

Notes from 2009 Western Maryland Local Government Exchange

Roundtable Discussion Report-outs

(Notes #1 / Table 3)

- Hagerstown CC
- sustainable society (also, programs to educate public about green initiatives)
 - Green advisory group to get input from local community/business needs to match w/ courses
- Wash Co Health Dept
- geo-thermal wells
 - Wastewater recycle> res houses/homes on septic tanks
 - Quality of groundwater
 - Grant from Cannan Valley Institute assisting w/ wastewater stream for septics using Bay Restoration Fund
- Brunswick
- Single-stream recycling>since it started in Jan 2009 15% reduce in waste
 - Mayor adopted energy policy also adopted state's energy goal
 - w/ grant from CBF-Univ. of Vermont did Urban Tree Canopy Study
 - Forest Resource Ord>when someone develops pty & cut trees down pay fee to reforest
 - Frederick County>adopted solar ordinance Brunswick will adopt as well
 - Sustainable commission to guide development of sustainable comp plan
 - also educate public about sustainable practices
 - Forest reforestation ordinance
 - created an env'tl sustainability office
- City of Westminster
- require all new development to follow low impact development standards
 - Water allocation policy: developing low impact/green building standards that will create a point system/checklist: more points = higher priority
 - e-waste recycling
 - geo-thermal wells
 - Natural gas cars (city)

(Notes #2 / Table 5)

Re-doing master plan in Taneytown (water issues) have to purchase recharge land outside municipality. Looking at using cleaned (grey water) water from treatment plant & apply to recharge land. This is done in other areas e.g., Middletown Golf Course. Mountain Lake Park purchased 100 acres including wetlands to protect the borders of the town. Water sources outside town limits being purchased around some towns. Water Recharge land.

Water rights being stripped from farmers in CA – could happen in Piedmont area of MD. Need legislation to have farmers compensated for those sights. Water Rights issue.

Garrett County – 8 small towns formed a mayor's association to work together: sharing equipment, etc. Working Together

Frederick – looking at emergency preparedness & making sure plans of action are in place. Planning.
Also, land preservation program important.

(Notes #3 / no table number)

Created office of sustainability (Frederick Co)
Working on LEED platinum certification on county buildings (Lucy School)
Comprehensive Energy plan: Wind & Solar

Brunswick

Green Plan; Strategic plan; Impact fee; Wind & Solar; Canopy Cover; Mandatory Recycling

Washington

Comp plan with Green initiative

(Notes #4 / no table number)

Ag Leadership Program to create strong farming advocates & leaders
Advocating zero waste
Encourage green building through incentives
Growth controls in rural areas
Ag easements to protect quality of land.

(Notes #5 / No table number)

Balt. Metropolitan Council & Balt Regional Sustainability Committee

- Discuss what is going on
- Future plans ex greenhouse gas survey

Mt Airy

- Green Building codes/ordinances
- Adopt to Carroll County
- Water conservation

Richard M Floyd – Frederick County

- Implementation of state stormwater regulations
- Residential ordinance with wind & solar power
- encourage permeability in development projects

Carroll County

- Greenhouse gas inventory
- Form sustainability committee – partnered with local green businesses
- green action plan/strategy

Washington County

- Revised Ordinances

(all groups are continuously working on new/revised zoning to amend for solar, wind & water

(Notes #6 / Table 1- Sustainability Initiatives)

Town of Myersville

- Passed mandatory recycling ordinance

- Water & sewer capacity plan
- Established zoning district
“RI-SG” (smart growth) with density to match 3.5/D.U. per acre
- Consolidated town operations under one roof – Equivalent to LEED Certification (Bronze level)

Town of Middletown

- Established mixed use Business District
- Advocating for comprehensive Wellhead Protection plans (nudging Frederick County)

Town of Thurmont

- Studying construction/operation of Bio-mass Energy plant for town’s municipal electric utility
- Established mixed use zoning districts and re configuring residential categories into form-based, higher-density, districts
- Requiring vegetative plantings to be native, non-invasive species.
- Establishing sustainable growth strategy based on physical infrastructure capacity, social infrastructure capacity (churches, Fraternal organizations, Business groups), Jobs/homes balance, and local responsibility to accommodate a portion of regional growth.

City of Hagerstown

- Adopting three mixed use zoning districts:
 - Neighborhood mixed use
 - Industrial mixed use
 - Downtown mixed use
- Advocating “Digital Packets” for Boards, Commissions and Committees
- ”Anti-Idling” Initiative for city vehicles
- using form-based zoning codes to enhance character in high density, mixed use districts.

Frederick County

- Studying “LEED-Like” standards for county facilities
- Established director of sustainability position and appointed sustainability commission
- Adopted single-stream recycling operations
- Adopted zoning regulations for wind & solar energy structures
- Created county-wide comprehensive plan that focuses on three “plan views”:
 - Communities & corridors
 - Agriculture/rural
 - Green infrastructure

(Notes #7 / no table number)

Taneytown, Frederick, Washington County, Garrett County, MDE, MCE

1. “Green” ideas for new infrastructure – environmentally friendly (re-development – a challenge)
2. Ordinances, subdivision – more sustainable growth - parking, impervious sections, landscape plans, stormwater Management techniques – (creating a green commission with the county for countywide strategy)
3. Programmatic Issues – legislation action - water issues to accommodate population growth
H2O Management tools for handling H2O issues
Initiative: Reducing power consumption with the department
4. “Green Committee” - Allegany & Garrett County - the conduit to work with local jurisdictions – recycling.
5. Frederick Co:
 - 1) Office of Environmental Sustainability Look at Government first
 - 2) Update to county plan - Better design of density
 - 3) New Wind & Solar test amendment

6. MREDC

(Notes #8 / Table 9)

Westminster

- Actively planning what we have to do to comply with comp plan – water & sewer plan
- pervious surface

Brunswick

- waste & water treatment plants up to MDE standards
- manager for sustainable projects
- challenging depts. to reduce by 25%
- trying to utilize more spring water
 - Walkable community
 - Walkable Shuttle

Washington County

- USA Rezoning
- Gas - from landfill
 - Recycling
 - Wind & solar
- Comp plan calls for bike and walkability

Washington County Schools

- LEED silver for new schools
- look for ease of maintenance in school design
- sustainability in 3 new schools
- process of determining best uses
- light design & green features

Frederick County

- Visionary – integrating – trail & bike path
Transportation

(Notes #9 / no table number)

1. Frederick City – adopted sustainability plan on what city can do.
2. Frederick County - sustainability plan and new office of sustainability. Focuses of government plan: energy, building codes, allow 150' wind towers owned by individuals
3. Windmills/solar >not allowed in town, views
4. Efficiency of return on energy investments.
5. Washington County – trying to get windmills into regulation, Zoning challenge, height of structures
6. Agriculture – bio digesters - methane from landfill
7. Need to address regulations that are barriers
8. Toxic waste – sewage from waste treatment plant - not a real problem if done correctly
9. Reduce fuel consumption on state, county, city vehicles, low flow toilets, 2 stage toilets
 - **Question the hybrid vehicle purchase
10. Regulation need to be reevaluated
11. Hybrid vehicles – battery problem
12. Problem with LEED certification and wood products