creation and has worked on many and various projects including creating the annual Arbor Day celebration and Adopt-A-Tree program, producing a Local Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction funded in part by the US Environmental Protection Agency, promoting energy conservation in City buildings, coordinating Energy Workshops, preparing a successful grant application for solar hot water heaters, developing Green Building Guidelines approved by Council, promoting tree health and preservation and coordinating a Tree Care Workshop, supporting and encouraging good land stewardship and the City’s acquisition of open space lands for habitat preservation, encouraging and promoting healthy watershed functioning, and served to provide technical support for other City efforts such as the Master Plan Advisory Group, the West Nile Virus Task Force, and the Municipal Energy Authority Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Committee is currently treated as a non-statutory committee with original members appointed by Council and subsequent members approved within the Committee; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the permanent nature and long term objectives of the committee, the City Council desires to establish the Committee as a statutory council-established committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND.

SECTION 1. Title 2, Chapter 2.16, of the *Takoma Park Code* is amended to add a new Article 7, Committee on the Environment, as follows:

Article 7. Committee on the Environment

2.16.180 Committee established.

There is hereby established a Takoma Park Committee on the Environment which shall serve in an official advisory/approval role to the City Council on all matters related to environmental protection

and preservation.

2.16.200 Statement of purpose.

The purposes of the Committee shall be as follows:

- A. To advise the City Council on all environmental issues, including but not limited to, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning, energy use and conservation, and recycling.
- B. To review and provide advice on City actions that affect environmental quality, preferably prior to implementation. The Committee may review any work within the City which it has reason to believe may impact environmental quality. This includes resolutions, legislation, regulations, policy, guidance, administrative actions, plans, and program activities that may affect environmental quality.
- C. To educate Takoma Park residents, businesses, and County government on environmental issues and encourage Takoma Park residents, businesses, and County government to choose environmentally beneficial or non-harmful alternatives when available to protect the environment, reduce energy use and limit greenhouse gas emissions.
- D. To convey citizen views on environmental issues to Council and City staff.
- E. To work with City staff on environmental issues and projects.

2.16.210 Committee and Council collaboration, membership, terms of office, structure, and staffing.

- A. Committee and Council Collaboration. The City Council recognizes the need to build environmental considerations into a broad array of City operations and activities. To this end, the Committee will offer advice and counsel as soon as practicable on each applicable issue and will maintain an open dialogue with Council and citizens.
- B. Membership. The Committee shall consist of between seven (7) and eleven (11) persons to be appointed by the Council. Efforts shall be made to have representation from a variety of scientific, technical, and environmental policy disciplines, outreach skills related to environmental science, and with a variety of organizational talents. Members shall attempt to assess environmental issues and protect the environment across the entire City without political bias. Candidates are encouraged to attend meetings and volunteer with the Committee prior to appointment.
- C. Terms of Office. Committee members shall serve renewable three (3) year terms with initial appointments of one, two and three years. All terms shall begin on July 1

and end on June 30. Midterm vacancies will be filled as needed.

D. Structure.

1. The Committee shall organize to accomplish its purposes, and elect from its members a Chair and other officers as it shall deem necessary.
2. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly or as often as required to fulfil its responsibilities.
3. All meetings shall be open to the public and are subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Law. Meeting notices and agendas shall be prepared and submitted to the City Clerk and posted in advance of any Committee meeting in accordance with state law. Written records of Committee proceedings shall be maintained. An oral or written report on the activities of the Committee shall be submitted to the Council at least once a year.
4. A Committee meeting shall not be an “official” meeting unless a majority of the members are present.

E. Staffing and Resources. The City Manager or his or her designee shall provide appropriate staff support and funding to support the Committee’s activities. The City Manager shall make available City communication vehicles to the Committee, such as the newsletter, website, and cable television programming as needed.

2.16.220 Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee.

The Committee shall advise and assist the Council in developing and implementing policies to protect and preserve the environment in Takoma Park. In furtherance of these duties, the Committee shall attempt to accomplish the following:

- A. Assist the Council in the development of policies and programming that address the environmental concerns of the community.
- B. Proactively promote environmental issues and projects based on the technical expertise of Committee members.
- C. Assist the Council in technical and policy direction and in setting priorities for environmental projects.
- D. Review and provide advice on any City actions, prior to, during, and after implementation, that it has reason to believe may affect environmental quality. These actions include resolutions, legislation, regulations, policy, guidance, administrative actions, plans, and program activities that may affect environmental quality. The Committee shall make recommendations or give direction for alternatives to change City actions to actions that are likely to improve

environmental outcomes.

- E. Educate Takoma Park residents on environmental issues and actions to promote environmental quality.
- F. Keep abreast of what other communities are doing to promote environmental protection and preservation.
- G. Prepare an annual report to the Council on the activities of the Committee and provide additional briefings as needed.

SECTION 2. The term expiration chart set forth in Section 2.16.010.C of the *Takoma Park Code* for membership of statutory Council-appointed committees is amended to add the Committee on the Environment as follows:

Committee	Term Length (Years)	Expiration
Committee on the Environment (§ 2.16.180 <i>et seq.</i>)	3	June 30

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be effective on July 1, 2005.

Adopted this 25th day of April, 2005, by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

**Takoma Park Committee on the Environment
Presentation to Council
January 22, 2008**

Topics to address tonight:

- 1) Climate Change
2000 Local Action Plan (*Local Action Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, <http://www.takomapark.info/library/reference/environment/greenhouse.pdf>)
Options for Future Action
- 2) Stormwater Programs for Private Property
- 3) Mercury Switch Removal Legislation
Council Support

Climate Change:

2000 Action Plan (*Local Action Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, <http://www.takomapark.info/library/reference/environment/greenhouse.pdf>)

-Approved by Resolution, “accepting the work completed by the Takoma Park Climate Change Task Force, endorsing the goal of reducing Takoma Park’s greenhouse gas emissions to eighty percent of the 1990 levels by 2010, and expressing an intention to work toward implementing, ... the City intends to implement the Local Action Plan..., AND ... City staff are directed to seek funding to support implementation of the Action Measures proposed in the Local Action Plan.” (March, 2000)

-Goal: By 2010, reduce CO2 emissions to 80% of 1990 levels.

-Recommendations:

Municipal Government Sector

-Current / Existing Actions That Affect Energy Consumption

-Takoma Park Municipal Electric Utility (attempted w Task Force)

-Street Lighting (was legislative barrier, watching Kensington effort)

Commercial/Residential Sectors:

-Shared Energy Savings for Apartments, Commercial and Institutional Buildings (low key outreach, plan 3/11/08 public meeting)

-Solar Photovoltaics Program (applied for grants for schools and Comm. Ctr, received but did not use \$16 K for CC)

-Green Power Group Purchasing Program (legislative barrier)

-Public Information Dissemination (did not hire coordinator, COE did provide variety of articles in Newsletter, handouts at Arbor Day, etc.)

-Revolving Loan Fund Program (not done)

-Group Purchasing Program for Energy-Efficient Technologies (not done, still citizen interest)

-Efficiency Upgrades at Building Sale Transfer (not done)

Natural Resources Sector:

-Current Energy Savings Actions (continue to support tree ordinance/planting/Arbor Day, need to reinforce protection/planting efforts)

-Educate About Tree Selection, Planting, and Maintenance (ongoing, need more)

-Educate about Trees and Parking Lot Heat Islands (microclimate study, need more outreach)

-Plant Trees in Median Strips of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard (not done)

-Build Bio-retention Areas and Plant Trees to Slow Storm Water (starting)

-Permeable Surfaces for Streets and Driveways in New Construction (not done)

-Larger Tree Boxes for New Plantings (?)

Waste Sector:

-Pay-As-You-Throw Trash Service (not done, politically difficult)

-Adopt and Enforce County Business Recycling Ordinance in City (not done)

-Expand Plastic Recycling Program (several attempts, some progress, market barriers)

Transportation Sector:

-Cleaner Municipal Fleet of Vehicles (some progress ??)

- Vehicles Scrappage Program (not done)
- Promote Alternative Modes of Transportation (?)
- Improve Transit Information (bus map published, WMATA starting)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (new bike racks installed Old Town and CC)

Accomplishments:

- Signed Mayors' Agreement
- Sustainable Building Guidelines (passed in 1999, revised in 2001)
- Participate in ICLEI Maryland meetings and National conferences
- Microclimate weather study demonstrated reduced ambient temperatures due to trees, 1999
- Regular tree outreach (should continue and increase)
- Protective tree ordinance (still losing tree cover)
- Purchase of wooded lands for preservation (need invasives/trash removal)
- Energy efficiency in City buildings (30% reduction)
- Wind energy supplies 5% of government building electricity
- Three solar-powered park and path lighting systems
- 18% of vehicle fleet hybrid or alternative fueled
- Using 20% biodiesel in all City trucks and County fire trucks
- Support for Corn Stove Cooperative
- Comprehensive weekly curbside recycling program for households (includes all papers, bottles & cans and green (yard) waste)
- Drop-off for used motor oil, antifreeze, and compact fluorescent bulbs
- Annual Arbor Day event with hundreds of tree seedlings to citizens
- Composting leaves and producing mulch for pick up or delivery
- Installing rain gardens in City parks to improve water quality
- Annual rain barrel workshop for home use (3 workshops so far)
- Annual collection of used electronics
- Stormwater system utility fee (including tax-exempt)
- Annual cleaning and TV inspection of 1/3 of sewer system and maintenance and installation of new structures
- Working toward green roof on pebbled courtyard
- Watching Kensington progress on streetlight purchase
- Energy Star for Small Business and Congregations session, 3/11/08

Barriers:

- Resources
- Staff time
- Volunteer time
- Some legislative, organizational issues

New Proposed Actions

City Government

- 1) Conserve energy
- 2) Hire Climate Coordinator
- 3) Update Inventory

- 4) Hand out City Green Building Guidelines to every potential developer
- 5) Practice green building in new construction/renovations
- 6) Continue participation with ICLEI national and Maryland
- 7) Coordinate/cooperate with county climate change action efforts¹
- 8) Coordinate with/request assistance from State agencies and Governor's Climate Committee
- 9) Explore expansion of County green building requirements; discuss implementation with DPS
- 10) Electric Zenn cars (\$12,750-17,600) or Dynasty Electric cars (~\$20 K) for low speed applications
- 11) Follow up on Green Building Day
- 12) Facilitate Citizen and Business actions, City Green Building expert
- 13) Stop Manisionization: Propose requirements, work with County
- 14) Climate tax to fund initiatives²
- 15) Promote green redevelopment of NH Ave. corridor
- 16) Stormwater management requirements
- 17) Conduct tree inventory on private property
- 18) Re-examine Municipal Energy Authority
 - Meet with Public Service Commission
 - Pursue municipal electric aggregation (opt out)
 - Energy audits/efficiency for citizens program
- 19) Reexamine various other recommendations in original Plan
- 20) Update Local Action Plan

Private Citizens

- 1) Mentoring, support groups (meetings, list serve)
- 2) Map of local green building features
- 3) Rainscapes program
- 4) Implement conservation measures, including weatherization
- 5) Learn about and buy energy efficient appliances
- 6) Sign up for green power/Clean Energy Rewards program

Businesses

- 1) Join Energy Star for Small Business and Congregations
- 2) Tour of local green building(s)
- 3) Implement cool roofs, solar
- 4) Energy conservation—weatherization and efficiency

¹ Both current and new proposals. New legislative proposals include: EPA energy star standards for new residential and commercial construction, home energy audits at the time of sale for residential properties, low carbon gasoline at retail stations County-wide (when available), increased fuel economy standards and use of biofuels for County vehicle fleet, elimination (or justification for use) of SUVs in the County fleet, development of a Renewable Energy Action Plan, including exploration of creating a Sustainable Energy Utility, property tax credits for solar and geothermal energy uses, inclusion of climate change as factor in drafting of County, Planning Board's master and sector plans, new Office of Ratepayer Advocate to advocate for the lowest energy rates consistent with environmental stewardship, conversion of the current energy tax into a carbon tax and joining an emissions "cap and trade" program.

² Green Building group idea.

- 5) COG recommendations re materials reuse
- 6) Hot water/HVAC installers learn about and promote more efficient equipment
- 7) Purchase green power

=> Committee requests Team of Councilmembers to work on priorities/budget allocation/implementation

Stormwater Programs for Private Property

- Rain Barrel Workshops
- Partner with Rainscapes
(<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DEP/Rainscapes/home.html>)
 - Technical assistance
 - Rain barrel workshops
 - Training for landscape contractors
 - County funds for homeowner grants/rebates for rain gardens (max. \$1,200/\$5,000), rain barrels (max. \$50 x 4), green roof (min. 350 sf or ¼ of area, max. \$1,200/\$5,000), permeable paver retrofit (min 150/450 sf, max. \$1,200/\$5,000), tree planting (max. \$200), conservation landscaping (min. 500/1,000 sf, max 25% up to \$500/\$5,000),
 - Targeted Neighborhood Approach: new this year, if neighbors agree, contractor is hired to implement stormwater retrofits for neighborhood
 - County funds are unavailable to municipalities

=> Does Council wish to pursue MOU, set City funds for grants and/or contracts? If so, how much and for what activities? Would Council like the Committee to make recommendations or work with County and City staff to draft an MOU?

- Stormwater Mapping
- Impervious Surfaces code

=> Does Council wish to have City pursue stormwater mapping? Does Council wish to pursue development of code to limit impervious surfaces? If so, what role would Council like the Committee to play?

Mercury Switch Removal Legislation

- Proposing legislation for third year
- Requires removal of mercury-containing switches from end-of-life vehicles
- Auto manufacturers required to pay \$5 bounty and \$1 administration per switch
- Voluntary program collected 0 switches in 2006 (0%), 860 switches in 2007 (4%)
- 2008 bills raise bounty and shorten timeframe for implementation

=> **Committee requests Council support, resolution, testimony**

RESOLUTION # 2000-15

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

PROPOSED

LOCAL ACTION PLAN FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park, Maryland is a member of the Cities for Global Climate Protection Campaign of the International Cities for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) because of a core belief in building a community that is environmental sustainable and livable; **AND**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park, Maryland was awarded a grant from ICLEI to prepare an inventory and analysis of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions within Takoma Park and develop a community-wide plan for reducing these emissions to 80% of 1990 levels; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Climate Change Action Plan Task Force has prepared a report documenting their work on these tasks; **AND**

WHEREAS, the proposed Action Measures lead to reductions in pollutants that produce greenhouse gases and global warming; **AND**

WHEREAS, the proposed Action Measures can also lead to saving money, creating jobs, strengthening the local economy, and increasing livability of our community; **AND**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has a desire to promote saving energy, reducing pollutants, enhancing environmental quality, lowering costs, and reducing climate change; **AND**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has already taken a number of steps toward implementing some of the Action Measures;

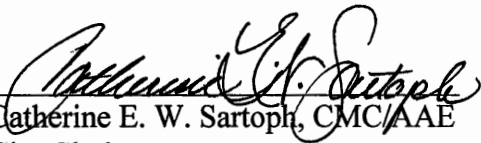
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the City Council adopts the Takoma Park proposed Local Action Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, thereby accepting the work completed by the Takoma Park Climate Change Task Force, endorsing the goal of reducing Takoma Park's greenhouse gas emissions to eighty percent of the 1990 levels by 2010, and expressing an intention to work toward implementing the Action Measures proposed in the Plan and achieving that goal; **AND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the City intends to implement the Local Action Plan as appropriate and supports further implementation planning; **AND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT City staff are directed to seek funding to support implementation of the Action Measures proposed in the Local Action Plan.

ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2000.

ATTEST:



Catherine E. W. Sartoph, CMC/AAE
City Clerk

TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Proposed

LOCAL ACTION PLAN FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

February, 2000

TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
LOCAL ACTION PLAN FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

by

Bob Gibson (Energy Subcommittee)

Background

This plan was developed upon the request of the City Council, which recognizes that the burning of carbon-based fossil fuels is contributing to climate change on a global scale and is causing deterioration of environmental conditions on a local scale. Left unchecked, the local impacts of climate change could include higher electricity consumption (to cool buildings in longer, hotter summers), local flooding, potable water contamination, increased air pollution, and resulting greater human health problems. The Council opted to develop a plan to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in Takoma Park, with the hope that this plan may serve as a model for other communities in the region and beyond.

With the support of the ICLEI grant, the authors (collectively referred to as the Global Warming Action Plan Task Force) focused on establishing a baseline of energy use for purposes of measuring change, forecasting energy usage in 2010 if no action was taken to reduce emissions, and outlining of a series of pragmatic, measurable steps that might be taken to favorably impact energy use and reduce CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions.

Past Action

In the past, Takoma Park has taken concrete steps to conserve energy and introduce the use of alternative energy sources that do not contribute to air pollution and climate change. These steps included energy efficiency upgrades at the municipal building in 1996, the pilot use of compressed natural gas for city vehicles, an aggressive recycling program (reducing contribution to waste stream), and progressive efforts to maintain tree cover and preserve green space (providing local natural absorption of CO₂ as well as other pollutants).

In the early and mid-1990s, utility rebates to encourage the use of energy efficient heating and cooling systems and other demand side management programs had a positive impact throughout the city. While these steps, combined with municipal action, caused a measurable drop in the consumption

TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
LOCAL ACTION PLAN FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

of energy in Takoma Park from 1990 to 1995, (revealed in research conducted for this study), that reduction has since been erased as utility conservation efforts lapsed and the appetite for energy in all sectors continues to rise.

Where We Are Today

Excluding the (unfortunately significant) contribution from flow-through traffic, which is outside the immediate control of the City, Takoma Park currently produces about 350,000 tons of CO₂ a year from energy consumption, or nearly 15 tons per resident.

The single greatest source of CO₂ is the use of electricity (51 percent of the total), followed by gasoline (30 percent) and the use of natural gas (12 percent). Other measurable energy sources of CO₂, ranging from three to less than one percent, are diesel, heating oil, propane and compressed natural gas.

The greatest sources of CO₂ by end-use are the commercial sector (which includes municipal use and the tiny industrial activity within the City) at 40 percent; followed by transportation at 34 percent and residential at 25 percent. A fourth category, waste, produced less than one percent.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the plan now presented to Council is to reduce CO₂ emissions in Takoma Park to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2010. The task force believes this goal can be achieved through action primarily in the following areas:

- Continued and renewed efforts to conserve energy use;
- Leadership in switching from a reliance on coal-fired electricity generation to cleaner natural gas and very low or emission-free renewable generation from fuel cells, biomass, wind and solar;
- Increased use of transportation alternatives to the internal combustion engine, including mass public transportation, walking, bicycles, and low-emission and alternatively fueled vehicles;
- Increased protection of green spaces and tree planting; and

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- Increased recycling, perhaps through as Pay-As-You-Throw program.

Near-term Priorities

For the plan to be successful, the City Council should consider taking action on two fronts: 1) launching a high-visibility, high-impact CO₂ reduction initiative, and, 2) supporting that initiative and the ongoing work of the volunteer committee with a public information campaign. It is suggested that the city pursue grant funding to support these actions.

The area for the greatest positive impact of municipal and citizen action is in changing the way we make and use electricity. It is the single largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in Takoma Park (and the U.S.) and is produced by the sectors that the municipal government, independently and working with citizens and private business, can make the greatest near-term impact.

Two potential CO₂ reduction actions offer particular reward. If successful, both will reduce energy use, lower carbon emissions and save money for the consumer and the city:

1. Creation of a municipal electric utility to take advantage of the deregulation and competition opening in Maryland in 2000. Among the steps a municipal utility in Takoma Park could take are to: 1) purchase electricity for municipal loads from sources that offer power from cleaner generation than PEPCO currently does; and 2) to provide access to renewable power and energy conservation/efficiency technologies for citizens.
2. Offer the commercial sector (which includes apartment buildings) attractive access to cost-effective energy efficiency improvements in buildings. These might include energy service performance contracting and group purchases of energy efficiency upgrades.

Finally, we must build public awareness. Educating the public about the choices and consequences of energy use is critical to success of individual initiatives and the ability to meet the 2010 goal. Achieving this ambitious goal of reducing CO₂ emissions to 80% of the 1990 baseline is doable, but only if everyone comprehends the problem and the potential consequences and puts in an honest sincere effort to do their part.

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RainScapes Rewards!

**For your yard...
your watershed...
your community**



2008 RainScapes Natural Drainage Project Rebate Application



Residential RainScapes Natural Drainage Project Grant Application

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection RainScapes Program is seeking residential, commercial and private institutional property owners to improve stormwater runoff conditions on their property by installing more natural drainage projects. These projects are designed to slow rainwater runoff and reduce the amount of stormwater entering local streams, increase groundwater supply, and reduce chemical and nutrient pollutants entering waterways. Other environmental benefits of these projects include reduced energy consumption and air pollution from lawn mowers, reduced water use for irrigation during droughts, and increased biodiversity in the suburban landscape. Importantly, these unique landscaping enhancements can ultimately add value to the property.

About the Program

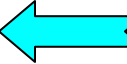
The RainScapes Rewards rebate program is effective beginning January 1, 2008. Projects that have been completed prior to January 1, 2008 are not eligible. Financial rewards will be granted for the **installation of rain gardens, rain barrels, the replacement of turf grass with conservation landscaping utilizing native plants, the replacement of existing impervious cover with permeable pavers, the creation of new tree canopy, and green roofs.**

Single family residential property owners are offered a financial reward of a maximum of \$1,200 per residential lot, dependent on project type and actual costs. Multi-family, commercial, and private institutional land owners are offered a financial reward of \$.46 cents per square foot of impervious area treated, with a maximum of \$5,000 per property. The reward amount is established by project type, as described in the project application, and excludes taxes. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as funds are limited. RainScapes Rewards rebates will be processed until funds are depleted.

Who Is Eligible

- To participate, your property must be located in Montgomery County, outside of the municipal limits of the City of Rockville, City of Takoma Park, or City of Gaithersburg¹.
- Projects are **not** eligible if they are associated with permit approval requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- All requirements as outlined below, in the application, and in the *Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility* (attached) must be met. All decisions are final and are at the sole discretion of the Department of Environmental Protection.

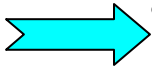
Requirements

- Follow the three steps listed below. Only complete applications submitted with all required information will be processed.
- **A signed RainScapes Rewards Property Owner Agreement is required.**
- A preliminary site inspection to confirm eligibility is required **before you begin.** 
- Applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits.
- When the RainScapes landscape renovation project is completed, a final inspection is required

- Prior to final inspection, all itemized receipts, installation/contractor bills, etcetera, covering all project costs, must be submitted to receive the rebate. Documented project costs must equal or exceed the rebate amount requested.
- Projects must be installed within six months of the preliminary inspection date.
- The applicant must agree to participate in public outreach activities associated with the RainScapes project, including allowing DEP to place signage, take and use photos, and completing a follow-up evaluation. Please see application and note at the bottom of this page for information about project tours.

STEP ONE – The Application

- Complete and sign the application form.
- Compile all necessary documentation outlined in the application.
- Be sure that you have the latest version of the *Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility*
- Take a “before” photo of the proposed project area (up to six photos may be submitted).
- Submit the application, photos, and required documentation.
- **Wait to receive application approval from the Department of Environmental Protection before beginning the project (Allow three weeks for processing).**



STEP TWO – Before You Begin the Project

When your application has been approved:

- You will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection and the preliminary site inspection will be scheduled (optional for rain barrels).
- For rain gardens, turf conversions, and permeable paver retrofit projects, you must contact MISS UTILITY and have the project area marked prior to site inspection.
- Upon verification of eligibility, you may begin your project.

STEP THREE – After You Finish the Project

- Call the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule a final inspection
- At the final inspection, correct installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
- **Itemized receipts and/or final invoice for all project costs are required.**
- If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the County Department of Finance within three to six weeks.

NOTE about Project Tours

The application includes a question about voluntary participation in tours of the RainScape projects conducted by DEP. Project tours will help DEP educate others about the benefits and beauty of these projects, and we ask that RainScapes Rewards project participants agree to allow reasonable access to the project site for periodic tours organized by the County. The County will provide notice of at least five (5) business days before undertaking any project tour. A County employee will be present at all times during the tours and tour participants will be required to execute a waiver releasing the property owner from any liability for damages or injuries resulting from the tours.



THANK YOU for your interest and participation in the RainScapes Program!





Rebate Application – Rain Garden

Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Building Type: Residential Commercial Other _____

Maximum Rebate: \$1,200 residential; \$5,000 commercial, multi-family, institutional

Physical Description of Location of Rain Garden (e.g., back of house on the right, front of house on left side of driveway, etc.)

Distance from building and/or driveway/road:

Size and Dimensions of Rain Garden

Size (sq.ft.): _____ Dimensions: _____

Drainage Test Pit: Yes ____ time to drain: _____
No ____ Why?

Drainage Area to Rain Garden

Total Drainage Area (sq.ft.): _____ Offsite Drainage to Project (sq.ft.): _____

Square Feet and % of Residential Paved Area
(sidewalk, driveway, patio, etc.):

Square Feet and % of Grass:

Square Feet and % of Rooftop:

Square Feet and % of Roadway:

Materials Quantities (please attach a detailed planting plan)

Soil Mix and Provider:

Mulch:

# of plants by size and type: Trees Shrubs Herbaceous	Other: (stone, underdrain, pipe, etc.)
Project Cost	
Please estimate your rain garden costs, including soil mix and mulch (itemized receipts are required upon project completion). If you are using a contractor, include project bid/estimate.	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
Installation: _____ do it yourself; _____ contractor; _____ watershed group	
If you are using a contractor or watershed group, please provide the following information:	
Name of Contractor/Group:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
Project Site Photos (Before Shots)	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _____ Yes _____ No	

I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program
255 Rockville Pike, suite 120
Rockville, MD 20855**

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Rowe:

Phone: 240-777-7714 E-mail: pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov



Rebate Application – Rain Barrel

Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Building Type: Residential Commercial Other _____

Maximum Rebate: \$50 per barrel, max 4 barrels per household

Physical Description of Location of Rain Barrel (e.g., back of house on the right, front of house on left, etc.)	
Size (gal) and Make of Rain Barrel	
Size:	Brand/Make:
Where will you obtain your rain barrel?	
Roof Drainage Area to Rain Barrel	
Drainage Area Going to Barrel (sq.ft.):	% of Building's Roof (e.g. ¼, ½...):
Drainage Issues	
Does your house have a basement and/or a sump pump?	
If so, have you ever experienced basement flooding, or does your pump run regularly?	
Rain Barrel Hook Up	
Is this a stand alone barrel, or will there be multiple barrels hooked up?	Where does your roof leader currently drain? Onto the grass _____ Onto the driveway _____ Underground and piped to street _____ Don't know _____

What type and brand of diverter will be used?	Who will be hooking up the barrel?
Rain Barrel Survey link: www.rainscapes.org/	
I have completed the on-line rain barrel survey:	
Yes _____ Date:	No _____ Why?
Note – you must complete the survey in order to receive the rain barrel rebate! To receive a hard copy of the survey, please use the contact information at the end of this application.	
Project Cost	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
Contractor/Installer (if applicable)	
Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
Project Site Photos (Before Shots)	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _ _____ Yes _____ No	

I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

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RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program
255 Rockville Pike, suite 120
Rockville, MD 20855**

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Phone: 240-777-7714 E-mail: pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov



Rebate Application – Green Roof

Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Property Type: Residential Commercial Other _____

Maximum Rebate: \$1,200 residential; \$5,000 commercial, multi-family, institutional

Physical Description of Location of Green Roof, Description of Project Goals, Sequence of Construction, Access for Maintenance, Sun Exposure, etc.

Add separate sheets if necessary

Size (sq.ft.) and Dimensions of Green Roof

Size:

Dimensions:

Planting Depth:

Slope:

Green Roof Installation

Make/Manufacturer of Green Roof System/Components:

Type of System (e.g. integral, modular, etc.)

Please attach a detailed plant list including species, spacing, sizing and plant density.

Size and Condition of Existing Roof

Total Roof Area:

Year Built:

Please provide a description of what you have done to be certain that your roof can support the added weight of the green roof (attach structural analysis report):	
Project Cost	
A detailed budget must be submitted, on separate page, for the entire green roof project, based on actual cost estimates from contractors and/or product suppliers.	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
Contractor/Installer	
Application must include evidence of contractor qualifications to install green roofs, such as references or industry standard training certification (minimum of two classes from Green Roofs for Healthy Cities).	
Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
Project Site Photos (Before Shots)	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program
255 Rockville Pike, suite 120
Rockville, MD 20855**

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Rowe:
Phone: 240-777-7714 E-mail: pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov



Rebate Application – Permeable Paver Retrofit



Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Property Type: Residential Commercial Other _____

Maximum Rebate: \$1,200 residential; \$5,000 commercial, multi-family, institutional

Physical Description Permeable Paver Project Location, Description of Project Goals, Sequence of Construction, Access for Maintenance

Add separate sheets if necessary

Size and Dimensions of Paved Area to be Converted to Permeable Pavers

Size (sq. ft.): _____ Dimensions: _____

Percentage of Total Existing Paved Area: _____

Permeable Paver Installation Plan

What guidance documents or resources are you using to plan your project?	Who will be installing the permeable pavers?
--	--

How will the existing pavement be disposed?	What is the make/manufacturer of the paver system?
Project Cost	
A detailed budget must be submitted, on separate page, for the entire permeable paver project, based on actual cost estimates from contractors and/or product suppliers.	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
Contractor/Installer	
Application must include evidence of contractor qualifications to install permeable paver systems, such as references or industry standard training certification (ICPI, etc.).	
Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
Project Site Photos (Before Shots)	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program
255 Rockville Pike, suite 120
Rockville, MD 20855**

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Rowe:
Phone: 240-777-7714 E-mail: pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov



Rebate Application – Tree Canopy



Name/Property Owner (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Property Address (if not same as above)

Property Type: Residential Commercial Other _____

Maximum Rebate: \$200 per lot

NOTE: Trees must be planted between September 15th and April 30th

Physical Description of Location of New Shade Tree(s), Description of Project Goals, Sequence of Construction, Access for Maintenance, Sun Exposure, etc.

Use sketch if desired; add separate sheet if necessary; don't forget to check for overhead wires or obstructions where you want to plant your tree(s).

Tree Information

What species of tree(s) will you be planting?	Where will you obtain the tree(s)?
What is the size of the tree(s)? Pot size: Height:	Who will be planting the tree(s)?

Caliper size:	
Project Cost	
Please estimate your tree planting costs, including mulch and any other supplies needed (itemized receipts are required upon project completion):	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
Installation: _____ do it yourself; _____ contractor; _____ watershed group	
If you are using a contractor or watershed group, please provide the following information:	
Contractor/Group Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone
	Date:
Project Site Photos (Before Shots)	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _ _____ Yes; _____ No	

I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program
255 Rockville Pike, suite 120
Rockville, MD 20855**

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Rowe:

Phone: 240-777-7714 E-mail: pamela.rowe@montgomerycountymd.gov

What guidance documents or resources are you using to plan your landscape?	How will you dispose of the removed turf?
Project Cost	
Please estimate your conservation landscaping costs, including mulch and any other supplies needed (itemized receipts are required upon project completion):	
Total Cost:	Amount of Rebate Requested:
Installation ___ do it yourself; ___ contractor; ___ watershed group	
If you are using a contractor or watershed group, please provide the following information:	
Contractor/Group Name:	
Address:	
Contractor/Installer Signature:	Phone:
	Date:
Project Site Photos (Before Shots)	
Don't forget to attach, either digitally or hard copy, photos of the project site! (max 6)	
I agree to allow reasonable access to the RainScapes project site for periodic public tours organized by DEP. _ _____ Yes; _____ No	

I have read and agree with all RainScapes Rewards rebate program requirements.

Signature

Date

Phone No. and Email (so that we may contact you if there are any questions)

Please mail the completed application with required information and **wait to receive approval** from the Department of Environmental Protection.

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255 Rockville Pike, suite 120
Rockville, MD 20855**

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Rowe:

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Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility

Issue Date 1/3/08

***** These guidelines and criteria will be periodically updated to ensure currency with latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version! *****

Rain Barrels

- Minimum Size: 55 gals
- Must include:
 - Secure lid and screen for safety and mosquito control
 - Overflow drainage outlet
 - Water access tap
 - Positive drainage away from foundation
 - Solid, level support base
 - See MCDEP Rain Barrel Assembly fact sheet for example of acceptable rain barrel design features

Rain Gardens

(a detailed rain garden installation manual will be developed, these are basic guidelines)

- Only gardens outside of the public right of way will be considered at this time
- Located a minimum of 10' from building, and oriented perpendicular to the direction of flow
- At least 75% of the plants must be native to the ecoregion (or cultivars), based on information provided in:
 - 'Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Maryland Piedmont Region'. US Fish and Wildlife Service. May 2001.
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/nativesMD/info.htm>
 - 'Native Plants for Central Maryland Landscapes, Piedmont and Inner Coastal Plain'. Maryland Native Plant Society. May 1999.
<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/natplantsframe.html>
- Designed to treat, at a minimum, the 1-YR, 24hr storm
- Must be at least 2 ½ ft. deep, with a flat bottom
- Soil mix must conform to MCDPS bioretention specs, or the following locally available mix:
 - 50% sand, 25% organic (Leafgro), 25% topsoil
- Use hardwood shredded mulch
- The bottom of the rain garden must not be compacted during installation – hand equipment, or light-weight machinery shall be used, and the bottom broken up with a rototiller or pick prior to adding soil mix
- No plugs may be used, plant stock should be minimum quart size, gallon size recommended
- A test pit is required to evaluate adequate drainage
 - Conduct the drainage test:
 - Dig a hole at least 2 ft. deep in the location you plan for the rain garden, about a foot or so wide

- Fill the hole with water and monitor the time it takes to drain
- If the hole does not drain completely within 36 to 48 hours, you will need to identify a different location or modify the rain garden to improve drainage. Discuss the options with DEP staff or a qualified contractor

Green Roofs

- Only extensive green roof types will be considered at this time
- Minimum green roof area: 350 sq. ft. OR at least ¼ of roof area
- Green roof must be replacing an existing roof area; rebate will not be granted for expansion of roof footprint
- Roof must be designed with a minimum 4” planting matrix depth and with adequate storage volume to retain a 1-YR 24hr storm event volume
- DEP may request a runoff calculation report for the proposed green roof design.

Permeable Pavers

- Minimum project size: 150 sq.ft. residential; 450 sq.ft. for commercial, multi-family, institutional
- Permeable paver installations must be designed and installed by a certified contractor.
- Projects must be designed for infiltration purposes, in accordance with industry standards, including a storage reservoir. Stone dust is not acceptable.

Shade Tree

- Locational Priorities:
 - Eligibility for Shade Tree planting rebates is targeted to the following areas:
 - The following watersheds targeted through DEPs restoration programs: Rock Creek, Little Falls, the Anacostia, Cabin John, Watts Branch, Muddy Branch, Patuxent
 - Trees must be planted on private property, not within the public right-of-way. Other programs exist to address this need.
 - Plant tree at least 15’ to 20’ away from structures
 - Priority will be given to trees planted to address the following conditions:
 - Lots that lack adequate canopy
 - Shading of existing impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, roads and roofs
 - Erosion control
 - Afternoon shade of building exposures and A/C units
 - Northwesterly wind blocks
- Tree must be not smaller than:
 - A #7 pot
 - 8’ to 12’ tall

- minimum 1” caliper
- The following species will be considered at this time (DEP approval may be requested for others):
 - Willow Oak
 - Swamp White Oak
 - Northern Red Oak
 - Scarlet Oak
 - Black Oak
 - Shingle Oak
 - Little Leaf Linden
 - Sugar Maple
 - Silver Maple
 - Black Gum
 - Hickories (Mockernut, Pignut)
 - Horse Chestnut
 - Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Put 3” to 4” of mulch around tree, extending at least 2’ from trunk, preferably to the dripline
- No weed whacking around trees
- Tree must be tarped (covered) for transportation
- In deer-prone areas, tree-wrap must be used for deer protection (from rubbing of stem)
- Planting Specifications:
 - **Trees must be planted between September 15th and April 30th**
 - Ask your nurseryman/landscaper for advice on the best tree for your site
 - Use planting instructions per nursery guarantee/warranty

Conservation Landscaping

(a detailed conservation landscaping specification is being developed; these are basic guidelines)

- For residential properties, established turf area to be converted must be at least 500 sq. ft.
- For commercial properties, established turf area to be converted must be at least 1,000 sq.ft. AND at least a third of the existing turf area.
- No plastic sheeting (impermeable weed barrier) will be permitted in a turf conversion area.
- A planting plan is required. At least ¾ of the plants must be native plants to this ecoregion or cultivars (see sources under Rain Gardens).
- A mulch layer is required to inhibit weed growth, prevent soil loss, and retain moisture.
- Planting plan must include, at a minimum, information on plant species, container size, number of plants and planting densities, plant material source, soil amendments to be used, and maintenance plan.
- For a good resource, visit: <http://www.envirolandscaping.org/howto.htm>

RainScapes Rewards Property Owner Agreement

between
Montgomery County, Maryland
and

Property Owner: _____

Property Address: _____

This Agreement is between Montgomery County, Maryland (the “County”), a body corporate and politic, and _____ (“Participant” or “Property Owner”), owner of the property located at _____ in _____, Maryland (the “Property”). This Agreement becomes effective once the designated representatives of both the Participant and the County (collectively, the “Parties”) have signed it.

The purpose of the Agreement is to specify the general terms and conditions of the Property Owner’s participation in the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) RainScapes Rewards Program (the “Program”).

Background

1. The County Council has authorized the creation of a rebate program to be administered through DEP. The purpose of the rebate program is to provide financial and other appropriate incentives to residential and commercial property owners to encourage the use of environmentally sensitive, low-impact stormwater runoff control techniques to reduce the impact of uncontrolled stormwater runoff and improve stream water quality in developed areas of the County.
2. Under the Montgomery County RainScapes Rewards Program, the County makes rebate payments available to owners of residential and commercial properties that do not have on-site stormwater management controls, and who install eligible projects to improve runoff conditions, including rain gardens, rain barrels, conservation landscaping, permeable pavers, new tree canopy, and green roofs.
3. The Property Owner has met all applicable eligibility requirements, qualifications, and project standards and criteria as outlined in the DEP RainScapes Rewards Application and the associated application has been approved by DEP on _____.

Mutual Agreements:

The Parties agree as follows:

1. The Property Owner must be responsible for all maintenance associated with any project receiving funding through the Program (the “Project (s)”).
2. The Property Owner must allow representatives of the County to enter the Property to inspect the Project(s) at all reasonable times.
3. The Property Owner must comply with all applicable regulations and warranties associated with the Project(s), including obtaining any necessary permits.

4. The County may make public the results of any program evaluation or data collection, including any photographs, images, or recordings, undertaken by the County in connection with the Program.
5. The Property Owner will allow reasonable access to the project site for periodic tours of the Project(s) organized by the County. The County will provide notice of not less than five (5) business days before undertaking any project tour authorized under this paragraph. A County employee will be present at all times during the tours and tour participants will be required to execute a waiver releasing the Property Owner from any liability for damages or injuries resulting from the tours.
6. The Participant must promptly notify DEP of any change in ownership of the Property after the Parties have executed this Agreement.
7. The Property Owner, by participating in the RainScapes Rewards Program, hereby releases Montgomery County and its agents, officers, directors, or any other persons acting on its behalf from any liability for damages or injuries resulting from its participation in the Program. The Property Owner agrees to indemnify and hold Montgomery County harmless for any injuries, damages, or claims arising from the Program.
8. The Parties acknowledge that by virtue of this Agreement, performances hereunder or otherwise, the County may from time to time have access to certain confidential information of the Participant. To the extent permitted by law, the County must keep all such information confidential and only use the information as allowed under this Agreement.

Total Cost of Project: _____

Total Amount of RainScapes Rewards rebate: _____

Property Owner Social Security # or Taxpayer ID: _____

[NAME OF Property Owner]

For Montgomery County, Maryland

[NAME OF Property Owner]
[MAILING ADDRESS]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850-2540

[Property Owner Signature]

BY: _____
Timothy L. Firestine
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: _____

Date: _____

I hereby affirm that the above named person is legally authorized to enter into contractual agreements on behalf of the above named entity.

Approval Recommended:

BY: _____
Fariba Kasiri, Acting Director
Department of Environmental Protection

By: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency
by the Office of the County Attorney:

Title: _____

Date: _____

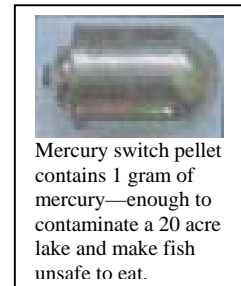
This _____ day of _____ 2007

BY: _____
Walter E. Wilson
Associate County Attorney

Please Support Mercury Switch Removal from Vehicles

The Takoma Park Committee on the Environment has developed proposed legislation that requires removal of mercury-containing light and brake switches (or switch assemblies if the mercury pellets cannot be safely removed) from vehicles older than model year 2003 that are at the end of their useful life and being sent to scrap recycling facilities. If vehicles with mercury-containing switches are sent to the shredder and melted into new steel, the mercury will enter the air and then be washed into our waterways. This legislation requires removal of mercury from scrap vehicles before the mercury can contaminate the environment. It does not affect vehicles still in service. **This legislation could keep more than 400 pounds of mercury from entering the environment each year.** 25 states have mercury switch removal programs.

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries estimates \$3 of labor to remove one switch. Under this legislation, auto manufacturers that installed mercury switches in cars will pay \$3 per switch to auto recyclers and \$1 per switch to the Maryland Department of the Environment to administer the program. Auto recyclers need the certainty that they will get this \$3 as partial compensation for removing and properly managing these switches. The proposed legislation is based on New Jersey's program with a few improvements recommended by NJ DEP.



It takes an auto recycler an average of 48 seconds to remove a switch. Auto manufacturers have a lot of experience in implementing similar programs in other states. They have training materials and a 5 minute training video. (See “The 48 Second Solution” at www.michigan.gov/deqmercuryp2.) These bills provide time for auto manufacturers to develop a plan and implement the program.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that bioaccumulates in the food chain. Mercury in the environment is converted to a much more biologically active form called methylmercury. Humans are exposed to methylmercury primarily by eating fish. It is so easy to get these switches out of vehicles when they are being recycled. We **MUST** do the prudent thing and keep these switches from further contaminating our Chesapeake Bay watershed.

There is a voluntary program that, while better than nothing, will do little, if anything, for Maryland. This program's resources would get only 1% of the switches off the road **NATIONWIDE**. Maryland should be a leader by requiring mercury switch removal from scrap vehicles to protect the health of its citizens and the economy of the Chesapeake Bay.

This legislation has been supported by Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler, the Automobile Recyclers in Maryland, local governments, and environmental groups (Takoma Park Committee on the Environment, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Maryland PIRG, Friends of Sligo Creek).

Please call Maggie McIntosh at 301-858-3990 or 1-800-492-7122, ext. 3990 and ask her to keep toxic mercury from these switches out of the environment.

Contact: Catherine Tunis, 240-305-1642