

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

The purpose of this assessment is to capture significant projects/ improvements that have been completed since the approval of your local government's Sustainable Communities designation.

In relation to the goals stated in your local government's Sustainable Community Action Plan, **please highlight at least three major accomplishments from the last five years**, including how you achieved them. When writing your narrative, consider the questions below and refer to the six elements discussed in the General Information section of this document (page iv) – Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning.

- 1) **Outcome:** Which outcomes identified in your Sustainable Community plan were you able to achieve?
- 2) **Projects:** Which projects did you implement in order to achieve the outcome? Also indicate when you started and completed these projects.
- 3) **Partners:** With whom (i.e. state agencies, local stakeholders) did you partner to complete projects?
- 4) **Impact:** What kind of measurable impact did the achieved outcome have on your community? Are there other intangible benefits?
- 5) **Pictures:** Please also include pictures that depict your accomplishments.

[EXAMPLE] Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply

Example – Accomplishment 1

Outcome: Improved stormwater management

Projects:

Project 1: Stormwater Retrofit Plan – In October 2014, the Town Council approved the Town's stormwater retrofit plan which outlines various strategies and capital budget expenditures over the next five years. Strategies include reducing the amount of impervious surface in the community and improving stormwater management. One of the plan recommendations is to pass an ordinance that assesses an environmental protection fee on municipal permits.

Project 2: Green Streets – The Town added green elements to approximately 600 linear feet of roadway that had been experiencing severe flooding. Specifically, bioswales were constructed and trees were planted.

Partners:

Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance

MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling \$50,000).

Impact: The implementation of the projects had a significant impact on the community by improving stormwater runoff. The streets with the newly constructed bioswales no longer experience flooding.

Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply.

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Improved stormwater management while meeting the State's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements.

Projects: The Stormwater Management Inventory and Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) was finalized in October 2016 and will support the City in meeting the requirements of the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Phase II NPDES MS4 permit and the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals. This plan helps the City to define and then treat 20 percent of the unmanaged impervious area. As part of the development of this plan, total Nitrogen (TN), total Phosphorus (TP), and total suspended solids (TSS) loads were quantified for the existing conditions specific to the City of Annapolis MS4 area. The pollutant loads were calculated using an Environmental Protection Agency-approved web-based tool called "The Chesapeake Bay Facility Assessment Scenario Tool" (BayFAST). These loads provide a reference point for tracking City progress toward meeting the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

Potential locations for new and retrofit best management practices (BMPs) were identified via desktop analysis, followed by a field investigation to evaluate restoration strategies. The proposed restoration strategies were ranked using quantitative prioritization criteria, and the City selected 16 high priority restoration strategies for conceptual design. Conceptual designs were developed for the high priority projects and include a description of the recommended strategy, design considerations, a feasibility assessment, pollutant removal, and planning level cost estimates. The concept designs were ranked using a quantitative ranking criteria to assist the City in prioritizing the projects. A list of potential alternative urban BMPs approved by MDE is also provided for the City to consider as part of future pollutant reduction efforts.

The City has completed one of the 16 high priority projects listed in the City's WIP. The project listed in the City's WIP as BMP_21 (Ambridge Community Stormwater Pond Retrofit) was chosen, submitted for grant dollars and received funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This project was completed in May 2018.

Partners: Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Ambridge Community Homeowners Association

Impact: The implementation of the WIP will have significant impact on the community by improving water quality of stormwater runoff within the City of Annapolis. The first project to come out of the City's WIP will specifically help to improve water quality of stormwater running in to Back Creek, one of the watersheds within city limits.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Recognize actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations as it pertains to climate change.

Projects: Signing of Resolution (R-22-17) to honor and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement as they apply to the City of Annapolis

The signing of this resolution shows that the City of Annapolis desires to protect and enhance the quality of life for all those who live, work, learn and play in our community, as well as for our children and grandchildren. There is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is an important driver of climate change. Climate change has been widely recognized by government, business and academic leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life. Members of our community and others are already feeling the effects of climate change through increased temperatures, more extreme weather events, and other disruptions that affect our residents, economy, and way of life. Climate change affects all residents and businesses, but communities that already face socioeconomic and health inequities will be most severely impacted, including youth, elders, and low-income communities. This resolution means the City of Annapolis is taking steps to increase energy efficiency and resilience that can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to our community and increase our long-term economic competitiveness. The City of Annapolis remains committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and proactively taking action to adapt to climate impacts.

The City of Annapolis adopted a Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan (2010); Emergency Operations Plan (2011) including a Flood Response Plan; and a Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018), outlining steps the City has committed to taking to achieve our climate-related goals. The City has already taken a variety of important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance quality of life in our community that include constructing the Annapolis Renewable Energy Park; entering into a performance based contract to reduce energy use by City-owned building; developing a Watershed Improvement Plan; and adopting higher floodplain management standards. The City is in the process of implementing a Cultural Resource Hazard Mitigation Plan that will help the city both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Weather It Together effort is an additional planning initiative established in 2013. Experts in multiple fields joined to define and identify adaptation measures to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise on the City, especially on its historic properties.

Partners: The City of Annapolis is joined in taking action on climate change by a global coalition of cities, state and national government and community and private sector leaders.

Impact: Recognize the importance and potential of actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations as have hundreds of mayors representing millions of American have re-affirmed their cities' commitments to climate action.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Renewable Energy Park

Projects: The solar project uses more than 50,000 panels to convert sunlight into electricity on approximately 80 acres of the closed and capped Annapolis landfill. The City of Annapolis owns the landfill where the Annapolis Renewable Energy Park is located, and Annapolis Solar Park LLC now holds a long-term lease on the property. The city earns revenue by leasing the landfill to Annapolis Solar Park, saves money by purchasing some of the electricity at a rate less than what the City was paying and put local businesses to work on the construction of the project. More than 100 green jobs were created or will be created in the city over the next 20 years as a result of this partnership.

The City of Annapolis developed the Annapolis Renewable Energy Park project using EPA guidelines. The city received support for proposal evaluation and other advisory support from Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Services, Maryland Clean Energy Center, and private subject matter experts in renewable energy technologies.

In July of 2017, the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and Anne Arundel County Board of Education signed the power purchase agreements for the solar energy, which will be used to power City, County and school buildings and operations. Annapolis Solar Park LLC will be installing a solar system of 18 MW DC. Of this total production capacity, Anne Arundel County is purchasing 50%, the City of Annapolis is purchasing 33%, and the Anne Arundel County Board of Education is purchasing the remaining 17%. This project is the largest solar project exclusively installed on a closed landfill in the United States, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Partners: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Services, Maryland Clean Energy Center, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and Anne Arundel County Government

Impact: Financial and environmental benefits to the city over the next 20 years with advancement of energy efficiency for all local government-owned buildings.

Accomplishment 4:

Outcome: Seven Moderately Priced dwelling units were sold to moderate income households

Projects: To ensure that housing choices continue to be available to its residents and employees with moderate incomes, the City Council passed the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Law in 2004. This law requires that 12 % of the houses for sale in new subdivisions of 10 or more units be moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs). This means that the sale price or rent is below the market rate for other units in the same development. To be eligible to purchase, or rent, through the MPDU program an individual or household must:

- Have an income that is 100% or less than the median family income for the Baltimore Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with adjustments for household size, as reported by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Not currently own a home and be:
 - A City resident or employed within the City limits for at least the past twelve months, or
 - A City of Annapolis employee beyond their probationary period, or
 - A teacher or staff member in a school that is included in the Annapolis Senior High School district as defined by the Anne Arundel County Public School System, or
 - An employee of the United States Naval Academy, or
 - A county resident with a disability as defined by SSI

Partners: John Pilli-Gate One Builders, Bashes and Edgemore, P & K Builders

Impact: The addition of seven new affordable units in Eastport has contributed to neighborhood income diversity.

Accomplishment 5: Worked Collaboratively to Establish a City of Annapolis Economic Development Division to Grow and Promote a Vibrant City Economy

Outcome: Developed a business-friendly culture, both internally and externally, that fosters entrepreneurship and encourages an increase in the number and diversity of businesses that establish, maintain and expand in all communities in the City. The following objectives guided the programs and activities:

- Build cooperative relationships with governmental agencies to smooth the way for business development
- Provide technical, site selection, and market analysis assistance to businesses
- Work to expand workforce development opportunities
- Market Annapolis to investors and consumers
- Keep businesses up-to-date regarding economic and political developments
- Recognize the significant contributions of resident businesses
- Assist businesses in accessing capital
- Help businesses achieve their objectives

Projects:

Project 1: Established an Economic Development Strategic Action Plan and an economic development steering committee – a monthly Business Leader’s Meeting to assist in defining public policies and programs required to accomplish the City’s economic development goals. The group is made up of the Executive Directors and/or Board Chairs of all of the City’s business organizations, as well as several Aldermen and Mayor’s Office Representatives. The group participants also disseminate important information regarding economic and political developments to their members citywide.

Project 2: In addition to providing one-on-one technical, site selection, and market analysis assistance to businesses to help them achieve success, the City also coordinates and hosts numerous economic summits, targeted-industry roundtables, special events, seminars, and conferences as deemed appropriate for the City’s economic development landscape, including: a Maritime Industry Summit to provide resources to one of the City’s primary industries, Speed Lending events to connect businesses with lenders, Hispanic Business Workshops and Roundtable discussions (in Spanish) for a large and rapidly growing segment of the City’s population, Weather-it-Together Conference to bring experts together from around the world to share information as the City grapples with sea-level rise, especially in its valuable historic district, Entrepreneurs and Innovators programs to encourage high-growth companies to startup and stay in Annapolis, and targeted Hiring Events that connect underserved populations with services to prepare them for job security and to connect with available jobs

Project 3. Created as the primary economic development collateral, a centralized, robust, easy-to-navigate, user-friendly, attractive and professional website for internal and external economic development support and marketing. It promotes Annapolis in a manner that helps business targets to self-select needed support tools and

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resources, encourages local City and County residents to utilize amenities on a regular basis, and conveys a strong positive image to regional, national and international business targets, investors, residents and visitors.

Partners: Downtown Annapolis Partnership, Annapolis Arts District and other arts organizations, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation, Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce, and other local business associations, Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation, U.S. Small Business Association, Maryland Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, Anne Arundel Community College, Maryland Department of Commerce, U.S. Naval Academy, and many more.

Impact: Citywide commercial vacancy rate dropped from 7.4% to 4.6% (2013 – 2017); Low vacancy rate – dropped from 7.4% to 4.6% (from 2013-2017); Low unemployment rate (currently 2.9%); 6 vibrant commercial districts with 3,436 businesses, of which the leading industries were Public Administration, Accommodation and Food Services, Retail, and Health Care and Social Services; 595 businesses opened and/or expanded in Annapolis (2013-2017)

Descriptive Narrative: Please use this section to describe any major outcomes or projects from your last Sustainable Communities Action Plan that have NOT been accomplished and why.

Outcome: Extension and Widening of the Poplar Trail Shared Use Path

Narrative: The Poplar Trail Shared Use Path is the most utilized bike route in the City. It is ideal even for the casual rider with its straight and flat paved pathway that traverses through residential neighborhoods along the old B&A rail line away from any roadways. Its potential is unmet, however, as it is an island of bike infrastructure. Only comfortable, more experienced riders will continue onward from its eastern terminus at Taylor Avenue into downtown or its western terminus at Admiral Drive toward Parole and regional transit connections. The trail, at six-feet wide, is narrower than a typical shared use path. If it were to support greater function than a local recreational route, its usability would expand, necessitating the need to bring it up to standard. The City does not have enough of its own funds in the budget to enhance or extend the trail so the Department of Planning and Zoning has applied through MDOT's Bikeways program unsuccessfully specifically to widen it to 10 feet and extend it westward to the edge of the City limits, where the County has plans to further bridge the gap in the network.

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Outcome:

Narrative:

Outcome:

Narrative: