

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.

The City has partnered with several non-profit organizations and aided with the permit review, construction inspection, and long term maintenance of stream restoration projects that are over 1.75 miles in length. The City is also working on grants for several other stream restoration projects in various watersheds.

Partners: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Ambridge Community Homeowners Association, Spa Creek Conservancy, South River Federation, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and Back Creek Conservancy

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. The stream restoration projects completed are providing nutrient reduction reaching the bay, specifically TN, TP, and TSS.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Recognized 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. With the multi-disciplinary team assembled and supporting partners in place, beginning in 2015, the initiative identified actions that were community based, action-oriented, data driven, business focused, forward looking and place based to steer the Cultural Resources Hazard Mitigation Plan process. The menu of actions and initiatives recommended in the plan has and will become the City's strategic plan for mitigating and adapting to flooding events, recurrent and extreme. Although the plan has yet to be formally finalized, the City has already begun the process of implementing stormwater and flood mitigation design, and non-structural historic building adaptation.

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: Increased reliance on renewable energy sources

Projects: Renewable Energy Park

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: Expanded housing choices – rental and homeownership-for people of a range of incomes

Projects:

Project 1: Major rehabilitation of Timothy House and Timothy Gardens, now Bowman Place and Homes at Monument. Homes for America completed the rehabilitation of Timothy House (61 units) and Timothy Gardens (20 units), two Project Based Section 8 developments, which were in very poor condition. The project was funded with Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and other funding from the state. This project completed the rehabilitation of last of the City’s private subsidized affordable housing.

Project 2: Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Program (MPDU): The last seven for sale MPDU properties were sold. These properties included one single family home at Griscom Square, two condominiums in Sailors Quay and 3 townhomes in Boucher Place.

Project 3: Bowman Commons: Bowman Commons will be a six unit rental property for low income veterans. The project is financed by Strategic Demolition and CDA Partnership Rental Housing funds. The project is being developed by Bowman Community Development Corporation, a Clay Street neighborhood CDC and was included in the Clay Street Community Legacy Plan. The City expects the project to be completed spring 2019.

Project 4: City of Annapolis Owner-occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program: Through the City of Annapolis

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Housing Rehabilitation Program, eligible Annapolis homeowners may apply for forgiveness loans to make improvements to their homes. The assistance is home improvement performed by a licensed contractor—no monetary loans are involved. Eligibility is based upon annual household income and family size. In addition, the property in question must be the resident's sole and principal residence. Typical repairs include roof replacement; plumbing and electrical upgrades; furnace replacement; and kitchen and bathroom remodeling. In the past 5 years, the City has rehabilitated 27 homes.

Project 5: Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake Acquisition/Rehabilitation Program: The City and Habitat completed one townhome.

Partners: John Pilli-Gate One Builders, Bashers and Edgemore, P & K Builders, Homes for America, Bowman Community Development Corporation, Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA)

Impact: These projects have expanded housing choices for individuals and families that are low and moderate income (80% MHI) and middle income (100% MHI) as well as the disabled and has helped rehabilitate substandard rental housing and owner occupied housing and increased homeownership opportunities.

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 functionality than a local recreational route, its usability would expand, necessitating the need to bring it up to standard. The City does not have enough 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. There, the County has plans to fill in the final missing piece in the network.

Outcome: Implementation of a Complete Streets Approach to Transportation Planning

Narrative: The City has begun shifting its mindset in incorporating the needs and desires of bicyclists and pedestrians into the City's planning and budgeting for a multimodal network, but has yet to successfully implement fully a Complete Streets approach. The City made a Complete Streets approach an official strategy in the 2009 Comprehensive Plan. There have been few opportunities since then, however, to have developers responsible for a new street implement the Complete Street approach. Most developments in the City are small, infill developments. It is not economically feasible for the City to fully implement Complete Streets absent a major development project. Additionally, many of the main streets in town are state roads, and the City has no jurisdiction over these streets. There is a development in the pipeline where the developer will be adding new roads, and he will be required to build a Complete Street.

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Outcome: Work with neighborhoods to allow accessory dwelling units or “granny flats” when appropriate in owner-occupied homes in residential districts

Narrative: To dually expand the availability of affordable housing opportunities and reduce the need for new housing construction, the City has explored the possibility of legislation to allow accessory dwelling units, but has lacked the political willpower and public buy-in to move forward. The City continues to struggle with the diversity of available housing options especially regarding market-rate affordable dwellings. Market forces have driven recent new housing construction to be out of reach for low-income, underemployed, and transitional populations. The City will look to revisit this strategy over the next five years and ways to regulate such units as it makes new policy recommendations as a part of the Comprehensive Plan update process.