



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.

Bethesda Green



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www.bethesdagreen.org
501(c)(3) Non-profit
Member since April 2012

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

Bethesda Green's mission focuses on environmental sustainability and leadership; therefore we are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting environmental stewardship at all levels of our organization.

We encourage our Innovation Lab companies, staff, and event participants to reduce their environmental footprint through triple bottom line impact, thus maximizing the sustainable economy and providing all residents with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources.

Wherever possible we will strive to set an example for the community by minimizing pollution and waste, conserving energy and water, supporting renewable energy resources, buying environmentally friendly products, and encouraging environmentally preferable transportation. These efforts extend to contractor and supplier relationships. We work with contractors and suppliers serving or otherwise acting on behalf of the organization to meet our standards of triple bottom line impact.

Electronic copies of this policy manual are accessible to all employees. New employees are obliged to read the policy manual and to sign a form confirming that they have read and understand Bethesda Green's environmental policy. Employees at all levels of the company are involved in supporting our mission.

Environmental Team

The Bethesda Green Green Team involves all of our staff. We are a small staff, so each employee has input into our environmental practices. We survey the staff every year and update our building and business metrics once a year, typically in the summer. The Director of Be Green Living makes suggestions to our landlord on ways to improve sustainable practices in the building.

Annual Environmental Goals

Bethesda Green sets specific annual goals each year as part of its overall strategic workplan for the coming year. For 2020 we have liberalized telecommuting options for staff to reduce their transportation footprint (this was before Covid-19 forced work from home activities).

We are subsequently exploring transit benefits for its employees to incentivize the use of alternative forms of transportation. We are exploring programs from the State of Maryland and Montgomery County to accomplish this goal. By providing a small subsidy, Bethesda Green could further decrease the use of single occupancy vehicles and reduce our transportation emissions which are our largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Bethesda Green works to address environmental challenges locally by creating a sustainable, green community, built collaboratively through citizen engagement, environmental education, government partnership and innovative business development.

Bethesda Green does this by:

- *Providing an accelerator business program (Innovation Lab) that has the resources and access to expertise necessary to develop green start-ups into viable businesses.*
- *Connecting accelerator companies, businesses, government, and non-profits to collaborate in testing and piloting of green solutions.*
- *Implementing and providing assessment tools for Bethesda Green, our accelerator companies and partners to fully understand and clearly, communicate their triple bottom line impact.*
- *Engaging Bethesda and the Montgomery County community in participating the sustainable economy through opportunities that inspire innovation and implementation of green solutions.*



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

- *When replacing standard fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent light bulbs, LED, or low-mercury fluorescent bulbs are used.*
- *All markers used in the office are non-toxic.*
- *All office paper is post-consumer recycled paper.*
- *Bethesda Green's documents, promotional fliers, brochures, t-shirts and bags, as well as business cards and display signs are printed with soy-based ink, produced by EcoPrint, Green Paper Studio, and T.S. Designs.*



Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects

Bethesda Green has a number of environmental projects and programs that involve ecological restoration and community engagement.

Bethesda Recycles

Our recycling program began 10 years ago, conceived by Honest Tea's Seth Goldman and former Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal, who envisioned the first public space recycling program in Bethesda. With the generous help of Honest Tea and The Coca-Cola Company, and that of individual and small business sponsors, we placed 36 public recycling bins in downtown Bethesda. Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP) maintains the bins, and the Montgomery County Transfer Station collects, sorts, and disposes of the materials. Since the initial pilot, the bins collected more than 55,000 pounds of recyclables. Our first pilot went so well, we're adding more bins!

Goals:

- *Place 50 new recycling bins in Downtown Bethesda*
- *Add recycling education signs in high traffic areas*
- *Reduce recycling contamination in existing bins*
- *Conduct litter studies and clean ups to prevent pollution contamination in neighboring waterways*

Enhancing the Green on Greenery Lane

Glen Waye Gardens Condominium is a 214-unit garden apartment condominium complex with a five-acre footprint on a 15-acre property that drains into the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River. Built in the late 1960's, it was converted from a rental property into a condominium and is now populated by residents of diverse backgrounds. This project was made possible by funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Award funding is provided through Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund.

The first phase of the stormwater reduction project was complete in 2016. During that time, Glen Way Gardens Condominiums (Silver Spring, MD) and Bethesda Green (Bethesda, MD) were awarded a \$32,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust through the Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund administered by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Glen Way Gardens undertook three major projects to reduce their stormwater runoff.

- *A reforestation project, about 200 young trees were added to the property.*
- *6 concrete pads and rainwater collection cisterns were installed.*
- *A conservation landscaping project, about 160 plants, and trees native to the area were planted.*

The second phase of the project is an \$80,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust provided through Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund and will be complete September 2020. The major aspects of the project include:

- *Install 2-3 conservation landscapes and running a Cistern rainwater system pilot (RainGrid controller).*
- *Educate area property managers on sustainable stormwater management and engage and educate residents and community members on best practices and native plants.*
- *Release a before and after video showing the development of the Glen Way Gardens project and a best management practice video for property managers*

Environmental Leaders Program

Bethesda Green's Environmental Leaders Program is an experiential school-year long sustainability program targeting high school students in their senior year currently offered for Montgomery County high schools. The training focuses on environmental stewardship and community engagement with local organizations and businesses.

Originally launched during the 2014-2015 academic year, Bethesda Green's Environmental Leaders Program draws students from Montgomery County, focuses on environmental stewardship via impactful projects and community engagement with schools and neighborhoods, and encourages cooperative project development and delivery. In addition to working alongside Bethesda Green staff with our community outreach, students have opportunities to learn from our incubator's next-generation entrepreneurs. Importantly, the program focuses on the development of at least one significant project.

[Meet our 2019-2020 Environmental Leaders!](#)

Areas of focus:

- *Students in the Environmental Leaders Program work on Bethesda Green programs/activities to learn office dynamics, gain work experience and explore green businesses.*
- *Students complete a spring semester project on a sustainability topic of their choosing with guidance from Bethesda Green staff. By initiating a project from concept phase through to completion, students are expected to gain valuable skills such as time management, project development, connections, and resources.*
- *Students complete a stream clean up at Meadow Brook Park with Rock Conservancy*

Best for DMV Campaign

The Best for DMV is a campaign style program to dramatically expand the number of District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) businesses that incorporate impact into their business models. We believe that the long-term change needed to address many of our regional challenges cannot be accomplished without broad-scale engagement of the private sector. We need more businesses to recognize the breadth of their impact and the power they have as change agents. The Best for DMV campaign launched January 2020.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

Bethesda Green encourages employees and visitors to reduce their use of bottled water, non-reusable dishes and utensils, and cups and mugs by providing reusable plates, utensils, cups, mugs, condiments and filtered hot and cold water through an IMC water. All of these reusable materials are used during office meetings, and internal and external events whenever possible. Additionally, a coffeemaker is available to reduce the need for carry-out coffee and a common refrigerator is available to reduce the number of packet condiments and encourage no waste meals.

All new accelerator companies are introduced to Bethesda Green's waste reduction policies and are instructed on how to dispose of their waste properly in trash, recycling and composting bins.

Recycling

Bethesda Green recycles approximately 4,286 pounds annually. All employees and patrons are expected to recycle the following materials:

- *mixed paper: white paper, colored paper, corrugated cardboard, boxboard, newspapers, inserts, magazines, catalogs, telephone directories, paperback books, unwanted email, and all other clean, dry paper*
- *commingled materials: aluminum cans and foil products, bi-metal (steel/tin) cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic narrow neck bottles*
- *scrap metal: ferrous and non-ferrous items*
- *printer cartridges*

Recycling bins for mixed paper and commingled materials are placed in the offices, incubator, conference room and the kitchen. Each bin is clearly marked with appropriate materials for that recycling bin. If bins are missing, employees are to bring this to the program assistant's attention so that a bin can be added. Bethesda Green uses a Xerox copier with Bio-Renewable Content Ink, BRC 30 Index. Frequent printing is discouraged, and therefore ink and paper use is typically low.

Composting

Bethesda Green partners with The Compost Crew to collect weekly compost in the office. The compost bin is easily accessible and located in the kitchen. Bethesda Green also uses composting for our internal and external events.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

Bethesda Green avoids using hazardous products. However, any chemicals or harmful products that must be used are stored inside under cover, in their original containers or properly labeled secondary containers with tight-fitting lids. These products are stored in secure, controlled areas, away from ignition sources, food storage areas, and sewer and storm drains.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

Bethesda Green encourages donations of ENERGYSTAR office appliances which are labeled with their energy saving features. Currently, Green Switch has installed light sensors to turn off the lights when no motion is sensed in the room for a specified period of time. Workspaces have also been arranged to take advantage of natural light. Lights and electronics are turned off when not being used. Signs above light switches remind staff and volunteers to turn off light switches.

The refrigerator will be set between 35-38 F and the freezer between 0 and 5 F.

An IMC water cooler with a water distiller and filter is used to ensure clean, healthy water. The model used has a sensor to adjust power needed for operation and is placed away from direct sunlight.

Elevator access is available for deliveries and for handicapped persons, but otherwise, employees and visitors are expected to use the stairs to access Bethesda Green.

As a tenant, Bethesda Green recommended to its landlord that T12 fluorescent lamps be replaced with energy efficient T8 or T5 lamps with electronic ballasts. Incandescent light bulbs have been replaced with compact fluorescent light bulbs or LED lights where appropriate. Additionally, LED, electroluminescent, or photo luminescent exit signs are used.

The landlord, Capital One Bank, manages regularly scheduled maintenance on the HVAC.

Transportation



Employee Commute/Customer Travel

Information on public transportation and car/vanpooling are on display at Bethesda Green for staff and visitors. The County's Guaranteed Ride Home and Regional Ride-Sharing programs also promoted.

Bethesda Green has facilitated the installation of a bike rack in front of the Bethesda Green and Capital One Bank building to encourage bike riding as a local mode of transportation for our employees, visitors along with Bank clients.

Bethesda Green has a no-idling policy. This means vehicles being used for Bethesda Green business, activities and events are to be turned off when loading and unloading.

Bethesda Green tracks the staff forms of transportation to and from Bethesda Green with a summer survey.

Staff and visitors are encouraged to use public transportation, walk and/or bike to work. We promote our location as close to the metro in our event publicity.



Efficient Business Travel

While on business travel, Bethesda Green employees are encouraged to take the train, bus, or subway when feasible instead of a car. If a car is necessary, use a hybrid, plug in or at minimum fuel-efficient vehicle is preferred.

Water

Water Conservation

A dishwasher is available and only run when full to reduce water use.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

- Bethesda Green is a Montgomery County Green Business Certified organization and has a Green America Green Certification. Bethesda Green also hosted the 2014 Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards.*



View our video



Maryland

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

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