



Sustainable Maryland Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Maryland Certification Report of Laurel (Prince George's), a Sustainable Maryland certified applicant.

Laurel (Prince George's) was certified on October 28, 2015 with 225 points. Listed below is information regarding Laurel (Prince George's)'s Sustainable Maryland efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Maryland contact for Laurel (Prince George's) is:

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Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Laurel (Prince George's) was approved for in 2015 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Community Action

Participation in MD Green Schools

30 Points

Program Summary:

The City of Laurel has several certified Maryland Green Schools. They include: Schools in Prince George's County: Bond Mill ES (2010) Deerfield Run ES (2013) Laurel ES (2009, 2013) Scotchtown Hills (2005, 2009, 2013) Schools in Howard County: Hammond ES (2005, 2009, 2013) Forest Ridge ES (2009, 2013)

 [Laurel Green Schools - Prince George's County](#)

 [Laurel Green Schools - Howard County](#)

Green Team

Complete a Green Team Action Plan

10 Points

Mandatory

Program Summary:

The City of Laurel's Director of Community Planning and Business Services drafted an action plan using the Sustainable Maryland Action Menu and examples from other Sustainable Maryland Certified communities. The Environmental Committee/Green Action Committee met on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Laurel Municipal Center. The Action Plan was reviewed by committee members. The committee decided to add some additional goals concerning stormwater management and requested staff to draft language to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 when the Action Plan will be considered for final approval.

 [Laurel's Green Team Action Plan](#)

Create Green Team

10 Points

Mandatory

Program Summary:

On July 2003 the Laurel Mayor and City Council approved City Resolution Number 10-03, a resolution creating an Environmental Affairs Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee was created to address environmental concerns and develop strategies for the City and general public to address these concerns. The goal of the Committee is to achieve lasting improvement to the quality of the environment and natural resources while working with other organizations and City Departments. The Committee consist of seven members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council for a two year term. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be a member of the City Council. The Committee shall plan and conduct a least two citywide programs every year. The programs shall be on the subject of the environment or other related topic. Meetings are held bi-monthly, beginning the first Tuesday or Thursday of the Month at the Municipal Center. The City of Laurel Mayor designated the Environmental Affairs Citizens Advisory Committee as the City Green Team on August 7, 2015.

 [Create Green Team Documentation](#)

 [Laurel- Letter designating Green Team](#)

 [Laurel- Environmental Affairs Committee Members April 2015](#)

 [Laurel- Environmental Affairs Committee Agenda August 12, 2015](#)

 [Laurel- Environmental Affairs Committee Agenda/Minutes September 2015](#)

Local Food Consumption

Establish Local Farmers Market

15 Points

Program Summary:

Laurel's Farmers Market & Bazaar showcases an eclectic mix of the new with the old market style each Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the 300 block of Main Street from early June through October every year. The market showcases local produce, local Main Street vendors, and local entertainment. The Laurel Board of Trade (LBOT) Laurel Farmers Market & Bazaar began in 1996 when the Laurel Board of Trade Recognized the need for a fresh vegetables and fruit concession. The market was first set up in Riverfront Park along the Patuxent River at the north end of Avondale Street and resided there for four years. It was then moved to Laurel's Main Street for more visibility. In 2012 Laurel's Farmer Market was informally renamed Frank and Gail's Farmers Market, in remembrance of the people that started the market and who worked so diligently to move this Main Street tradition to the next level. Frank Gosman, a Laurel businessman and LBOT member who organized the market for years, and Gail Reinhardt, the LBOT administrator who died in 2012. Maureen Rogers, Administrative Coordinator at Laurel Board of Trade (BoT), has been the coordinator of the Farmers Market

since 2012. The numbers of vendors varies from 10-30 depending on the week and the season. The average weekly attendance is 100-300 people, depending on the season, weather and special events that might be held in conjunction with the Market. Vendors are charged \$50 per season. The City of Laurel's Community Redevelopment Authority owns the 12,000 square foot lot after purchasing it from the Quill family in May 2013 for \$300,000. The city leases the property from the authority and makes it available for events such as the Farmers Market and Main Street Festival. The City provides support by providing and maintaining the grassy area on Main Street where the Market is held; providing a trailer with tables and chairs for Market attendees each week; and picking up trash and recycling. The Farmers Market is promoted by the BoT in a variety of ways: a dedicated Facebook page, an extensive email list, and newspaper ads. The City also advertises the Farmers Market on its website and events calendars.

 [Laurel-Farmer's Market Application](#)

 [Laurel- Farmer's Market News Articles](#)

 [Laurel- Farmer's Market Online Advertisement](#)

Local Food Production

Community Gardens 15 Points Priority

Program Summary:

In February 2012 Mayor Craig A. Moe joined Council President pro tem Frederick Smalls to pursue the feasibility of a Community Garden in the City of Laurel. Laurel residents had indicated a desire to see a City sponsored Community Garden. Council Member Smalls asked the Laurel Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee to review the requirements for a Community Garden, and determine where in the City one could be placed with the goal of having a Community Garden in place for the 2013 spring planting season. Persons participating in the Community Garden would be able to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and possibly wood products or native or ornamental plants for non-commercial purposes. On June 1, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. the Laurel City Council held a community meeting at the new Community Garden located at the Laurel Presbyterian Church, 7610 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD. The garden is a fenced-in area close to half an acre managed by the City's Parks and Rec Department. Garden members can choose plots as small as a 4x12 foot raised bed to as large as a 20x20 foot garden, with many plots gardened by an entire family. Those joining the garden for the first time pay a one-time only joining membership fee of \$125 (a fee consistent with other community gardens like Longhorn Garden in Colombia), which helps cover costs of maintaining the property, water barrels, shed with tools (mower, weeder, shredder, etc.) and fencing. Annual dues, which pay for water and materials, range from \$25 to \$55, depending on the size of the plot leased and whether the individual is a Laurel

resident (seniors and veterans receive a \$15 discount). All the funds for the community garden have been raised through the selling of plots. The garden includes a shed for shared tools, and water barrels that allow multiple gardeners to water at the same time, instead of sharing a hose. Garden members have also created two plots where groups of children, such as from a school or day care, can learn about working in a garden and picking vegetables. The garden manager, Dawn Williams, oversees the garden site and periodically schedules activities onsite and in classrooms on topics such as "Gardening 101" and "Food & Nutrition". Approximately 56 plots plus 2 kids' plots (with an estimated average of 4 people utilizing each plot) yields an approximately 232 people directly benefiting from the garden directly. More than 400lbs of excess vegetables are donated to LARS (Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services), a non-profit that assists area residents with homelessness and food insecurity. A Laurel television broadcast about the Garden and its gardening 101 training can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojfQ7ZPxnXM> The Laurel Community Garden Plot Agreement is attached.

 [Laurel- Community Garden News Articles and Press](#)

 [Laurel- Community Garden Facebook, Images, Plot Prices](#)

 [Community Garden Ad in Recreation Brochure](#)

 [Laurel Community Community Gardens Plot Agreement](#)

Health & Wellness

Innovative Demonstration Projects

5 Points

Program Summary:

Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc. (LARS) has been a vital lifeline for Laurel residents in crisis for nearly 30 years. LARS serves thousands of low-income and homeless individuals and families each year through programs that include a food pantry, rental and utility assistance, transitional and permanent housing, case management, and employment assistance. LARS's mission is to enable homeless and low-income people in Laurel who are in crisis to achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency. LARS, in partnership with The City of Laurel, hosts the annual Laurel 5-K Turkey Trot. On Nov. 27, 2014 Over 800 runners and walkers flocked to Laurel's 10th annual Thanksgiving Day 5K Turkey which benefits the LARS' mission. This year registration is \$30 until September 30, 2015, \$35 October 1-31, 2015 and \$40 November 1, 2015 race day. It is advertised on the LARS website, twitter, and flyers available at commercial business in Laurel as well as City Hall. The City of Laurel provides race permits and security for the race and the 1-mile fun walk, which follow a course through Old Town Laurel's historic district, as well as financial support to the nonprofit.

 [Laurel 5-K Turkey Trot Flyer](#)

 [Laurel- Baltimore Sun Article on Turkey Trot](#)

 [Laurel- Turkey Trot Promotion](#)

Workplace Wellness

Workplace Wellness Program

15 Points

Program Summary:

The City of Laurel's Employee Health & Wellness program started in January 2007. The Wellness Program is a voluntary Employee program whereby an enrolled participant accumulates points for certain healthful activities. If adequate points are accumulated in a one-month period the employee may earn paid time off in the form of Personal Leave. This program, funded by general operating funds, offers many programs and incentives to employees to maintain and improve their health and wellness. A voluntary Health Assessment is offered by United Healthcare to all employees, Laurel employees have free access to two fitness centers and the City's two outdoor pools including participation in aquatic classes. In addition, employees receive a 40% discount on all Parks and recreation programs like yoga, zumba and weight training. The Health Coordinator's office maintains a Wellness Library, where employees can access books and literature on various health topics. This office also features a weight scale and exercise equipment that employees may use. The Health Coordinator also promotes "Water Wednesdays", a reminder to stay hydrated and to substitute water for less healthy drinks at least once per week. The Lunch & Learn program, which recruits local health and wellness professionals to speak to employees on a specific subject at a lunchtime forum. Coaches, nurses, doctors, chiropractors have participated in these programs, and presented on subjects like breast cancer awareness, heart health, prostate cancer, posture in the workplace, and aromatherapy. The health Coordinator sends out an email invitation to employees for these monthly events. Attendance is generally 10-15 people. The City does not collect any wellness data or participation rates regarding its employees but it is estimated that 10% participate.

 [Laurel- Wellness Policy](#)

 [Laurel- Lunch and Learn Info](#)

 [Laurel- Wellness ad email](#)

Local Economies

Innovative Demonstration Projects

10 Points

Program Summary:

Laurel is submitting for TWO Local Economies IDPs: 1. Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding Event 2. Community Solar Trash Compactors ----- 1.) Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding Event – The City of Laurel held a Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding day on Saturday, October 18, 2014, from 8:00am to 12:00pm at the Public Works Facility, 305-307 First Street. Thanks, in part, to a grant received by the City from the Maryland Department of the Environment, the City once again offered this very popular event to City residents and businesses. Residents are required to show proof of City residency; businesses must be able to confirm their City location. The Department of Public Works is on-hand to assist City residents in recycling their unwanted electronics. Recyclable items include: computer monitors and CPUs, CD/DVD/VCR players, radios, printers, keyboards, televisions, etc. The electronics recycling event is a joint-effort between the City and Unicorn Recycling Business Group. Office Shredding, a document destruction company, was also available to City residents at the Public Works Facility. Residents and businesses were encouraged to bring any and all sensitive material to the event for shredding. Only paper products can be accepted for shredding. Both events are free for City residents and businesses. ----- 2.) Big Belly Solar Compacting Bins - Two BigBelly Solar compacting trash and recycling bin units have been installed on Main Street in front of the Post Office and at Gude Lake in front of the Lake House. Each installation included one refuse bin and one recycling bin bolted together. BigBelly bins have five times the capacity of regular trash cans, are more sanitary, require fewer pickups, and are equipped with wireless technology to automatically notify City staff when they need to be emptied. Installation of the bins is an important part of making Laurel cleaner and greener. The public recycling bins are a first step in expanding public space recycling. By increasing recycling rates in heavily frequented areas, the City will save money through reduced waste tonnage in addition to keeping our environment cleaner, especially in high-traffic areas. The BigBelly solar trash compactors will keep garbage from overflowing, discourage illegal dumping of trash, and eradicate many animal-related issues due to the enclosed design. BigBelly Solar Stations use solar panels to power a motor that automatically compacts contents, resulting in the need for fewer bags and lower fuel emissions from fewer pickups. An electronic sensor installed in the bin wirelessly alerts Public Works staff when it becomes full.

 [Elecgtronic Recycling PSA](#)

 [Big Belly PR](#)

Green Purchasing

Green Purchasing Policy

15 Points Priority

Program Summary:

In July 2015 the City of Laurel amended their procurement procedures to include a

Sustainable Procurement Policy. The City prepared a green purchasing policy based off a template provided by Sustainable Maryland almost word for word as its policy. This draft policy went before City Council and was approved by the Mayor on August 5, 2015. The Budget and Personnel Services Department distributed the approved policy as a change in City policy email to all of their department heads.

 [Laurel- Procurement Procedures w/ Sustainability Procurement Policy Addendum](#)

 [Laurel- Sustainability Procurement Policy Memo](#)

Natural Resources

Tree City USA

15 Points

Program Summary:

The City of Laurel has been a Tree City USA community for 22 years, including 2014. The attached document is a screen shot from the Arbor Day Foundation indicating 2014 designation.

 [Laurel 2014 Tree City USA Screenshot](#)

 [Laurel 2014 Tree City USA Screenshot #2](#)

Pet Waste

Adopt a Pet Waste Ordinance

5 Points

Program Summary:

Cleaning up after your Pet Section 327 of the Laurel City Code requires that any person owning, possessing, harboring or having the care, charge control or custody of any dog must immediately remove and thereafter dispose of any fecal matter deposited by such dog on any public or private property. The waste must be placed in a closed and sealed container and be deposited in a trash receptacle, sanitary disposal unit or other closed or sealed container. Violation of the Section 327 is a municipal infraction and not a misdemeanor. The penalty for such a violation is a fine of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for each initial offence and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each repeat offense

 [Laurel- Pet Waste Section in 2014 News Letter](#)

 [Laurel- Pet Waste - Code of Ordinances Sec. 3-39](#)

 [Laurel- Pet Waste- Pet Licensing Page on Website](#)

Watershed Stewardship

Create a Watershed Plan

20 Points

Priority

Program Summary:

The Patuxent River Watershed Act, adopted in 1980, is intended to protect the important state resource embodied by the Patuxent River. The Patuxent River Commission and the Patuxent River Policy Plan are two essential components of this effort. The plan serves as a policy guide for local jurisdictions and state agencies in carrying out their actions and regulatory programs in the Patuxent River watershed. The Commission is charged with monitoring and assisting in the coordination of the work of state and local governments implementing the plan. The seven counties within the Patuxent watershed signed the 1984 plan; which was later approved by the City of Laurel. The first plan established an outline for the implementation of best management and land use practices contained within 20 goals and 10 recommendations. The plan later evolved to incorporate strategies to meet the Chesapeake Bay Agreement's 40 percent nutrient reduction goal. The purposes of the most recent 2015 Policy Plan Update are to: (1) build on the goals and recommendations of the 1984 plan; (2) support the programmatic guidelines of the 1997 plan update; and (3) provide a more flexible and effective policy framework for local governments and units of state government to implement the plan. The 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan shifts the focus from a regulatory framework to one that guides local jurisdictions and the state in preserving and restoring the river, raising awareness of the river through advocacy, and creating excitement about the multiple opportunities for interaction with the river. The following webpage - <http://planning.maryland.gov/OurWork/PatuxentRiverCommInfo.shtml> - includes the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan Update and also a 2010-2014 Patuxent River Policy Plan Implementation Report that discusses a few recent Plan items that the City of Laurel implemented. For example, during the 2010-2014 time period, in response to citizen concerns, the city investigated the possibility of a stream stabilization study to reduce sedimentation of Laurel Lakes and has considered dredging as a remedial action. In addition, the City of Laurel Councilman Michael Leszcz chairs the Patuxent River Commission, which seeks to facilitate state and local implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan. Lastly, the City of Laurel has a stream clean-up along the Patuxent River every spring.

 [Laurel's Watershed Patuxent River Policy Plan: 2015 Update](#)

 [Laurel's Watershed Patuxent River Policy Plan Implementation 2010-2014](#)

 [Laurel- Patuxent River Commission](#)

 [Laurel- Resolution to adopt 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan](#)

Facilitate Engagement in Existing Watershed Stewardship Opportunities

10 Points

Program Summary:

The City of Laurel facilitates at least TWO existing watershed stewardship opportunities: 1. Earth Month Cleanup 2. Annual Patuxent River Cleanup ----- 1.) Earth Month Cleanup - In celebration of Earth Month, on Saturday, April 18, 2015, Mayor Craig A. Moe, The Laurel Police Department, City of Laurel, and the Department of Public Works, in partnership with WSSC, participated in a special community cleanup with local students from the University of Maryland, Prince George's Community College and Montgomery College, taking place in Laurel. Locations included: • Scott's Cove Recreation Area Cleanup: 11001 Harding Road, Laurel • Supplee Recreational Area Cleanup: 17000 Supplee Lane, Laurel Advertised on city website, flyers and press release: <http://www.cityoflaurel.org/news/2015/03/30/mayor-craig-moe-and-city-laurel-teams-wssc-earth-month> ----- 2.) Annual Patuxent River Cleanup - The City of Laurel participated in its annual Patuxent River Cleanup on Saturday, April 4, 2015. This river-wide event is coordinated by the Patuxent Riverkeepers and the City is proud to be involved for the 11th consecutive year. The staging area was Riverfront Park, on Avondale Street, at the picnic area starting at 9:00a.m. Volunteers were asked to assist in removing trash and debris from the Patuxent River, which will help the river flow better during rain events. Trash bags and gloves, along with some hand tools, were provided to volunteers. The event was facilitated by the Parks and recreation Department and advertised on the City website and press release (see attached)

 [Laurel Earth Month Cleanups Flyer/PSA](#)

 [Laurel Patuxent River Cleanup PSA](#)

Planning & Land Use

Innovative Demonstration Projects

30 Points

Program Summary:

The City of Laurel is submitting for TWO Land Use Planning IDPs: 1. Laurel Bicycle Master Plan and Map 2. Green Construction Code ----- 1.) Laurel Bicycle Master Plan and Map: In recognition of Laurel's increasingly mobile population, its many retail offerings, and expansive public park system, Mayor Craig A. Moe placed into action his vision to provide a safe and viable means for pedestrians and bicyclists to safely and easily navigate City streets. Based on his vision, City Staff were directed to develop a Bikeway Master Plan that builds new bikeways and utilizes existing roadways in a shared manner to accommodate bicyclists – the same way that existing sidewalk repair/augmentation programs aid pedestrians. Therefore,

with the opportunity to see his vision fulfilled, Mayor Moe is proud to present to the Citizens of Laurel the City's first Bikeway Transportation Plan. While the Plan involves modifying many of the City's streets, Mayor Moe has indicated that the recently-improved Fourth Street, which connects the City's two most used parks, will be the beginning point for the Plan. Further implementation of the Plan will occur as budgets permit. An adopted Bikeway Transportation Plan will be an adjunct to the City's Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan and will be part of Adequate Public Facilities review for all future developments. The Plan was produced by Laurel Dept. of Public Works. ----- 2.) Green Construction Code: The purpose of this code is to protect the public health and welfare by incorporating measures into the planning, design, construction, and operation of certain buildings and the building's site in order to mitigate the energy and environmental impacts of the building so that the structure is energy efficient, sustainable, cost-effective, accessible, functional, productive, generates less waste, and improves the health and productivity of the building's occupants. Highlights of the code include: Sec. 18-139. - Standards for compliance. (a)Publicly funded buildings. New construction of a publicly funded building that is subject to this subtitle shall comply with energy and environmental design standards that the mayor and city council shall adopt by resolution. (b)Other buildings. New construction of a nonpublic funded building that is subject to this subtitle shall comply with energy and environmental design standards that the mayor and city council shall adopt by resolution (c)Other certifications. Applicants subject to this subtitle are encouraged to seek a higher level of green building certification beyond the City of Laurel Green Building Standard, be it LEED, Green Globes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star, etc. if desired. (d)Commercial/industrial projects shall: (1)Be designed to achieve 75 points or equivalence for LEED Silver, Green Globes 3, EPA Energy Star, or the City of Laurel Green Building Standards; provided, that the building has fifteen thousand (15,000) square feet of gross floor area or more. (2)Redevelopment of or addition(s) to an existing building, where the redevelopment or addition(s) exceeds fifty (50) percent of the gross floor area (GFA) of such building where the redevelopment or addition increases the gross floor area to fifteen thousand (15,000) square feet or more shall achieve seventy-five (75) points or equivalence for LEED Silver, Green Globes 3, EPA Energy Star, or the City of Laurel Green Building Standards. Sec. 18-140. - Laurel green building standards. (a)Intent. This standard provides criteria for rating the environmental impact of design and construction practices to achieve conformance with specified performance levels for green buildings. This standard establishes practices for the design and construction of green buildings, building sites and renovations. This standard is intended to provide flexibility to permit the use of innovative approaches and techniques. This standard is not intended to abridge safety, health, or environmental requirements contained in other applicable laws or codes. (b)Environmental performance levels. The building, project, site, and/or development's environmental performance level shall consist of all mandatory requirements, plus points assessed using the point system specified within this section. (c)Awarding of points. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for each practice is noted with that practice.

 [Laurel Bikeway Master Plan](#)

 [Laurel Bikeway Map](#)

 [Laurel Green Construction Code Screen Shot](#)

Participation in DHCD Sustainable Communities

20 Points

Program Summary:

The City of Laurel received its DHCD Sustainable Communities designation in 2011. Attachments include Laurel's DHCD Application, DHCD approval letter, and screenshot of designation on DHCD website.

 [Laurel DHCD Sustainable Communities Application](#)

 [Laurel DHCD Sustainable Communities Approval Screenshot](#)

 [Laurel's DHCD Sustainable Communities Approval Letter](#)