



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM
City Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Environmental Initiatives
Next Steps Toward Green Bowie FY '20
Environmental Advisory Committee

DATE: February 14, 2019

The agenda for Monday night includes an item on environmental initiatives. The Environmental Advisory Committee agreed upon the attached set of topics to pursue with City Council in the year ahead. Chairman Gary Allen will present these recommendations and discuss the future direction as outlined in the attachment.

It is important to note that many of these proposed actions will require further work by the EAC. The EAC's recommendation of these actions is both a work plan for the Committee and a commitment to provide to the Council in the months ahead detailed strategies for implementation of these actions.

Attachment



Next steps toward Green Bowie FY 20

EAC Recommendations:

1. **Strengthen** the city's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Adopt a policy to reduce GHG emissions throughout the city by 50%, and to completely power all Bowie City facilities by renewable energy by 2030. Require that future development and redevelopment conform to city's adopted goals for GHG emissions and use of renewable energy.
2. **Adopt** a Complete Streets Policy to create an integrated and connected network of transportation including pedestrians, bicyclists and transit passengers of all ages and abilities.
3. **Install** EV infrastructure at City Hall and Kenhill Center. Require that all commercial centers retrofit installation of this infrastructure within 5 years and that future development and redevelopment in the city shall meet EV readiness guidelines.
4. **Encourage** tree planting programs to maintain the Bowie tree canopy. Develop new strategies and incentives for protecting the loss of large trees and planting new trees on private property.
5. **Promote** the use of native species for all tree plantings and landscaping to promote biodiversity and increase habitats for birds, pollinators and other wildlife in the city.
6. **Expand** the pilot program for curbside pickup and composting of residential food waste to the entire city within two years.
7. **Implement** an aggressive public education program on recycling. Define clearly what is recyclable and explain the impact of contaminating materials on the marketability of recycling materials. Provide drop-off sites for materials not recyclable through curbside pickup.
8. **Develop** strategies to make LED lighting cost-effective. Research the costs and benefits of transitioning city street lights to LED lighting.
9. **Establish** a Children's Natural Exploration Area in a local park.
10. **Assess** the benefits and value of a Nature Center in Bowie as part of the Community Services Department work plan for FY 2020.

Finally, there are previous recommendations which have yet to be fully acted upon:

- Adopt Green Fleets and Green Purchasing recommendations,
- Establish a community garden site for the benefit of residents and non-profits,
- Reexamine the twice-a-week trash pick-up schedule,
- Sponsor an annual hazardous household waste collection event in our community, and
- Plan and install a micro grid to ensure City services will not be lost in an emergency.