

Equity Emphasis  
Areas in  
Montgomery  
County, MD

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Council President

**EQUI  Y**  
**FOCUS AREAS**

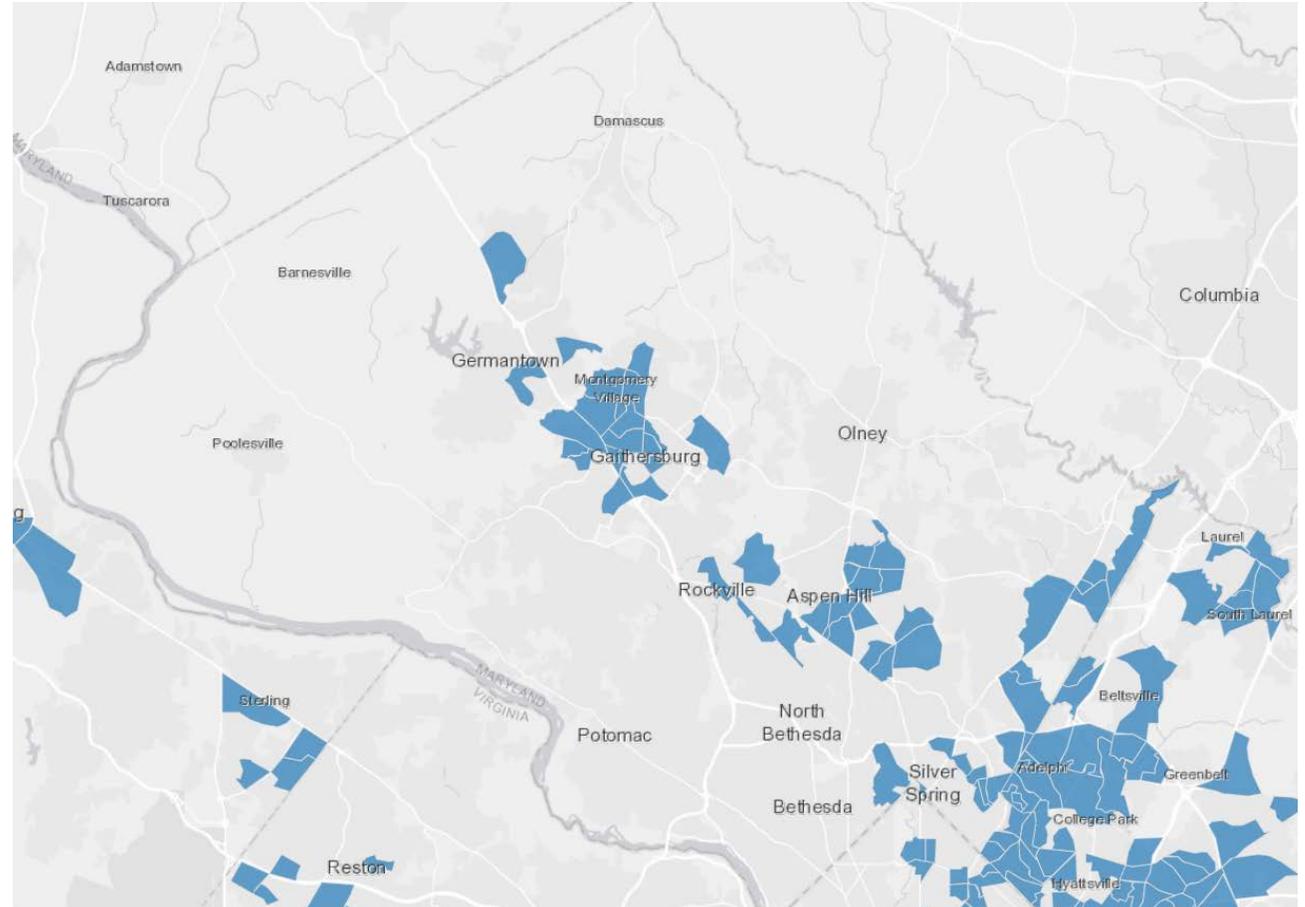
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD**

## Why Equity?

- In 2020, the Montgomery County Council enacted the **Racial Equity and Social Justice Act**, to ensure that racial equity and social justice impacts are considered in the development of master plans and legislation.
- In recent years, particularly as society increasingly confronts the legacy of structural and institutional racism, the topic of equity had become a key focus for policymakers and government agencies.

# Why Equity?

- 4 of the top 10 most diverse cities in the United States are in Montgomery County.
- Median Household income of \$108,000.
- Yet, 28% of households in Montgomery County are considered Low income.
- *Equity Focus Areas total 56 out of 215 census tracts (26%) in the county.*





# Applying Equity Emphasis Areas: Policy

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- Shovel Our Sidewalks Act
  - Requires snow to be cleared from 40 miles of sidewalks in transit-dependent and low-income communities.
  - Legislation targeted arterial roads in EEAs
  - In EEAs:
    - More likely to not own a vehicle and depend on transit
    - More likely to not be able to work from home.
    - 451 pedestrian and bike injuries in 2022 and 19 deaths.

# Applying Equity Emphasis Areas: Investments

- Montgomery County passed a green bank funding bill (Bill 44-21) to require the Council to annually appropriate 10% of the fuel-energy tax revenue to the County Green Bank
- The legislation requires 20% of the funds must be used to support the Bank's activities in Equity Emphasis Areas in the County as defined by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

## SENECA VILLAGE: LARGEST ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECT ON A MULTIFAMILY PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY



*\$5 million investment on a 2.1 MW rooftop solar PV installation and energy efficiency roof replacement project on a 684 unit affordable multifamily property in the county.*

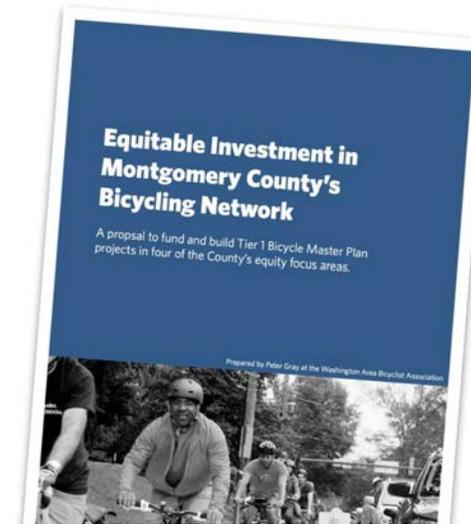
*This investment is the Green Bank's first investment in an Equity Emphasis Area using the funds from the Fuel Energy Tax.*

*Working in partnership with NYCEEC and Virginia Community Capital, the Green Bank completed this investment with Orlo Management on the \$13 million project.*

# Looking Forward: EEAs and Our Path Towards Progress

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- Montgomery County is committed to addressing existing inequities and to prevent the creation of new inequities
- EEAs help us direct resources and opportunities for employment, transportation, education, health, and government services that support a good quality of life.



## Introduction

# Planning for Racial Equity and Social Justice