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.

Town of Poolesville

19721 Beall St, P.O. Box 158
Poolesville, MD 20837
707-502-8880
https://www.poolesvillemd.gov/450/Sustainable-Poolesville
Town Commission appointed by town officials
Member since September 2018

Management and Leadership

☑ **Environmental Policy Statement**

The mission of the Poolesville Green Team is to create awareness of stewardship and sustainability issues, identify opportunities for the Town to cost-effectively reduce its environmental impact and facilitate initiatives to capture these opportunities. We will accomplish our goals through a collaborative effort with our local government, schools, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, businesses, and residents.

☑ **Environmental Team**

The Poolesville Green Team is a 9-member board of Poolesville residents, one Town Commissioner, and one staff liaison. The overarching goal of the group is to meet once a month to look at all areas of the Town to try to create a more sustainable Poolesville. It creates awareness of stewardship and sustainability issues, identifies opportunities for the town to cost-effectively reduce its environmental impact and facilitate initiatives to capture these opportunities. This is made possible through a collaborative effort with local government, schools, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, businesses, and residents.

☑ **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

Per the Poolesville Sustainable Procurement Policy, Poolesville employees incorporate certain factors when writing specifications for, or procuring materials, products, or services.

-Environmental factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, the life cycle assessment of pollutant releases, toxicity, especially the use of persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals, waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, depletion of natural resources, and impacts on biodiversity.
-Social equity factors to be considered include, but are not limited to human health impacts, use of local businesses, use of State of Maryland Minority, Women, and Emerging Small Businesses policies.
-Fiscal Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to:
• Use reduction; buy only what you really need
• Product performance and quality
• Life-cycle cost assessment; reasonable total cost while meeting performance

☑ **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

1. The Poolesville Community Garden is a community-wide collaborative effort hosted by the Poolesville Presbyterian Church and facilitated by the local nonprofit Poolesville Green. All members of the community are encouraged to play a part, small or large, through financial contributions, in-kind services or volunteering time and effort to see this project bear fruit and natural beauty for all residents and visitors. Formerly a vacant lot owned by and adjacent to the church it is now transformed into an attractive, food-producing site with the added benefit of a space for reflection.

2. National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Project: The Community Wildlife Habitat Project is part of the Sustainable Poolesville Green Team's continuing sustainability efforts in the Town of Poolesville, Maryland. In June 2016, the Sustainable Poolesville Green Team partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to register with their Garden for Wildlife™ program with the goal of becoming a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. This is a demonstration project as part of Poolesville's re-certification as a Sustainable Maryland community in 2018.

The Community Wildlife Habitat Project brings people together for a common purpose – to create a community where people, flora and fauna can flourish. Poolesville's action plan includes a long-term commitment to citizen education about providing habitat for wildlife and employing sustainable gardening practices. These practices include reducing or eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, conserving water, planting native plants, removing invasive plants and composting.

Poolesville's Community Wildlife Habitat project goal is to encourage as many homes, places of worship, businesses, farms/stables and other locations as possible in the 20837 zip code area to become NWF-certified habitats. Each individual certification provides the project with points toward the Community

Wildlife Habitat certification. The Poolesville Town Hall property was certified as a wildlife habitat in December 2017, and L.M. Stevens Park was certified in February 2018. In addition, certification points are also allocated for completing specific community education and outreach goals, which include, but are not limited to, creating a habitat project brochure, creating and maintaining a project Facebook page, providing Garden for Wildlife™ information at the annual community event (Poolesville Day), and working with local nurseries to label and/or provide native plants.

3. Campbell Park Improvement Project: [Plan for Summer 2018] This native species/pollinators project will be split into two general sections of Campbell Park in downtown Poolesville. The first part will have two new paved pathways to encourage walking/running/biking and several plots that will contain native plant species especially suited for pollinators. The second area will also include sections of new paved pathway as well as native trees peppered throughout.

In terms of community outreach, the Town has created a Sustainable Resource Center. The resource center provides sustainable resource materials to residents in two ways. In the main lobby of the Town Hall, three large display boards focus on the importance of energy conservation, water conservation and recycling. Also included in the main foyer is an informational pamphlet display center, for the distribution of water quality reports, business directories and much more. On the Town's website, a specific page is dedicated to providing information water conservation, draught-resistant plants, recycling, lead information and energy information. Poolesville strives to communicate the importance of and methods of sustainable living.

Waste

☑	**Recycling**

Since 2015, the Town of Poolesville has held an annual community shredding and electronics recycling event. Advertising is accomplished through the Town's web site, Community Facebook page and on an annual mailer advertising all Town events. In 2017, the shredder truck, which is contracted through the Town collected and shredded nearly 8,000 pounds and in 2018, 7,000 pounds. The electronics collection dumpster is supplied through a partnership with Montgomery County. In 2018, the Town added paint collection and collected 522 gallons, which if usable gets donated for re-use.

Energy

☑ **Energy Efficiency**

The Town of Poolesville has created a LED Streetlights installment program. The LED install/replacement program has developed in three phases. In 2010 and in 2013, the Town installed eleven LED streetlights in two of the Town's most prominent parks at a cost of $36,000. In 2014, the Town completed its first round of a replacement program for 21 existing Mercury Vapor to LED streetlights. Poolesville and Potomac Edison (local utility) worked with the Public Service Commission to institute Maryland's first LED rate. The electrical costs were reduced from $8.00 to less than $2.00 per month per light. With over 600 lights, this program will continue for several years and be funded through Town funds and grants.

In 2018, Poolesville embarked upon another phase of replacements in the Wesmond Subdivision. A total of 28 mercury vapor and sodium lights were replaced with LED Streetlights. Town Public Works staff performed the installation along with a licensed electrician. The overall cost for this project was $52,000, non-inclusive of staff time.

In addition to the replacement program, the Town is requiring that all new developments install LED streetlights as part of the Public Improvement Agreement. The town of Poolesville has received overwhelming community support regarding these measures which have been featured in the local newspaper, website and promoted in the Town's booth during the annual festival Poolesville Day. The lighting is much improved and with the new "dark sky" compliant fixtures that specifically direct light downward, allowing reduction in light pollution.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

☑ *Green Schools Certification: All 4 schools within the Poolesville School Cluster, (which include 3 schools within the corporate limits of the Town of Poolesville) have been certified as Maryland Green Schools. They are Poolesville Elementary (certified as a Green School in 2015), Monocacy Elementary (certified in 2018), John Poole Middle School (certified in 2003, recertified in 2008, 2012 and 2016 and awarded the Green Ribbon Award by U.S. Dept. of Education in 2017), and Poolesville High School (certified in 2008, recertified in 2012 and 2016.) Each have demonstrated their dedication to environmental sustainability through three tenets of conservation--strong support through the school curriculum, a plethora of student sustainability practices, and a wide array of community partnerships.*

For the past 8 years, the Town of Poolesville has sponsored a summer food-fair series, "Friday on the Commons." The Town financially sponsors the event series. The events take place at Whalen's Commons, a municipally maintained park, and consist of nine individual fairs held on Fridays between the months of June and August. Participating vendors include those supplying produce, meats, cheese, wine, cut flowers, agricultural goods, and baked goods. The goal is also to educate residents on the availability of locally sourced foods.