



**Maryland
Green Registry
MEMBER**

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

City of Bowie



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Bowie, MD 20716

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www.cityofbowie.org

Local Government

Member since August 2009

Management and Leadership



Environmental Team

Bowie has two environmental committees that meet monthly and are made up of residents appointed by the City Council. They are the Green Team Executive Committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee. The Green Team Executive Committee's focus is environmental education and outreach and was created as part of the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program. Their mission is to "establish a course for creating a sustainable path for the City, to educate the City and community members further about sustainable activities and to develop initiatives supporting sustainable local government practices."

The Environmental Advisory Committee's focus is environmental policy and aims to "promote a sustainable community through initiatives relating to such issues as natural resource management and development, wildlife and wildlife habitat protection, energy efficiency, watershed stewardship and protection, pollution prevention, beautification, tree canopy preservation, and green policies."

We also have a Staff Sustainability Team (SST), that meets every other month to discuss issues in-house, promote policies, and to further sustainability efforts within our buildings for City operations.



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The City has supported a number of restoration and community environmental projects such as the three Monarch Waystations, which are certified

by Monarch Watch, a non-profit organization, and contains native plants that help support monarch butterfly populations in the area. A fourth location is currently in the works at Kenhill Center. The creation of Monarch Waystations was also part of the Green Team's effort to certify community properties as National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Wildlife Habitats. NWF Wildlife Habitats help to restore habitat in commercial and residential areas by providing food, water, cover, and a place for wildlife to raise their young. The City itself is now a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

The City has Stream Team volunteer opportunities and since their first cleanup, 2,216 Stream Team volunteers have removed over 17,000 pounds of trash and over 16,000 pounds of recyclables. Additionally, we have "weed warrior workdays" six times a year (3 in the spring and 3 in the fall) where the Green Team and resident volunteer to remove English Ivy from trees in our forests. This is a successful program that has freed the majority of Whitemarsh Park of its invasive English Ivy issues.

Annual Environmental Goals

The City of Bowie has an over-arching goal in our new Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030. This is in-line with other regional emissions-reduction goals. The first step towards this was our Solar Farm. "The Farm" is on City owned land and is the product of a Power-Purchase Agreement. The energy generated from it will off-set over 40% of City operational emissions. We look forward to our next array going up in aspiration of a net-zero City facility operating status.

We have also recently partnered with BGE to install EV chargers at both City Hall and Kenhill Center (our old City Hall which is used for a number of activities). The charging stations are up and running and accessible to all 24/7.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

As the staff sustainability team continues working to refine our Green Purchasing Policy, it should also be noted that all Green Bowie giveaway items are environmentally preferable i.e. made from recycled materials or are compostable like the cups used for the annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k.

Waste

Recycling

The City has a single-stream recycling program and set a recycling goal of 35% by 2012. We are not currently at our goal but working every day at

educational opportunities for residents so we can increase our recycling rate of recycling while decreasing the contamination rate.

During COVID we hosted a number of webinars on different sustainability-related topics and recycling education was a central theme to many of them. The Sustainability Planner often does presentations at school where the recycling information is also the central message.

Composting

The City also has a Food Waste Program with over 260 participants in seven neighborhoods. As of 2022, the program has diverted about 75 TONS of food waste from the landfill, averaging roughly 15 tons annually. The scraps go to the County Composting Facility where it is turned into compost and sold as Leaf Gro. We also provide backyard compost bins to residents at a reduced price for those not yet able to participate in the food waste program. The backyard compost bins can be purchased at City Hall for \$20.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The City is designated as a Maryland Smart Energy Community through the Maryland Energy Administration. Our City Hall is LEED Gold Certified as is our Parks & Grounds building. We are currently working on several LED retrofit projects to continue our energy efficiency aspirations.

The Sustainability Planner hosts lightbulb exchange events where residents can bring old CFL's and receive a FREE LED (courtesy of Philips). These events were very successful pre-COVID and will be back up and running in the spring of 2022.

We have had a mulching and electric mower rebate program for some time and it is a successful rebate program for residents. We are now looking to expand it and offer rebates for different electric lawn care tools such as mowers, weed whackers, hedge trimmers, and leaf blowers. This program should be live in FY23.

Renewable Energy

The City has committed to deploying solar technology at city facilities. Efforts to support solar include starting a yearly renewable energy budget allocation and being a participant in Maryland's Smart Energy Communities as well as the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Roadmap. Currently, the City has a

total capacity of 90.27 kW at city facilities. We now also have our Solar Farm, which will offset a significant amount of City operational emissions and look forward to our second array breaking ground in the coming years.

Transportation

Fleet Vehicles

The City currently owns four Chevy Bolts for Code Department use as well as our original Nissan Leaf, and a number of hybrids. The Bowie Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in Maryland and one of the first departments on the east coast to purchase electric motorcycles for its patrol fleet. The eco-friendly bikes can run for 10 hours and up to 180 miles on an electric charge.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The City is currently upgrading a stormwater basin used for flood control to current stormwater standards, which will provide water quality treatment to over 50 impervious acres. Our Public Works and Watershed Manager have also begun projects retrofitting streams and using native plants to line the banks. Our new retention ponds and streams help us to meet our stormwater permit from the state and help mitigate the issues present from not having proper stormwater management design when certain neighborhoods were first built.

Green Building

LEED

The building that houses the city's Parks and Grounds Division was certified LEED Silver in 2009. The building was built on the site of the old building using materials recycled from the original building and has many LEED features such as solar panels.

The current City Hall building was completed in April 2011 and is certified LEED Gold. There are 42 LEED features incorporated into the building including a partial green roof, water saving toilets, light sensors, and reserved parking spaces for low-emission or hybrid vehicles.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



The City of Bowie promotes sustainable practices at area businesses through a program called [Green Bowie Business](#). The program was created in partnership with the Maryland Green Registry and members are listed with both programs.

We award an annual “Sustainable Citizen” at the Bowie Green Expo each spring.

The City of Bowie was a 2018 Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award Winner.

The City of Bowie was a 2020 Prince George’s County Waste Diversion Award Winner.

We are members of Sustainable Maryland Certified and have almost every public school certified through MAEOE as Green Schools. The last school is currently working on their application.

The City of Bowie was recently awarded a grant through Keep Maryland Beautiful, and we were able to start a municipal-level Adopt-A-Road program. We currently have 5 of 15 eligible roads adopted.

Please visit www.cityofbowie.org/greenbowie for more information.

Profile Updated February 2022



MARYLAND GREEN REGISTRY
**LEADERSHIP AWARD
WINNER
2018**



MARYLAND GREEN REGISTRY
**SUSTAINABILITY
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE
2022**



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

