

City of Laurel

Michele Blair, Environmental Programs
Manager

Recycling Coordinator to Environmental
Programs Manager



CITY OF
LAUREL
MARYLAND



Challenges

- » Don't get caught in the trap of wearing too many hats....
 - Public Works becomes a melting pot of ALL THINGS
 - New recycling initiatives -- CFLs, Batteries, Glass, etc.
 - Green Teams – CAC's, Administration Initiatives
 - Waste Management – composting anyone?
 - Electric Charging Stations
 - Bee City, Sustainable Maryland, Sustainable Communities, etc.



Challenges

- Breaking out of the “recycling” mold
 - More than curbside recycling
 - More than recycling events
 - More than recycling drop-offs



Challenges

Big fish, little pond vs. little fish,
big pond



Comparing programs, budgets, staffing
levels with other Counties and States.

Challenges

Defining the Vision



Planet - practicing responsible environmental management and conservation.



People - embracing social equity, fairness, health, and wellness.



Prosperity - supporting local businesses and local economic growth

Building a Program

- Taking the “vision” to the next level
 - What is our goal?
 - What is our foundation?
 - What resources do we have?
 - What is our timeline?
 - What funding do we have?



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Building a Program

Herding the cats

- » What are other departments doing?
- » Where is the overlap
- » Where can we support each other?



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Building a Program

- Making connections outside of the City
 - MWCOG
 - MRN
 - Sustainable Maryland
 - Other governments (Municipalities, Counties and State).



CITY OF
COLLEGE PARK



Maryland.gov



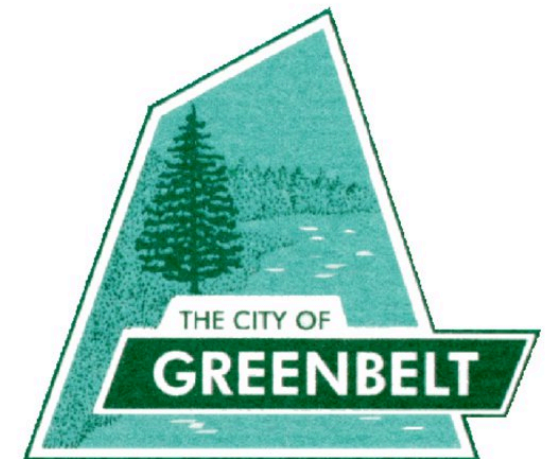
Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments



THE CITY OF
BOWIE, MARYLAND



maryland
recycling
network



Building a Program

- » Be a good partner.
- » How to play in the sandbox together
- » Building relationships
- » SMART Goals – specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timed.

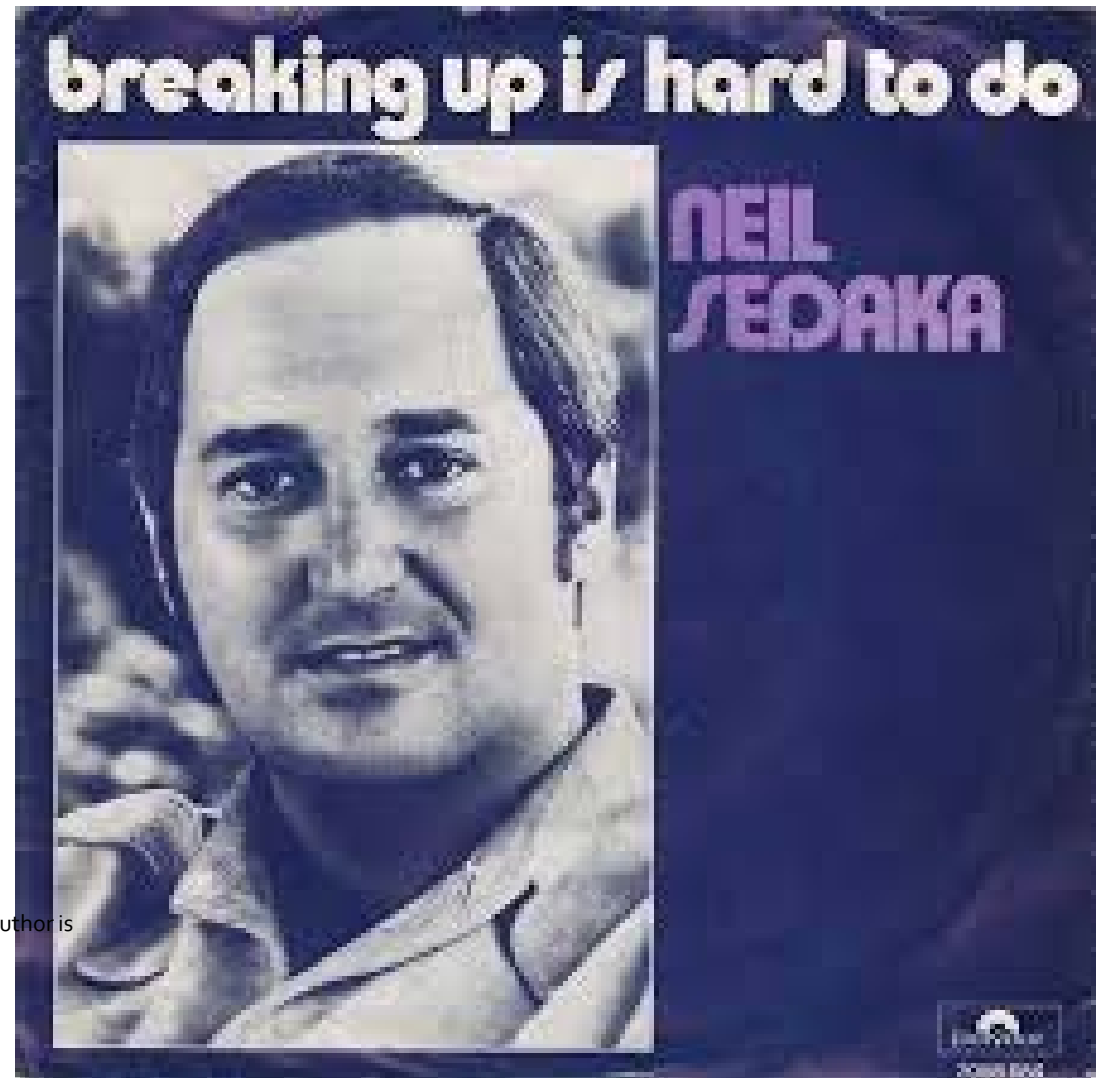


Building a Program

The MOVE

- » Clear lines of responsibility
 - Facilitate – not execute
 - Present ideas, evaluate, educate
- » Physical Move
- » Big picture view

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Success

- Green Living Resource Page
- New Municipal Calendar



Green Living

Phone: 301-725-5300 extension 2203

Email: GreenLiving@Laurel.md.us
Email: MBlair@laurel.md.us



Green Living



Recycling



Recycle Right: Recycle
Coach



Organics Recycling and
Compost



Get Informed



Get Involved

Planet | Prosperity | People

Welcome to the City of Laurel's Green Living page: A hub for residents and businesses to explore and support Laurel's sustainability initiatives, track progress, and get involved!

- [View the presentation](#) of our Phase I Sustainability Framework Study completed by the city and partners Cadmus and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.
- Discover ways to get [involved, be heard, and make a difference!](#)
- Check out what Laurel is [already doing to become more sustainable.](#)
- Find and support [local businesses that share our mission.](#)



Michele Blair

Environmental Programs
Manager

Mission Statement

The City of Laurel has a long history of being environmentally conscious. It has been designated a Tree City USA since 1993, created an Environmental Affairs Committee in 2003, has been a Sustainable Maryland Certified City since October of 2015. Most recently, Mayor Craig Moe established the first Department of Environmental Programs.

In 2017, Mayor Craig A. Moe and the Laurel City Council joined leaders across the state and country in signing the "We Are Still In" initiative to continue to uphold commitments to the Paris Climate Accord.

"I think it's important that we continue to honor all the environmental safeguards that the agreement put into place," Mayor Moe says. "We take our obligation to protect the environment very seriously in the City of Laurel and we don't plan to stop now."

The "We Are Still In" initiative is the work of a national coalition which is focusing on how to maintain the Paris Climate

Success

- MWCOG and Cadmus Presentation

CITY OF LAUREL *SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING*

Presentation and Discussion on City Actions

Michele Blair, City of Laurel
Jeff King and Maia Davis, COG
Megan Lynch and Liz Hanson, Cadmus

August 16, 2021



CADMUS

Success

- Connecting with others – COG/Clean Cities Coalition – Blink – EV Charging Stations for residents and municipal use.



blink

EV Charging
Solutions

www.BlinkCharging.com



Success

» Parks and Recreation, Clean Water Coalition, Green Living, Education, Youth


» Promotion of natural habitat – plants and animals.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Problem
Impervious surfaces such as rooftops, roads and parking lots prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground. Instead, the water runs off these surfaces, carrying any pollutants that are picked up along the way. This untreated water flows into the storm drain system and into our local streams and rivers.

The Solution
We can protect our watersheds and restore the natural resources that support local economies by capturing and treating stormwater on-site. Check out how stormwater is being managed on this property!

Stream Restoration
Stream restoration is a best management practice that stabilizes eroded streams, restores natural aquatic ecosystems, and improves water quality. Common restoration techniques include stabilizing stream banks to reduce erosion and minimize the down-cutting of channels by using natural materials such as rocks, logs, and native plants; removing invasive vegetation; and increasing riparian buffers. The overall stream condition is improved through the proper management of a healthy riparian buffer.




How does it work?

- 1 CROSS VANE**
Rocks placed in a "C" or "V" formation reduce erosion
- 2 FLOODPLAIN RECONNECTION**
Reconnected floodplains provide habitats and improve water quality
- 3 STEP POOLS**
Rock pools in a stair step formation slow down the flow of water
- 4 J HOOK**
Rocks placed in a "J" formation protect the stream bank, direct stream flow and create aquatic pools
- 5 LOG VANE**
A repurposed log placed on an angle in the stream bed prevents erosion and forms small
- 6 ROOT WADS**
Repurposed root balls of a tree placed at the toe of a stream bank prevent erosion, provide structural support and enhance aquatic habitat

This project was funded in part by the Maryland Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. For more information, visit <http://dhr.maryland.gov/ccs/pages/funding/trust-fund.aspx>. Additional funding was provided by Prince George's County, The County's Department of the Environment (DoE) and Clean Water Partnership (CWP) are committed to delivering functional, sustainable stormwater retrofit projects, growing green jobs, and providing opportunities for County-based small, minority and women-owned businesses. To learn more visit environment.mypgc.us or www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com. Report problems by calling the CWP maintenance line at 301-446-2739 or submit a service request through PGC 3-1-1.


MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP
THE ENVIRONMENT

Thank You

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 www.cityoflaurel.org/green

