

Equity Emphasis
Areas in
Montgomery
County, MD

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EQUI  Y
FOCUS AREAS

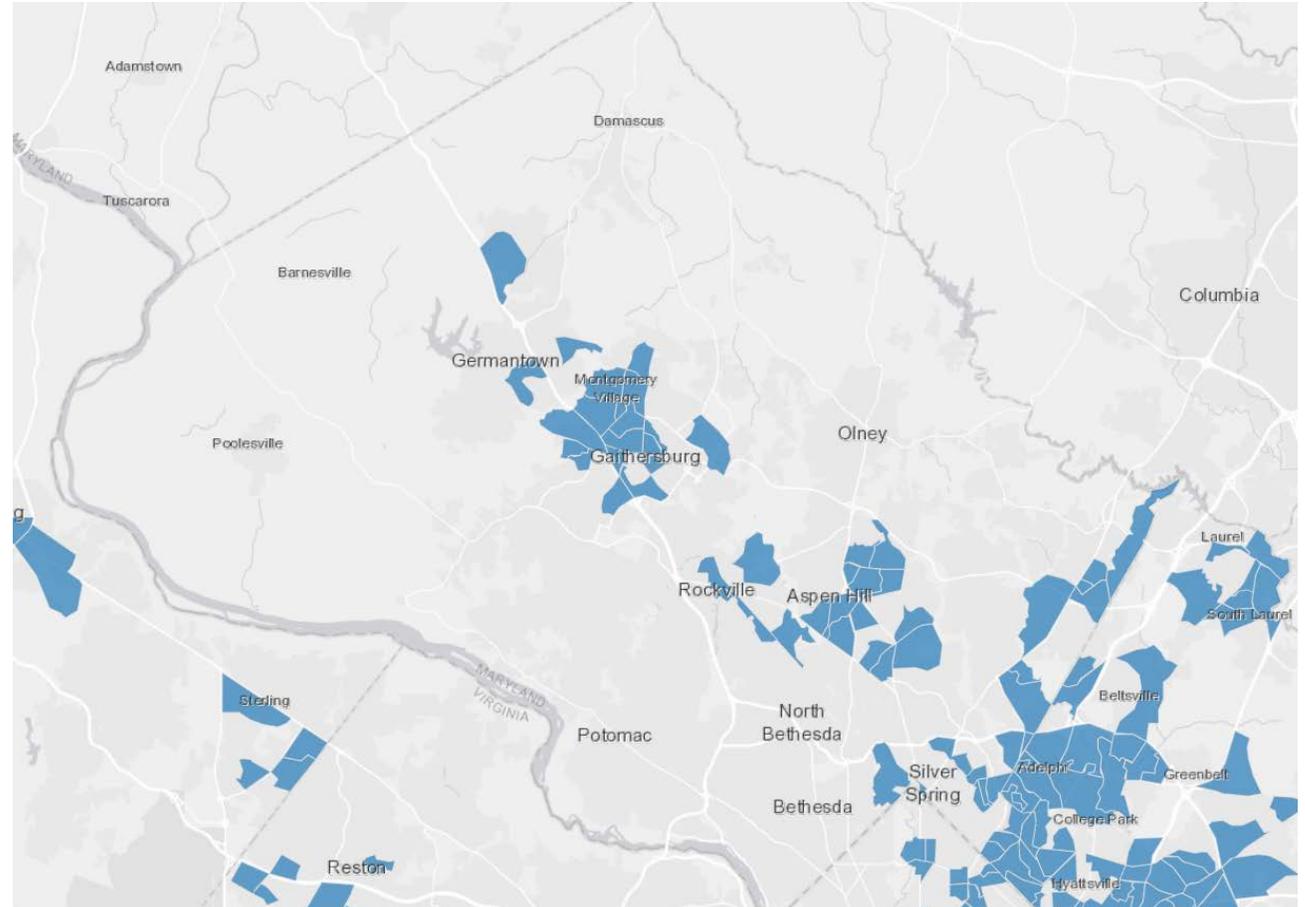
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

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

- 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



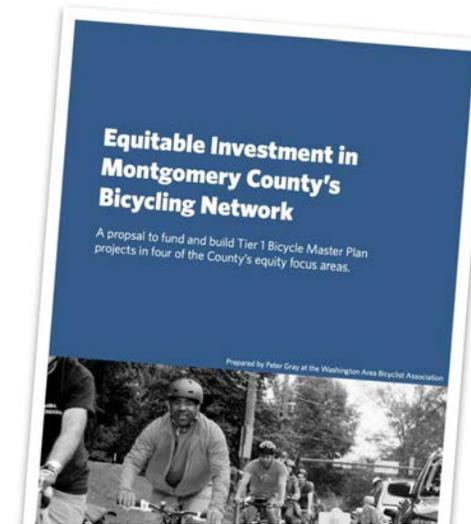
\$5 million investment on a 2.1 MW rooftop solar PV installation and energy efficiency roof replacement project on a 684 unit affordable multifamily property in the county.

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

- 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