



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
Green Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ONLINE ONLY

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, the Council Meeting will be held online and is planned to be cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed to www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.

Resident participation:

Join Zoom Webinar

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[pwd=T0tDQjFHMHQxVjN2WFZsVXk4YWpGdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86179774744?pwd=T0tDQjFHMHQxVjN2WFZsVXk4YWpGdz09)**

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**Monday, February 7, 2022
8:00 PM**

Work Session Packet

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES)

Recommendations

Suggested Action:

Reference:

Green ACES Recommendation - 2022-01 Pilot Composting Project with Four Cities
Four Cities Proposal Appendix A - Jurisdiction Hauling Costs to Western Branch

Four Cities Proposal Appendix B - Supporting Rationale
Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-01 Monarch Joint Venture
Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-03-Bird Feeder and Baths Notification
Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-04 -Greenhous Gas Emissions Reduction Goals
Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-06 - Support Counties' Climate Action Plan
Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-02 - Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)
Support
Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-05 - EV and Portable Equipment
Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-01 - Monarch Joint Venture
Green ACES Recommendations - Power Point

Agenda

- Introductions
- Discussion of Recommendations
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

[Green ACES Rec 2022-01 Pilot Composting Project with Four Cities Coalition.pdf](#)

[Four Cities Proposal Appendix A -- Jurisdiction Hauling Costs to Western Branch - PG County \(1-7-22\).pdf](#)

[Four Cities Proposal Appendix B -- Supporting Rationale \(1-7-22\).pdf](#)

[Attachment to Green ACES Rec 2021-01 Monarch Joint Venture.pdf](#)

[Green ACES Rec 2021-03-Bird Feeder and Baths Notification.pdf](#)

[Green ACES Rec 2021-04 --GHG emissions reduction goals.pdf](#)

[Green ACES Rec 2021-06 --Support Counties' Climate Action Plan.pdf](#)

[Green ACES Rec 2021-02 -- TCI Support.pdf](#)

[Green ACES Rec 2021-05 --EV and portable equipment.pdf](#)

[Green ACES Rec 2021-01 Monarch Joint Venture.pdf](#)

[Recommendations to Council PP_2022.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: February 7, 2022

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES)
Recommendations

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Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-05 - EV and Portable Equipment

Green ACES Recommendation - 2021-01 - Monarch Joint Venture

Green ACES Recommendations - Power Point

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Attachments:

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[Recommendations to Council PP_2022.pdf](#)



Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**Date: January 26, 2022
Recommendation #2022-01**

SUBJECT: Proposal for Composting Pilot Project with the Four Cities Coalition

BACKGROUND: In the past several years, the City of Greenbelt has undertaken projects to initiate food waste recycling through composting operations. These projects include a food waste drop-off site at the Recycling Center at Buddy Attick Park; community composting projects at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Fitness and Aquatic Center, and the New Deal Café; promotion of backyard composting; and volunteer food scrap collection at city festivals. This has been accomplished through a collaboration of the Public Works Department and the Zero Waste Circle of the Greenbelt Green Team. Food waste is a significant contributor to climate change, and the U.S. government has defined food waste as a critical environmental and food sustainability issue. Food waste buried in landfills emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming. Landfills are the third-highest cause of methane emissions resulting from human activity in the nation. The Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates a rate of 31 percent food loss at the retail and consumer levels.

The most recent Waste Characterization Study conducted for the Prince George's County landfill found that, of all compostable-capable materials that were landfilled, food waste comprised 54.9 per cent of the total. Food waste also comprised 17.1 per cent of all residential waste deposited at the landfill.

Local jurisdictions can play a significant role in diverting food waste from the landfill by increasing food waste recycling. Greenbelt City Council has declared a climate emergency, and the city can take action on this resolution by increasing its food waste recycling efforts.

One way this can be accomplished is by creating more localized composting capacity. A local composting advocacy group, Composting Municipalities Organizing Now (CMON), is seeking to address this need by implementing a pilot program in the northern section of Prince George's County. CMON proposes establishing a multi-jurisdiction and collaborative community-scale composting processing facility located close to Greenbelt and other north county jurisdictions. The Greenbelt Public Works Department (represented by Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles) is participating in this explorative effort, and other north county municipalities – including members of the Four Cities Coalition – have been involved in discussions.

CMON proposes a small to mid-size facility much smaller than the county's Western Branch Organics Composting Facility. It would process food waste – and possibly yard waste and other compostable materials -- for up to 10,000 households. It would be delivered to the facility by public works crews from participating jurisdictions or by collection contractors. Operations could be managed by contracting with

an experienced composting facility operator, or through a collaboration of shared public works staff from participating municipalities.

The advantages of a more local composting facility include:

- Significantly reducing travel time, staff time, fuel usage, and fuel emissions for food waste hauling. The attached chart (Appendix A) shows an estimate of distance and travel time for several north county towns to the Western Branch facility. For Greenbelt, the round-trip distance to Western Branch from the Public Works building is 42 miles with an estimated average trip time of one hour.
- Reduced fee potential for jurisdictions by setting the food waste tipping rate lower than the landfill rate. The recent increase in tipping fees at the County's Brown Station Road landfill is likely to be an incentive for municipalities to divert more waste from the landfill. (Note: the standard tipping rate was raised from \$59 per ton to \$70 per ton, effective October 1, 2021).
- Promoting greater public awareness among residents by creating a localized hub for community education on composting and food waste reduction.
- Easy access to quality finished compost for participating towns and residents to use in public landscaping and residential gardening, with the associated benefit of supporting soil health in each community. This offers an example of a circular ecological loop – food waste processed locally and returned to the community as a valuable resource.

The Four Cities Coalition offers a governmental and administrative vehicle to implement this project as a multi-jurisdiction, collaborative effort. Three of the four cities (Greenbelt, College Park, and Berwyn Heights) already have instituted food scrap drop-off programs. CMON, in collaboration with Compost Crew (a locally-owned food scrap recycling business), gave a presentation on this idea at the Four Cities meeting in July 2021.

A collaborative effort among multiple jurisdictions presents opportunities for cost-sharing, additional leverage in seeking grants, and greater public visibility. It can serve as a model for cooperation among jurisdictions to achieve mutually desirable goals amid a challenging crisis. It also offers a vision for a more localized and distributive food waste collection and composting network that supplements the centralized Western Branch operation, and reduces the environmental costs associated with hauling to the more distant location. Recognizing the value of composting, Sustainable Maryland is adding a new Composting Action category to its certification program.

Green ACES and the Green Team believe that it is time to begin full-scale exploration of this pilot program idea with the Four Cities Coalition. A community-oriented facility such as this will provide opportunities and incentives for both towns and individual residents to take more easily accessible actions to mitigate climate impacts.

RECOMMENDATION: Green ACES and the Green Team recommend that City Council authorize the City of Greenbelt to undertake formal discussions with the Four Cities Coalition to explore possibilities for establishing a collaborative composting facility serving and in close proximity to member jurisdictions of the Four Cities Coalition, and possibly other nearby municipalities in the northern section of Prince George's County.

Further rationale for this recommendation is attached in Appendix B, which lists studies and reports that provide additional supporting information.

Appendix A: Estimated Jurisdiction Hauling Costs to Western Branch

Jurisdiction	Roundapp Trip Miles to Western Branch*	Driver Pay**	FEMA Dump Truck Rate***	Cost per Hour	Cost per Minute	Round Trip in Minutes****	Total Cost per Trip (Driver, Truck)*****
Berwyn Heights	44	\$36.19	\$42.25	\$78.44	\$1.31	70	\$ 91.70
College Park	48	\$36.19	\$42.25	\$78.44	\$1.31	75	\$ 98.25
Greenbelt	42	\$36.19	\$42.25	\$78.44	\$1.31	60	\$ 78.60
Hyattsville	39	\$36.19	\$42.25	\$78.44	\$1.31	80	\$ 104.80
New Carrollton	37	\$36.19	\$42.25	\$78.44	\$1.31	60	\$ 78.60
University Park	48	\$36.19	\$42.25	\$78.44	\$1.31	80	\$ 104.80

Notes

*Mileage estimates based on Google Maps designation of shortest travel-time route, leaving around 12 noon on weekdays. Starting point used is based on the address of the public works facility in each jurisdiction.

**Driver pay rate shown is for College Park and is used for example purposes only. Each jurisdiction listed will have its own driver pay rate.

***FEMA truck rate is the rate used by the Federal Emergency Management Administration to reimburse jurisdictions for costs incurred during declared emergencies, and serves as the cost guide here.

****Round trip minutes estimates based on average of Google Maps designation of typical shortest and longest time range, leaving around 12 noon on weekdays. (Example: College Park is listed as “typically 28 - 45 minutes” one way – or a rounded average of 37 minutes – and 74 minutes round trip).

*****This column reflects hauling costs only, and does not include tipping fees.

APPENDIX B

Supporting Rationale for Recommendation

- Local jurisdictions can play a significant role in diverting food waste from landfills by implementing food waste collection programs.
- Greenbelt can save money on tipping fees by diverting food waste from the landfill. As an example, the standard tipping rate at the Western Branch composting facility is \$45 per ton as compared to \$70 per ton (as of October 1, 2021) at the Brown Station Road landfill.
- The expanded definition of small-scale composting in the Zoning Rewrite Ordinance adopted by the Prince George's County Council in 2018 offers potential to develop more localized composting infrastructure in proximity to Greenbelt, and thereby increase capacity for processing residential food waste.
- Through composting, food waste can be turned into a valuable soil amendment that can remain in the local community to enrich soil in public spaces, tree beds, community gardens, and residential yards.
- Numerous local and national models for food waste recycling already exist, and offer potential application to Greenbelt's needs.
- Climate scientists, U.S. government studies, and international panels state that the next decade is a critical time for putting significant actions in place to mitigate the worst possible effects of climate change. The 2019 United Nations Global Environment Outlook report states: "Time is running out to prevent the irreversible and dangerous impacts of climate change." Speaking about the most recent report (August 2021) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the panel's chair stated: "The report clearly shows that recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, affecting every part of the world. Some of these changes are unprecedented in thousands of years." ([IPCC Chair Speech, December 2021](#))
- Food waste buried in landfills emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming. Landfills are the third-highest cause of methane emissions resulting from human activity in the nation. ([EPA.Gov/US Greenhouse Gas Emissions, p. ES-16](#)), ([Environmental and Energy Study Institute](#)), ([What's Your Impact.Org/Greenhouse Gases](#))
- Each ton of waste recycled saves 2.87 metric tons of CO₂, according to EPA's Clean Energy website. ([PG Zero Waste Initiatives, p. 43, footnote 4 for Table 13](#))

- Food waste has been defined by the U.S. government as a critical environmental and food sustainability issue. The Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates a rate of 31 percent food loss at the retail and consumer levels. In partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA has launched the U.S. Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champion program, through which businesses and organizations publicly commit to reduce food loss and waste in their own operations in the United States by 50 percent by the year 2030. [\(USDA.Gov/Foodwaste/FAQs\)](#)
- A Waste Characterization Study (WCS) conducted by the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) in 2014-2015 found that 48,000 tons of food waste were deposited at the county landfill, comprising 54.9 per cent of compostable materials that were landfilled, and 15.8 per cent of all materials landfilled. Of the 48,000 tons of food waste, 35,000 tons (72.9 per cent) came from the residential sector. [\(PG Waste Characterization Study, p. 32\)](#)
- Food waste comprised 17.1 per cent of all residential waste landfilled. [\(PG Waste Characterization Study, p. 10\)](#)
- The 2018 report, "Zero Waste Initiatives for Prince George's County, Maryland," from the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE), includes a recommendation to "target organics for diversion" as a strategy. The report states that "the organic fraction of the waste stream represents a significant opportunity to increase diversion and achieve zero waste." [\(PG Zero Waste Initiatives, p. 34\)](#)
- Using EPA's Waste Reduction Model (WARM), the Zero Waste Initiatives report calculated that 44,700 metric tons of carbon equivalents (MTCE) would be reduced by recycling vegetative and non-vegetative (meat and dairy) food waste currently disposed at the landfill (according to quantities estimated from the Waste Characterization Study). [\(PG Zero Waste Initiatives, p. 4\)](#)
- Increasing food waste diversion is listed as Goal 2 in the 2018 Prince George's County Draft Resource Recovery Master Plan. The plan recommends expansion of residential food waste collection. [\(PG Resource Recovery Master Plan, p.38\)](#)
- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) established zero waste goals as part of its legislatively mandated Green House Gas Reduction Plan. These goals are to strive to achieve long-term recycling and waste diversion rates of 80% and 85%, respectively, by 2040. [\(PG Zero Waste Initiatives, p. 4\)](#)
- A report on food waste in Prince George's County (April, 2019), prepared by the Prince George's County Planning Department, recommended establishing "a comprehensive composting program that includes all levels of composting" (p. 11), and reported significant interest in taking action to reduce food waste among County residents and businesses (p. 7, 9, and 65). [\(Reduce, Recover, Recycle: Food Waste in Prince George's County\)](#)

Pollinator Circle / Green ACES Response to Council referral: Monarch Joint Venture

After reviewing the PDF from the Council minutes re: Monarch Joint Venture, the committee recommends the city consider adopting at least the italicized actions from the complete list of potential actions. Please note that items in *italics* fulfill both the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and the Bee City USA Proposal / Resolution, while items in **bold** are actions that the city is already undertaking.

1. Take the National Wildlife Foundation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge by March 31, 2021. This is an annual pledge tracked by a web survey that can be accessed at [Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#). The Mayor's Monarch Pledge includes a large number of specific actions to address the categories listed on the Monarch Joint Venture document (e.g. adding pollinator habitat).
 - a. The online web form must be filled in by the mayor (or designated staff) in one sitting to submit. A PDF of sample text may be found at [Mayors' Monarch Pledge Survey](#).
 - b. Write a short pledge summary specific to Greenbelt. Last year's pledge can be updated for 2021.
 - i. Example: The City of Greenbelt is a suburb of Washington, D.C., located within Prince George's County, Maryland. Greenbelt is home to over 23,000 residents, 190 acres of parkland and many community gardens. Mayor Colin Byrd has signed the Mayors Monarch Pledge to signal his commitment to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by building more pollinator habitat in Greenbelt.
 - c. Agree to at least three action items from the following list. The committee recommends committing to those items that support both the Monarch Joint Venture and Bee City USA purview and that are specified below in *italics*:
 - i. Communications and Convening
 1. *Issue a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat*
 - a. *Include monarchs in the proclamation for Pollinator Week*
 2. Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
 - a. *Add native plant garden suggestions to the city's pollinator website in English and Spanish*
 - b. Promote monarch gardens as part of pollinator week with handouts for garden plans
 - c. *Promote milkweed at native plant sale*
 3. Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

- a. Contact local gardening clubs to coordinate this
 - b. Share info on milkweed seed sharing
- 4. *Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs*
 - a. *Discuss current and future projects with Public Works and promote inclusion of milkweed and other native nectar plants*
 - b. Contact MDOT to discuss pollinator friendly practices
- 5. Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
 - a. Brainstorm ideas to collaborate to install pollinator gardens using volunteers from these groups
- 6. Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
 - a. Contact HOA / management of local organizations like GHI, Windsor Green, Franklin Park, Greenbelt Station, schools, local business and office parks to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs
- 7. Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
 - a. *Identify underserved areas of Greenbelt. Make a special emphasis on creating pollinator habitat and educational signage in underserved areas*
 - b. Print materials in Spanish and English (other languages if needed as well)
- 8. Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
 - a. Host monarch and pollinator art show and contest as part of Pollinator Week celebration
- ii. Program and demonstration gardens
 - 1. *Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway, or swap**
 - a. *Organize native plant sale for Fall 2021*
 - b. *Promote local free seed libraries in Greenbelt News Review, city pollinator website*
 - 2. Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort

- a. Work with Three sisters garden, Earth Squad, other community members to facilitate milkweed propagation
- 3. *Convert abandoned lots to monarch habitat*
 - a. *Identify underutilized city property to plant monarch habitat*
 - b. Identify privately owned “abandoned” lots for monarch habitat installation
- 4. Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants in medians and public rights-of-way
 - a. Contact local department of transportation to inquire about roadside monarch / pollinator habitat
 - b. Contact local utility companies about right-of-way monarch / pollinator habitat
 - c. Contact MDOT about monarch/ pollinator friendly practices
- 5. Launch or maintain an outdoor education program in school gardens that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, teachers, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Eco-Schools [USA Schoolyard Habitats](#) program and [Monarch Mission](#) curriculum)
 - a. Contact schools within Greenbelt city limits about whether they have pollinator gardens on campus
- 6. **Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts**
 - a. **Bee City USA participation initiated in February 2021**
 - b. **Tree City USA participation for more than a decade**
- 7. Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners’ associations within the community to increase awareness and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
 - a. Homegrown National Park challenge, add monarch / milkweed
- 8. *Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar producing plants in public community gardens.*
 - a. *Maintain existing milkweed and nectar producing plants*
 - b. *Add native milkweed and nectar producing plants to previously planned pollinator gardens*
 - c. Identify new locations for public community gardens
- 9. Launch, expand, or **continue an invasive species removal** program that will support the re-establishment of native habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators
 - a. **Continue invasive species removal program**, as specified on p. 11 of the Sustainable Land Care Policy
 - b. Promote participation in program

- c. Increase funding for re-establishing native habitats after invasive species are removed
 - 10. *Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat beyond monarch demonstration gardens.*
 - a. *Create interpretive signage for new and existing demonstration gardens*
- iii. Systems change
 - 1. Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats
 - 2. **Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances** and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate. The city has already committed to giving preference to native plants when establishing new beds as specified on p. 11 of the Sustainable Land Care Policy.
 - 3. *Direct city property managers to consider the use of native milkweed and nectar plants at city properties, where appropriate*
 - 4. *Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans*
 - 5. Change ordinances so pesticide, herbicide, insecticide or other chemicals used in the community are not harmful to pollinators
 - a. **Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices**, as specified on pp. 5–6 of the city's Sustainable Land Care Policy
 - b. Pass a Pollinator friendly resolution with clear goals, timelines and measures of success with the guidelines provided by [Pollinate Minnesota](#) or modify their provided [model resolution](#)



Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

June 23, 2021

Recommendation # 2021-03

SUBJECT: Notifying Public about Steps to Address Current Bird Deaths

BACKGROUND: It was brought to the attention of Green ACES that the Audubon Naturist Society sent out an alert.

The alert stated that in late May, wildlife managers in Washington D.C., Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia began receiving reports of sick and dying birds with eye swelling and crusty discharge, as well as neurological signs. No definitive cause of death is identified at this time.

According to the USGS: the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and National Park Service are continuing to work with diagnostic laboratories to investigate the cause of mortality. Those laboratories include the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, the University of Georgia Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and the University of Pennsylvania Wildlife Futures Program.

Birds congregating at feeders and baths can transmit disease to one another. Therefore, the state and District agencies recommend that the public in the outbreak area:

- Cease feeding birds until this wildlife mortality event has concluded;
- Clean feeders and bird baths with a 10% bleach solution;
- Avoid handling birds, but wear disposable gloves if handling is necessary; and
- Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a standard precaution.

The USGS recommends that if you encounter sick or dead birds, please contact your state or District wildlife conservation agency. If you must remove dead birds, place them in a sealable plastic bag to dispose with household trash.

More information is available at <https://www.usgs.gov/news/interagency-statement-usgs-and-partners-investigating-dc-area-bird-mortality-event?fbclid=IwAR3yW2osbbJnCXC7SPyuY3AfoGVDt-6xqgB4nftGXbwmkmsUUsr0WyeVp1s>

RECOMMENDATION: Green ACES recommends that this information be disseminated to Greenbelt residents as soon as possible.

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
December 3, 2021
Recommendation #2021-04**

SUBJECT: City of Greenbelt Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals

BACKGROUND: The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their latest report at the beginning of August 2021, stating that climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and some trends are now irreversible, at least during the present time frame. In the words of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, this report is nothing less than "A code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable".

With this in mind, the City of Greenbelt City Council passed a resolution earlier this year, declaring a Climate Emergency. The City must now step up to the plate to responsibly address this situation.

As illustrated in Figure 1 below, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals of 20% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050, compared to 2005 levels, to align with the level of effort called for by the IPCC.

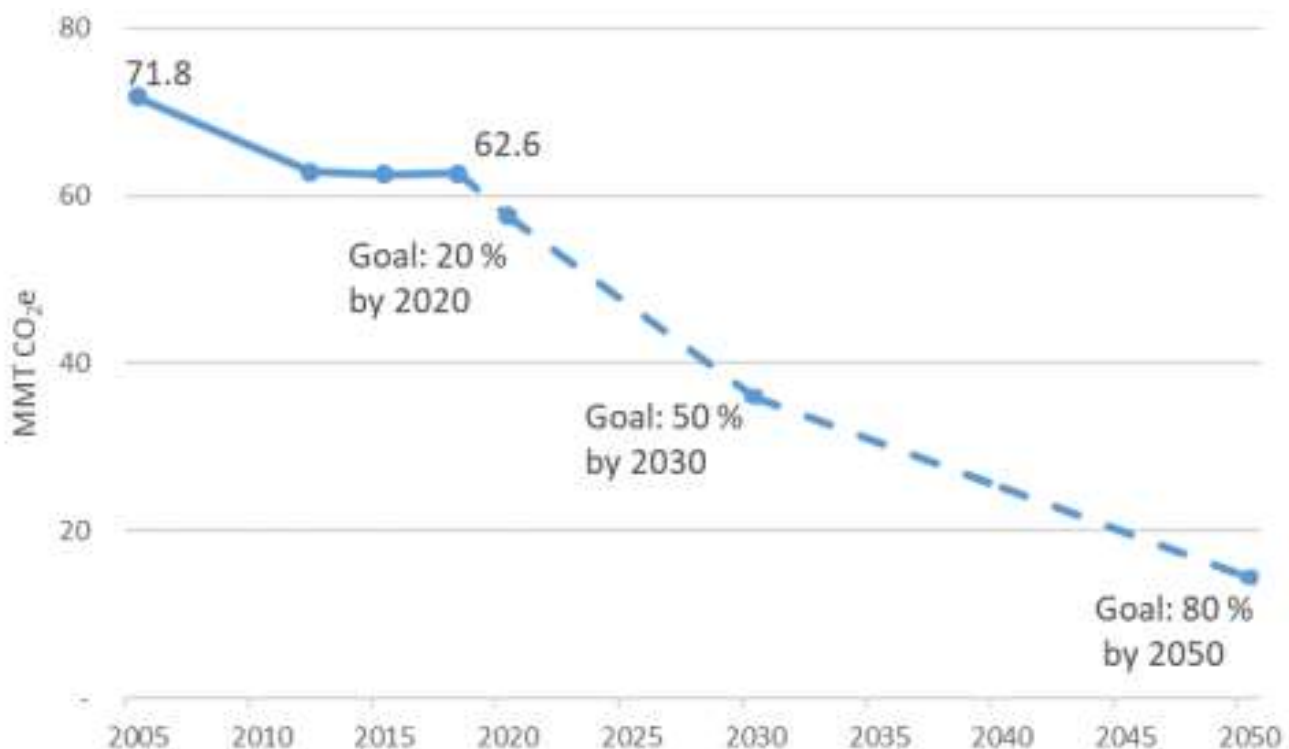


Figure 1. COG GHG emission reduction goals compared to 2005 levels

The City of Greenbelt's municipal GHG reduction goals follow those of COG. However, the City's Sustainability Framework document currently does not incorporate COG's interim 2030 goal of 50% reduction that COG adopted in October, 2020.

Noting that ambitious targets are needed to redress a crisis and that several municipalities in the COG have more stringent goals and that Prince George's County's Climate Action Plan includes all sectors, Green ACES and the Green Team support efforts to engage the Greenbelt community to broaden the GHG reduction efforts and increase the urgency at all levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Green ACES and the Greenbelt Green Team recommend that the City of Greenbelt incorporate COG's 2030 interim goal of a 50% reduction compared to 2005 levels. Moreover, due to the urgency and extent of the looming climate crisis, we furthermore recommend that the City go beyond COG's 2050 reduction goal of 80% and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (i.e., 100% reduction).

Green ACES and the Greenbelt Green Team further recommend that the city engage a consulting firm to study municipal facilities and vehicles and to provide recommendations on how the City can achieve these 2030 and 2050 GHG emission reduction goals cited above.



Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**December 27, 2021
Recommendation #2021-06**

SUBJECT: Support for Prince George's County Climate Action Plan

BACKGROUND: Prince George's County, with input from many volunteers including a number of Greenbelt residents, developed a draft climate action plan that is a comprehensive roadmap to address the challenges of climate change. It outlines specific activities for a community to take to:

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and
2. Respond to the impacts of climate change, such as strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity.

The City of Greenbelt is well aware of the climate crisis, as evident when it recently declared a climate emergency. In 2020, Prince George's County had the hottest summer on record when we experienced 26 straight days of 90-degree heat or greater. The City is taking many steps to reduce its carbon footprint, become more sustainable, and make preparations to be more resilient to address future climate change.

But Greenbelt cannot do it alone. We have neither the human nor the financial resources. And in some instances such as zoning, where Prince George's County holds authority to grant and deny real estate projects, Greenbelt relies completely on the County for sustainable growth within Greenbelt. Climate change impacts us all. What our neighboring communities do affects Greenbelt as well. We are all in this together.

The County must prioritize climate-friendly measures and policies, and back up its commitments with adequate funding and staffing. There can be no half-measures when it comes to equitable climate outcomes for all County residents.

RECOMMENDATION: Green ACES recommends that the Greenbelt City Council send a letter to our County representatives asking them to adopt and implement the recently developed Climate Action Plan. A sample letter follows.

Sample letter:

RE: Support for Prince George's County Climate Action Plan

Dear **County Council Member**,

The City of Greenbelt is fully supportive of Prince George's County leading on climate action. We urge the County Council to swiftly adopt the draft Climate Action Plan and begin implementation of the measures that have been outlined in the 26 Priority Recommendations.

The climate crisis is existential threat, and Prince George's County must take immediate steps to protect our county against the effects of climate change impacts on our built, social, economic, and natural systems. Recent scientific reports indicate that action must be taken now to have an impact. The future of our communities depends upon aggressive reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at all levels of government, establishing adaptation measures that build community resilience, and implementing equitable climate solutions that protect our most vulnerable populations. The County must prioritize climate-friendly measures and policies, and back up its commitments with adequate funding and staffing. There can be no half-measures when it comes to equitable climate outcomes for all County residents.

The City of Greenbelt represents over 24,000 County residents who will benefit, and whose children and grandchildren will benefit, from the Climate Action Plan's implementation. Climate protection measures are not only about sustaining our environment, but our economy, our health and our communities as well. Climate leadership is vital to ensuring that all of our communities remain a desirable place to live, work and play.

Our city is already taking active measures to address the climate crisis, and looks forward to partnering with the County to broaden support for the Plan, coordinate local efforts, and share best practices. Some actions our community has taken already include:

- Formally declared a climate emergency
- Developed a Climate Action/Adaptation Plan
- Actively increasing tree canopy
- Installing/Promoting Solar panels
- Purchasing renewable energy
- Purchasing electric vehicles
- Outreach and Education to residents
- Lowering our energy consumption
- Lowering our fuel use
- Encouraging community gardens and regenerative agricultural practices
- Providing opportunities for local residents to compost their food scraps

The health, safety, and well-being of our community is at risk. Thank you for recognizing the need to take bold action to address the most urgent issue of our lifetimes. We stand ready to assist you as together we forge a new path to a climate-friendly future.

Sincerely,

Name

Title/City of Greenbelt

Contact details



Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
May 6, 2021
Recommendation #2021-02**

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation that Maryland Launch the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)

BACKGROUND: The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional collaboration of Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast states and the District of Columbia that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector.

TCI is a regional policy with bipartisan support to clean up transportation carbon emissions through a cap-and-invest approach. This is a system similar to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in which a carbon emission budget is established and emitters obtain allowances to emit a certain amount of carbon. Once in place, the number of available carbon allowances is gradually reduced, giving emitters time to find the cheapest market-based solutions for decreasing their emissions. The TCI planners hope to replicate for the transportation sector the success RGGI has had in reducing greenhouse gases from the electric power industry.

The governors of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, and the mayor of the District of Columbia announced in December 2020 that theirs will be the first jurisdictions to launch the TCI Program.

Eight states (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Virginia) have participated actively in developing the TCI-P and have the opportunity to join the program in the future.

In the current proposal, the gasoline and diesel wholesale fuel suppliers and others who bring fossil fuels into the regional distribution system would be treated as the emitters. Allowances can be traded among emitters, so, for example, if Company A reduces its emissions by a large amount, it would then have allowances it could sell to Company B, which needs them. The net effect is that the marketplace itself finds the most cost-effective places to reduce carbon emissions, thereby achieving emission goals while minimizing costs.

The Transportation and Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P) expects to cut greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles in the region by an estimated 26% from 2022 to 2032, and generate a total of more than \$3 billion over ten years for the participating jurisdictions to invest.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia also includes a commitment to dedicate a minimum of 35% of each jurisdiction's proceeds—an expected \$100 million each year in the inaugural jurisdictions combined—to ensure that communities underserved by the transportation system and overburdened by pollution will benefit equitably from clean transportation projects and programs.

To make sure those investments deliver on the equity and environmental justice goals of the program, each jurisdiction will designate an advisory body to identify underserved and overburdened communities, provide guidance for investments, and define goals and metrics for measuring progress. A majority of the members of each advisory body will be people from or representing underserved and overburdened communities.

The Transportation & Climate Initiative is facilitated by the Georgetown Climate Center. For additional information, visit the TCI website: <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/>

RECOMMENDATION: Green ACES recommends that City Council endorse, and send a letter of endorsement, to Governor Larry Hogan, our State Senators and Representatives, and the Maryland Department of Transportation urging that Maryland take the appropriate steps to launch the TCI program in an expeditious manner.

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
December 3, 2021
Recommendation #2021-05**

SUBJECT: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals Re: Municipal Vehicles and Portable Equipment

BACKGROUND: Although Greenbelt is on track to meet the stated goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our municipal building stock by offsetting approximately 90% of municipal electricity consumption through participation in a large solar energy farm, it remains that a full 60% of the City's GHG emissions results from the vehicle fleet.

In order to meet the City's agreed-upon GHG reduction goals, emissions from the municipality's fleet of vehicles must be dramatically reduced.

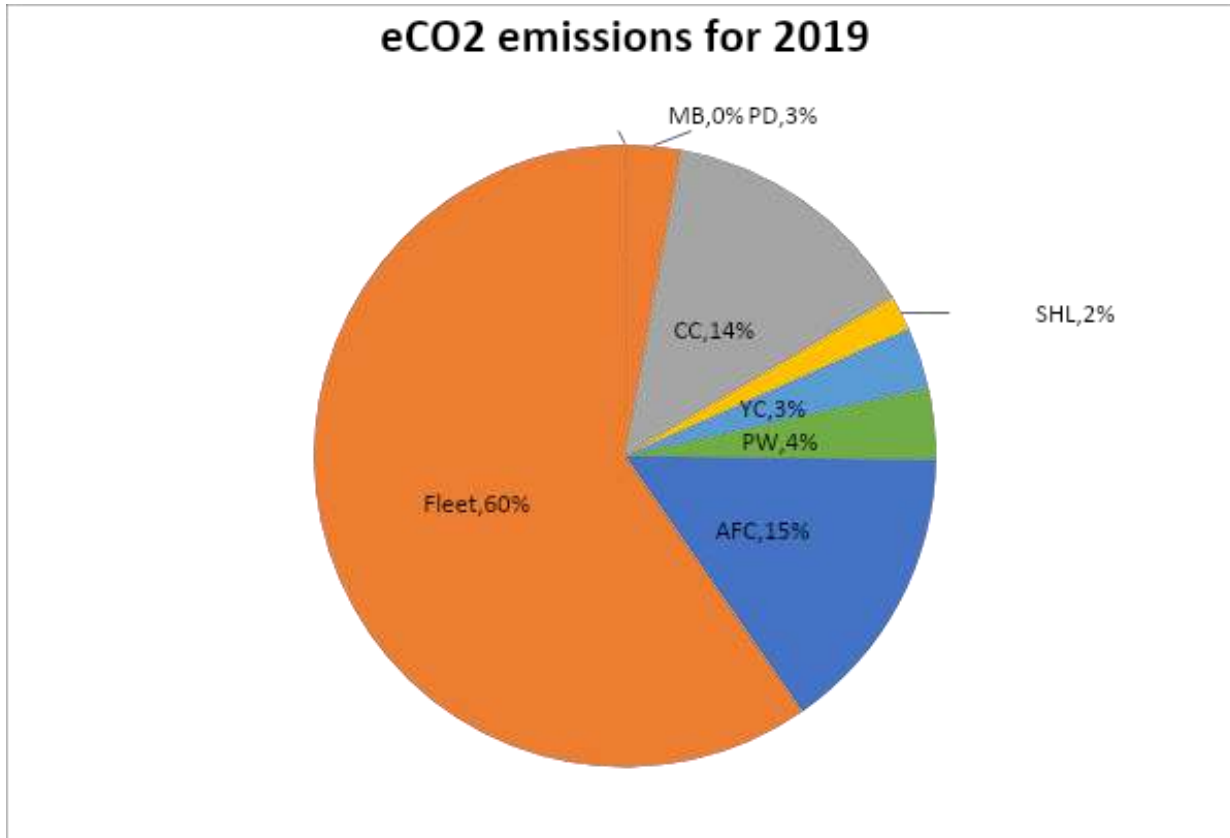


Figure 1. City of Greenbelt Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source

In 2019, the City's fleet consumed 84,632 gallons of fuel. Notably, the City's police fleet burned 52,783 gallons of fuel, or 62.4%, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the City's total fuel consumption. In Figure 2 below, the police fleet consumption is represented by the tall blue lines. Clearly, the City of Greenbelt's fleet, especially the police fleet, must do a much better job at reducing its fuel consumption to cut GHG emissions.

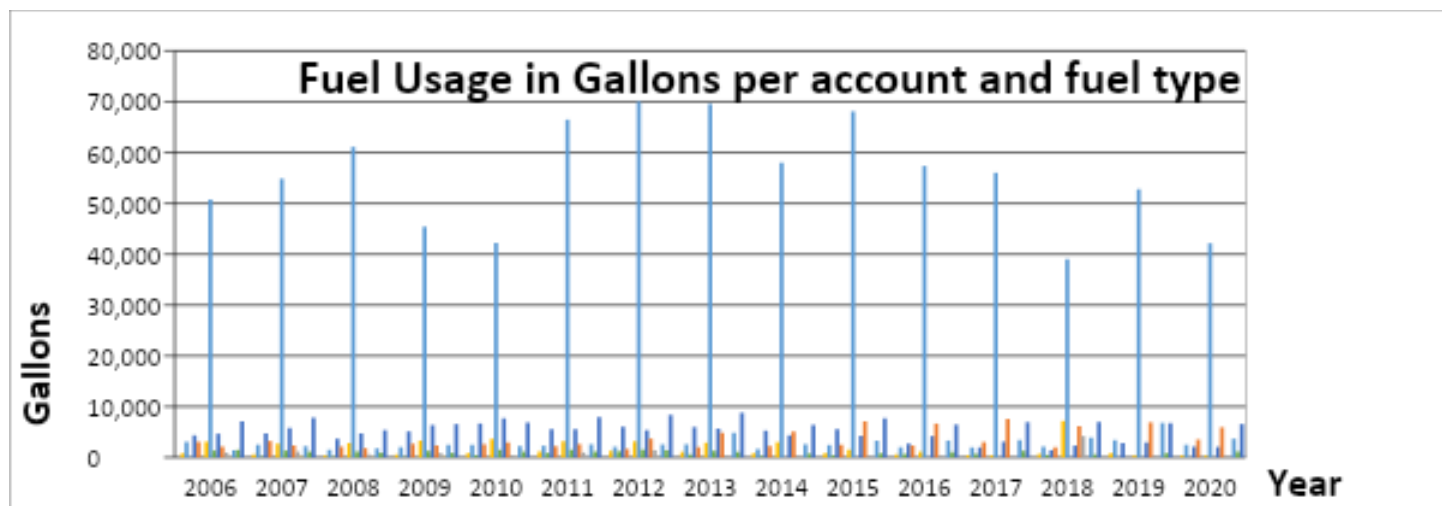


Figure 2. City of Greenbelt Total Fleet Fuel Usage by Government Department

I. RECOMMENDATIONS for VEHICLES: As a result of this analysis, Green ACES and the Greenbelt Green Team recommend that going forward, the City of Greenbelt halt the purchase of fossil-fueled vehicles. New vehicles purchased should be battery electric vehicles (BEV) or fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) to replace existing stock. Exceptions to this directive should only be granted by a majority vote of City Council, and should be limited to specialty and heavy vehicles such as the street sweeper and garbage/recycling trucks, which are not commercially available with electric propulsion at this time.

If the City cannot purchase electric vehicles that meet its needs through traditional fleet, county, or other government sales contracts that it currently uses, then we recommend that the City purchase its vehicles from commercial dealers on the open market.

We understand that the municipal police have special requirements for vehicles used in law enforcement; we note that two recent announcements by the Ford Motor Company indicate that appropriate electric vehicles that meet police needs are now or will soon be available for purchase.

- In September, 2021, Ford announced that it provided its Mustang Mach-E battery-electric crossover to the Michigan State Police for testing and evaluation, and that the Mach-E passed the agency's tests, making it the first all-electric vehicle to do so. While the actual test results won't be published until later this year, the agency evaluates vehicle performance in a number of categories, including acceleration, top speed, braking, high-speed pursuit, as well as the sort of handling required by an emergency response vehicle. Every year, the Michigan State Police publishes the results of its annual vehicle testing program for use by other agencies in the U.S.
- Ford also announced in September, 2021, that it will launch an electric version of its Ford Explorer in 2023. Greenbelt's police department currently uses the Ford Explorer as its pursuit vehicle.

We recommend that the City continue using the existing fleet, providing additional maintenance where needed, until either the Ford Mustang Mach-E or Explorer EV equipped for police pursuit, or other suitable EV from another manufacturer, is available to replace aging police cruiser stock.

We further recommend that, concurrent with the transition from fuel-powered to electric-powered municipal vehicles, that the City undertake a program to furnish appropriate vehicle charging stations (officially known as Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment, or EVSE) at City facilities to support the new EV vehicle fleet as it grows.

If City Council so desires, Green ACES and the Green Team can develop and give presentation(s) to staff, including police, on the merits and availability of electric vehicles that will meet City needs.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PORTABLE EQUIPMENT: Greenbelt's Department of Public Works (DPW) owns and uses equipment that is powered by fossil fuels, including mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, etc. These machines emit GHG and other pollutants at a rate far exceeding that even of automobiles, because they are not equipped with pollution control devices such as catalytic converters. Especially polluting are the small engines that drive leaf blowers and string trimmers, because these often utilize two-cycle engines that require oil to be burned with the gasoline for proper lubrication.

Therefore, we recommend that the City change its procurement guidelines for the purchase of fossil-fuel portable equipment, replacing it with electric-powered models wherever such equipment is commercially available.

We further recommend that the Greenbelt DPW encourage the landscaping companies that bid and work under contract to maintain municipal green spaces and trees to adopt similar guidelines, utilizing electric-powered rather than fuel-powered equipment in their work. Going forward, it would be appropriate for the City's Requests for Proposal to include language setting out this guideline, and stating a preference to hire contractors who use non-polluting equipment.



Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
March 25, 2021
Recommendation #1**

SUBJECT: Monarch Joint Venture

BACKGROUND: The monarch butterfly is a beloved insect across North America, but its population is in serious danger. Over the past 20 years, monarch populations have declined by nearly 90%. This steep decline is largely due to loss of habitat as well as other interacting factors including climate change, disease, parasites and pesticides. Monarch butterflies are an iconic species making them an effective ambassador for the other pollinators in decline. Monarch habitat is pollinator habitat. Elected and appointed officials have a chance to help turn the tide and bring back the pollinators. Local governments in particular have become a powerful force for monarch conservation.

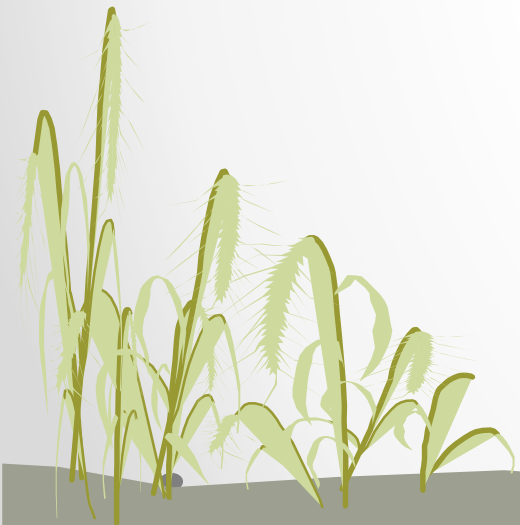
Following the creation of a Firefly Sanctuary, City Council asked Green ACES in January 2021 to look into ways to protect and nourish Monarch butterflies in Greenbelt by establishing a Monarch Joint Venture.

The Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of Federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and academic programs working together to protect the monarch migration across the United States.

RECOMMENDATION: Green ACES researched the topic and came up with a number of recommendations that are presented in the attachment. Of particular concern because of its time-sensitive nature, we encourage Mayor Colin Byrd to take the Mayor's Monarch Pledge by March 31, 2021.

Green ACES recommendations

Greenbelt City Council
February 7, 2022



Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals

RECOMMENDATIONS:

...incorporate COG's 2030 interim goal of a 50% reduction compared to 2005 levels

...go beyond COG's 2050 reduction goal of 80% and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (i.e., 100% reduction).

...engage a consulting firm to study municipal facilities and vehicles and to provide recommendations on how the City can achieve these 2030 and 2050 GHG emission reduction goals.

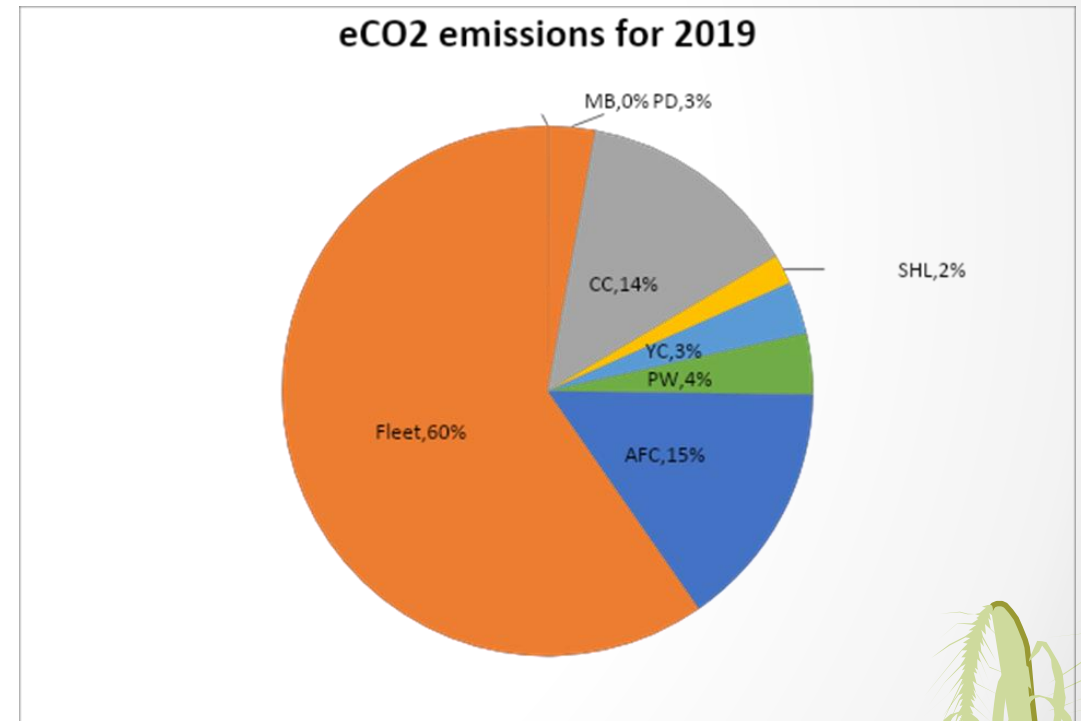


GHG Reduction goals: Municipal Buildings and Portable Equipment

I. RECOMMENDATIONS for VEHICLES:

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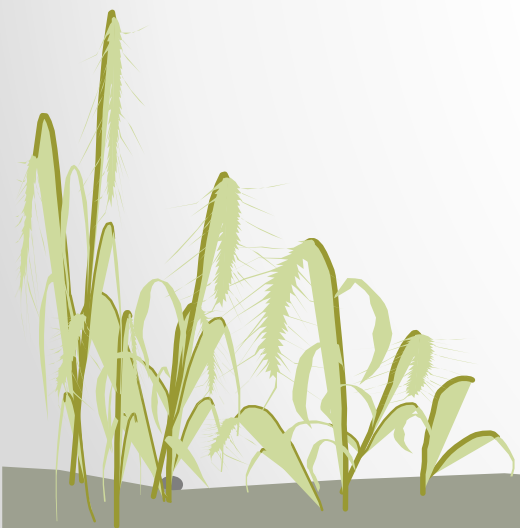
*In September, 2021, Ford announced that it provided its Mustang Mach-E battery-electric crossover to the Michigan State Police for testing and evaluation, and that the Mach-E passed the agency's tests, making it the first all-electric vehicle to do so. While the actual test results won't be published until later this year, the agency evaluates vehicle performance in a number of categories, including acceleration, top speed, braking, high-speed pursuit, as well as the sort of handling required by an emergency response vehicle. Every year, the Michigan State Police publishes the results of its annual vehicle testing program for use by other agencies in the U.S.

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We further recommend that the Greenbelt DPW encourage the landscaping companies that bid and work under contract to maintain municipal green spaces and trees to adopt similar guidelines, utilizing electric-powered rather than fuel-powered equipment in their work. Going forward, it would be appropriate for the City's Requests for Proposal to include language setting out this guideline, and stating a preference to hire contractors who use non-polluting equipment.



Proposal for Composting Pilot Project with the Four Cities Coalition

RECOMMENDATION:

Green ACES and the Green Team recommend that City Council authorize the City of Greenbelt to undertake formal discussions with the Four Cities Coalition to explore possibilities for establishing a collaborative composting facility serving and in close proximity to member jurisdictions of the Four Cities Coalition, and possibly other nearby municipalities in the northern section of Prince George's County.



One possibility of collaboration is with Compost Crew - compostcrew.com

Greenbelt is already working with Compost Crew.

Food scraps drop off program:

Serves 80-100 households?

Six (6) 35-gallon bins collected twice a week

About 2500-2700 lbs/month (1.25-1.35 tons/month)

\$599/month

That means we are paying about \$479-443/ton

If we were to take the same to the landfill, we would pay \$100 per round trip plus \$45/ton tipping fee

COMPOST OUTPOST

Check out this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbS240lKHFo>

- * Each shipping container is 20'x10' and is equipped with forced aeration technology
- * Two containers make one unit
- * Each unit processes food scraps from 200-250 households per week
- * Units are modular, so can be sized to meet available land
- * Can be installed in 3-6 months
- * GHG reduction Support Local Communities:
- * Easy step towards a circular economy
- * Food system and climate resilience

Monarch Joint Venture

- **RECOMMENDATION:**

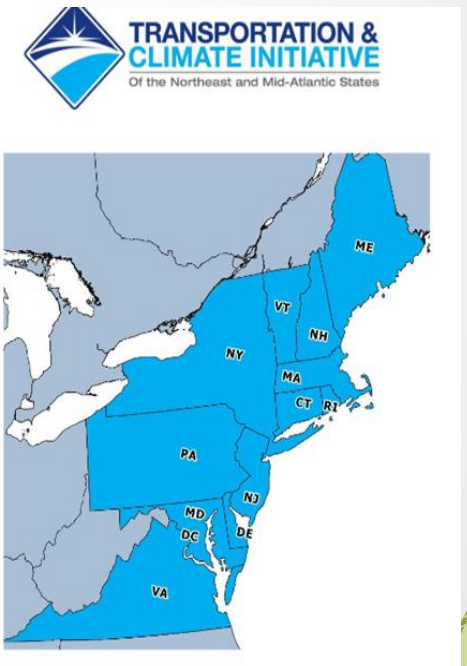
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Letter of Rec that MD Launch the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)

- **RECOMMENDATION:** Green ACES recommends that City Council endorse, and send a letter of endorsement, to Governor Larry Hogan, our State Senators and Representatives, and the Maryland Department of Transportation urging that Maryland take the appropriate steps to launch the TCI program in an expeditious manner.

- Collaboration among 13 jurisdictions.
- Developing potential regional clean transportation policy
- Modeled on successful Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
 - “Cap-and-Invest”



Notifying Public about Steps to Address Current Bird Deaths

- **RECOMMENDATION:**

Green ACES recommends that this information be disseminated to Greenbelt residents as soon as possible.



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DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

PRESENTATION TO
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION
September 17, 2021



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



7th annual **GREEN SUMMIT**
2021
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY