



# LEADING THE WAY: MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONFRONTS CLIMATE CHANGE

## OUTCOME DOCUMENT



Office of  
Councilmember  
Tom Hucker

Presented at a Public Briefing on September 12, 2018,  
Montgomery County Council Office Building, Rockville, Maryland,  
compiled by **One Montgomery Green**, **Integrative Strategies Forum**  
and **Poolesville Green**

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document was prepared following a “mini-summit” held on August 14, 2018, at the Silver Spring Civic Building in Silver Spring, Maryland. Participants, representing civic organizations and individuals with expertise in climate change, discussed critical aspects of the climate change challenge for the planet and for Montgomery County in particular. The document’s purpose is to reflect participants’ concerns and suggestions as documented at the August event and to raise these issues with Montgomery County leaders in order to inform them about programs and policies the residents would like to see implemented to address the growing threat of climate change. The organizers of these Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) affiliate events (the “mini-summit” in August and the public briefing in September) present these suggestions from local residents to help inform County leaders about which bold and urgent actions are supported by some of their active constituents, many of whom have expertise on climate change-related issues.

© 2018. This document was published on September 12, 2018, in Wheaton, Maryland. It was compiled, written and edited by staff of One Montgomery Green, Integrative Strategies Forum and Poolesville Green. For more information, contact One Montgomery Green at [info@onemontgomerygreen.org](mailto:info@onemontgomerygreen.org).

## FOREWORD

Montgomery County residents and businesses are rightfully worried about climate change and the ominous challenges it presents, to not only themselves, but future generations. Those concerns are reflected in this report. But more importantly, this document is a call to action, with concrete steps to slow and, it is hoped, reverse the causes of climate change.

These actions — switching to renewable energy sources, promoting transit and more — will make an impact only through the concerted efforts of government, business, nonprofits and individuals. With our current federal government unwilling to even take seriously the grave threat of climate change, let alone act on it, our state, county and municipal governments must act, and act now.

As a member of the Montgomery County Council’s Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, and the Council’s Lead Member for the Environment, I’m working to ensure the county does what it can: adopting solar power, and other renewable energy sources, making energy-efficient Bus Rapid Transit a reality, concentrating housing and employment near transit, creating training programs for green jobs and more. Our county has set an ambitious goal of zero carbon emissions by 2035, and I’m committed to meeting that goal.

I applaud the organizers of the “mini-summit” and everyone working to curb climate change. Working together, we will make a difference.

### **Tom Hucker**

Councilmember, District 5  
Montgomery County Council



Montgomery County  
Councilmember Tom Hucker

## INTRODUCTION

Responding to climate change—one of the most urgent issues of our time—is a challenge in which everyone has a role to play. The organizers of **Global Climate Change Summit** (GCAS) affiliate events on August 14<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup> sought to create opportunities for local climate change experts and advocates to discuss their greatest concerns and suggestions for programs and policies that could be undertaken by our County Government to address our contribution to greenhouse gases.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> the mini-summit, “Leading the Way—Montgomery County Confronts Climate Change,” was attended by more than 80 participants representing more than 35 organizations in the County. Montgomery County Council President Hans Riemer provided welcoming remarks. Keynote remarks followed by Patty Bubar, Acting Director of the Montgomery County Department for Environmental Protection. Bubar provided an overview of the **Report of the**

**Montgomery County Climate Mobilization Workgroup** (Climate Mobilization Report) and the possible next steps for County programs and policies. Participants broke into small groups for a rich discussion on four central themes: healthy energy systems, sustainable communities, land and ocean stewardship and climate change economics (a combination of the GCAS themes inclusive economic growth and transformative climate investments). The concerns and suggestions highlighted in this document list participants' contributions and highlight those issues most often raised by the participants. Also, we highlight key items raised in the Climate Mobilization Report.

This document serves to inform leaders about the opinions of informed citizens and help them recognize that their constituents can serve as invaluable resources in finding the solutions we need. We are all in this together, and we all have contributions to make.

We are very grateful to have received the input of so many knowledgeable and concerned County residents and the insights of experts from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of General Services, the Department of Transportation, and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning. We look forward to supporting ongoing dialogue on Montgomery County's role in addressing climate change in future.

**Wendy Howard**, Executive Director of One Montgomery Green

**Jeffrey Barber**, President of Integrative Strategies Forum

**Karen Onthank**, Executive Director of Integrative Strategies Forum

**Joyce Breiner**, Executive Director of Poolesville Green

## OVERVIEW



On August 14th, **One Montgomery Green (OMG)**, **Integrative Strategies Forum (ISF)**, **Poolesville Green (PG)** and the **Office of Councilmember Tom Hucker** organized a public meeting at the Silver Spring Civic Building called "Leading the Way—Montgomery County Confronts Climate Change". Its purpose was to share what local organizations

and residents are doing to address climate change, review the county's programs as reported in the Montgomery County **Climate Mobilization Report**, and discuss programs and policies participants believe the county should expand or create to help address climate change and meet the county's ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gases. The event was organized in conjunction with the **Global Climate Action Summit**, September 12-14, 2018, in San Francisco as a local, affiliate event.



After a welcome by One Montgomery Green Executive Director Wendy Howard, Montgomery County Council President Hans Riemer made opening remarks and emphasized the importance of leadership at every level of government working with the private sector and civil society to make the significant changes needed to address climate change. He welcomed hearing



Montgomery County Council President Hans Riemer

the ideas of the participants at the program and cited the push for more housing around public transit and the victories in public transit funding. He also pointed out the achievement of making all Montgomery County’s buildings and fleet carbon neutral.

Riemer also noted that this fall the Council will be reviewing the Climate Mobilization Report and will be discussing how to move forward with the suggestions for potential actions listed there. He mentioned that the Council’s Polystyrene Food Service Ware Ban also included plastic straws for take-out orders, though that has not been recognized by many and enforcement needs to be addressed.



Acting Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Patty Bubar

Keynote speaker Patty Bubar, Acting Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, focused her comments on the importance of working together to do what we can in concert with one another – from county government to the private sector to civil society. Despite federal government politics, our county can continue to maintain its programs and push for more efforts for greater results. It is vital, Bubar emphasized, that we not allow the efforts to confront climate change to remain a niche effort but embrace all efforts to mainstream understanding and action.

In addition to the several achievements the county has made on addressing climate change, Bubar noted that the Climate Mobilization Report has over 100 prospective measures listed that will be reviewed this fall by county leaders. She also mentioned the potential of the Star Community Sustainability Framework as a benchmark tool to help integrate greenhouse gas reduction efforts with a broad set of quality of life measures.

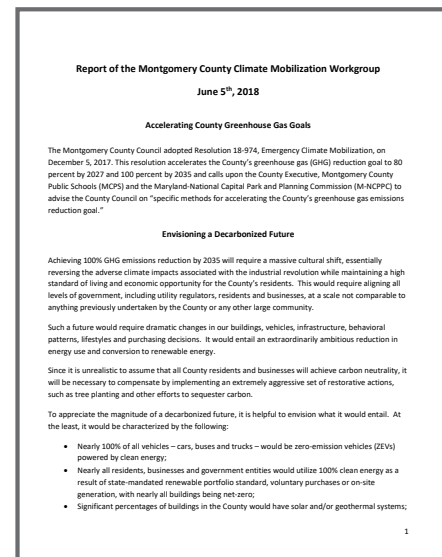
After these presentations, Jeffrey Barber of Integrative Strategies Forum invited participants to join one of four small group discussions around climate change themes. These are described in detail in the next section of this document.

# GENERAL CONCERNS ABOUT EXISTING COUNTY EFFORTS AND RESIDENTS' ROLE IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

Participants raised some critiques of Montgomery County's actions on climate change to date. The County was commended for taking up the challenge to reduce greenhouse gases in its Council resolution from December 2017 (**Council Resolution 18-974**). There was, however, criticism by several participants for failing to fund measures to administrate the implementation of that resolution. Similarly, participants appreciated the Council passage of a 2017 resolution to minimize investments of the Board of Investment Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System and the Board of Trustees of the Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust (**Council Resolution 18-804**) in companies with the largest fossil fuel reserves as rapidly as possible, but there was some criticism for not legislating divestment.

There was widespread support and appreciation among participants for the County's efforts to move to renewable energy sources for government buildings and its fleet of vehicles. Participants expressed a need for a clearer and more complete presentation of the County's analysis of its current greenhouse gas emissions.

Participants were encouraged to read the County's **Climate Mobilization Report** in advance of the mini-summit, and it was expected that there would be discussion of some of the programs and policies enumerated there. The small group discussions, however, did not reflect much in depth discussion of any particular program, policy or suggested next step listed there. Organizers assume that this is because most people had not yet read the report or were already familiar with County programs and preferred to emphasize new ideas and expanding the level of effort for current programs.



The Report of the Montgomery County Climate Mobilization Workgroup (Climate Mobilization Report) can be found at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs-OES/Resources/Files/ClimateMobilizationReport.pdf>

# THEMATIC TOPICS AND OUTCOMES OF SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS



Using the themes for discussion and action at GCAS as a guide, the mini-summit organized on August 14<sup>th</sup> provided for small group discussion on Healthy Energy Systems, Sustainable Communities, Land and Ocean Stewardship, and Climate Change Economics (a combination of two GCAS themes—Inclusive Economic Growth and Transformative Climate Investments). Participants self-selected the topic they would join. The goal of each small group was to provide participants with the opportunity to share the climate change programs and activities they are currently involved in; to express their primary interests and concerns about the local efforts to address climate change; to suggest programs and policies

they would like to see Montgomery County pursue; and to determine whether participants supported the county pursuing any of the challenges highlighted by GCAS.

With a volunteer facilitator and rapporteur assigned to each thematic topic, the small groups had an hour and a half to conduct their discussion. Participants were also encouraged to provide their input on thematic topics by posting their concerns or suggestions on sticky notes that were attached to the poster for each thematic topic.

Rapporteurs shared the outcomes of each thematic discussion with all participants after the small group session. Extensive notes from each small group were posted online by OMG and made available to participants who were invited to make corrections to the notes, raise more issues and indicate which issues were their top concerns.

## Most Popular Suggestions

Although there was no group polling and no reliable way to measure exactly how widely shared suggestions were, the following ideas were raised three or more times, among the small groups and/or by individual commenters:

- **Regulate new buildings and development and require net zero contribution to greenhouse gas production.**
- **Implement county-wide composting program for food waste**
- **Invest in and incentivize public transport.**
- **Convert all public transport (buses, trains) to electric, including MCPS buses.**
- **Agriculture should be incentivized to use regenerative practices.**
- **Incentivize the creation of green jobs.**
- **Provide energy upgrade accelerators to assist civic groups and businesses to do audits, become energy efficient and move to renewable energy.**
- **Require all energy users to move to renewable energy sources.**
- **Encourage reduced personal consumption.**
- **Encourage the conversion of lawns to native plants, and mowing less.**

Below are all the policy and programmatic suggestions captured in the notes and contributions at the mini-summit and contributions made online afterwards (in no particular order):

## Energy Use

- Incentivize owners of multi-dwelling units to move to renewable energy or allow residents to do so.
- Penalize owners of multi-dwelling units that do not improve energy efficiency.
- Regulate new buildings and development — requiring net zero contribution to greenhouse gas production.
- Require all energy users to move to renewable energy.
- Regulate realtors to include clear, understandable expectation of energy usage and benefits of energy efficiency retrofits and existing renewable energy systems in home listings.
- Require all MCPS schools to move to renewable energy sources and utilize geothermal energy where possible.
- Incentivize energy conservation and maximize efficiency of industries, businesses and residences.
- Provide energy upgrade accelerators to assist civic groups and businesses to do audits, become energy efficient and move to renewable energy.



- Remove zoning barriers to solar energy development.
- Regulate new public and commercial development to require electric vehicle charging stations.
- Incentivize passive solar water heating.
- Expand Takoma Park’s energy challenge program and Green Home certification.
- Require reporting on energy usage from businesses and private residences to create true measures of progress.
- Incentivize commercial space owners to put solar panels over parking lots.

## Transport

- Invest in and incentivize public transport.
- Convert all public transport (buses, trains) to electric, including MCPS buses.
- Promote biking and walker-friendly routes.
- All future road development or refurbishment should follow “complete streets” model to accommodate all kinds of transport.
- Cease all idling of county vehicles for long periods of time.
- Oppose widening of the beltway and promote more climate-friendly alternatives.

## Consumption, Waste and Land Use

- Agriculture should be incentivized to use regenerative practices.
- Encourage the conversion of lawns to native plants, and using electric mowers when necessary.
- Encourage reduced personal consumption.
- Implement county-wide composting program for food waste.
- Regulate to reduce refrigerant gases.
- Encourage green roofs.
- Ban single-use plastics in packaging.
- Increase cost of single-use plastic to include the impact and disposal costs, implement pay-as-you throw policies.
- Consider the incinerator site as a site for a county-wide composting facility.
- Consider supermarket sites for dropping off food waste for composting.
- Support more community gardens and backyard food production.
- Ensure that green programs like stormwater management and trees are included in all new development.
- Promote Rainscapes so more residents are aware of benefits.
- Explore creating mattress recycling facility or incentivizing private facility and disposal fee program.

- Plant more trees throughout the county.
- Improve land use patterns and planning to minimize car usage, increase residential density.
- Plan for limits to growth.
- Remove synthetic turf playing fields and playgrounds and stop subsidizing installation of synthetic turf.
- Incentivize planting trees in commercial spaces.
- Support food recovery programs.
- Address watershed health as part of the county’s climate change strategy.
- Re-stencil storm drain covers throughout the county  
Require developers to leave trees on sites, plant more, and put utilities underground where appropriate to grow trees with larger canopies.
- Support programs and policies to improve soil health for greater carbon sequestration, including discouraging tilling, cover crops, growing hemp and practicing soil conservation in public right-of-ways.
- Consider a bottle deposit program.
- Ban plastic straws and enforce the styrofoam ban.
- Raise fee for plastic bags or ban plastic grocery bags altogether, and charge fee for paper bags.
- Restore microbial health in the soil through policies with achievable goals.

## Economic Considerations

- Divest from all investments where entities have not addressed and reversed production of greenhouse gases.
- Clearly communicate the possible use of “green” bonds and the different kinds.
- Clearly communicate the financial costs of climate changes, such as damage to infrastructure, loss of cropland, etc.
- Invite more capital investment in climate change programs and transfer to renewable energy.
- Incentivize the creation of green jobs and ensure those jobs are economically viable.
- Create green jobs through public procurement.
- Support green business incubators.
- Incentivize establishment of climate-friendly businesses (including contracting for public services).
- Better communicate the availability of existing programs like PACE, Green Bank and utility programs to promote use of renewables.
- Engage business community in dialogue and seek broad grassroots commitments.
- Incentivize cleaner and better energy use through carbon/energy taxes.
- Increase economic incentives for business to reduce carbon emissions.

## GCAS Challenges

Specific challenges were raised by the GCAS leaders and affiliated groups as ways to increase the commitments to reducing greenhouse gases. Each mini-summit small group was invited to discuss the challenges relevant to their topic and determine if the challenges were relevant and important to Montgomery County efforts to address climate change.

Participants in the Land and Ocean Stewardship small group agreed that Montgomery County should consider signing on to the **30x30 Forest, Foods and Land Challenge**. This challenge asks businesses, states, city and local governments, and global citizens to commit to taking action for better forest and habitat conservation, food production and consumption, and land use, working together across all sectors of the economy to deliver up to 30% of the climate solutions needed by 2030.

The Healthy Energy Systems participants also supported Montgomery County's active role in the **Zero Emission Vehicle Challenge**, to which the state of Maryland is currently a signatory. States, regions, cities and business are being challenged to commit to using their purchasing and policy influence to massively accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles around the world by joining initiatives to hasten the shift to zero emission vehicles. This represents a global action towards a 2030 in which every citizen has a safe and accessible choice to walk, bike or use clean public transit. States, regions, cities, investors and businesses are playing their part in realizing a 100% zero emission vehicle future in line with science-based targets.

## Crosscutting Issues

There was a widespread sense among participants that the urgency of climate change requires culture change in Montgomery County that includes changes in individual behaviors people take for granted as well as planning for and implementing systemic changes.

In general, participants expressed interest in the County doing **more to raise awareness** about the seriousness of climate change and our efforts to reduce its impact. Participants acknowledged that knowing which changes will achieve the greatest results is difficult for most people to figure out, thus the County could do more to help **educate the public** about this.

More than one small group discussed how to **engage local organizations in more regular discussions with each other and with county leaders**. Some suggested creating an overarching forum where local groups could come together and share information and organize joint activities.

A second popular concern raised by participants was the necessity to **engage more social, racial and ethnic, and economic communities in climate change discussions**. Participants noted that most of those attending the mini-summit were white, middle or upper class and older residents. There was widespread recognition that the changes necessary won't be well-accepted if Montgomery County's diverse population is not better represented.

## Synergy with the Climate Mobilization Report

The mini-summit elicited many suggestions that have been listed in the Climate Mobilization Report as potential action items for the County. Among the most popular suggestions offered by participants, the following were very similar:

Participants' Suggestions	County Mobilization Report Potential Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Regulate new buildings and development and require net zero contribution to greenhouse gas production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Require solar on new or extensively modified buildings.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Implement county-wide composting program for food waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Refine and implement recommendations of the Strategic Plan to Advance Composting, Compost Use and Food Scraps Diversion in Montgomery County.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Invest in and incentivize public transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Conduct intensive outreach to residents, businesses and schools regarding transit use and commuting alternatives, e.g., work with schools to incorporate components into curriculum to create healthy, green commuters of the future – and to promote changes in culture for both children and their parents.</li> <li>■ For Ride On fare, reduce cost; offer corporate sponsorships of certain routes to offset increased costs. Subsidize Metro fares for trips within Montgomery County.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Convert all public transport (buses, trains) to electric, including MCPS buses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accelerate phase in of electric Ride On buses as other jurisdictions are doing (Los Angeles, Vienna, London, Cape Town, New York).</li> <li>■ Fund the replacement of hybrid buses with full electric buses and associated infrastructure including providing a specific budget for future replacements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Agriculture should be incentivized to use regenerative practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Establish a Regenerative Agriculture staff position to train farmers and assist them in becoming certified through the Rodale Institute's new Regenerative Organic Certification program (in pilot stage).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide energy upgrade accelerators to assist civic groups and businesses to do audits, become energy efficient and move to renewable energy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Education campaign on specific building upgrade technology benefits/energy savings as well as programs that are available to support upgrades (both residential and commercial).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Require all energy users to move to renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Require solar on new or extensively modified buildings.</li> <li>■ Require residents to be offered solar for new home construction.</li> <li>■ Require buildings to be solar ready or require solar for new construction.</li> <li>■ Fast-track commercial building permits for buildings with solar panel installations.</li> <li>■ Update codes and regulations as needed to minimize barriers to geothermal energy installations.</li> <li>■ Develop program to convert state and municipally owned streetlights to LED.</li> </ul>

# Related Suggestions

There were also topics where mini-summit participants and the contributors to the County Mobilization Report shared interests but took slightly different approaches. For example, participants focused on reducing personal consumption, but the report primarily emphasized reducing the consumption of foods (meat) where production of that food has a higher impact on climate change. The report lists far more action items on recycling waste, which also featured in the mini-summit participants’ suggestions but not among their most popular suggestions.

Also, the participants focused on reducing mowing and converting lawns to more natural environments utilizing native plants, but the county report had little to say on this topic. Instead the report focused on increasing the tree canopy as a means to sequester carbon.

Participants’ Suggestions	County Mobilization Report Potential Action Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encourage reduced personal consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Launch Meatless in March campaign, similar to the City of Santa Monica.</li> <li>■ At MCPS, increase the variety of plant-based entrees to include home style dishes using beans, lentils and dried peas; develop marketing strategies to educate students on plant- based protein entrées and how they can be part of a healthy school meal; continue student-based focus groups at all levels to assess acceptability of new plant-based protein sources as part of the reimbursable meal.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encourage the conversion of lawns to native plants, and mowing less.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Incentivize preservation of existing habitat, trees and forest cover in areas slated for development.</li> <li>■ Update the County’s tree canopy analysis and use to focus efforts at increasing canopy.</li> <li>■ Improved educational campaigns in support of tree planting incentives on private land.</li> </ul>

There was one very popular mini-summit topic that the county report hardly touched upon, and that was the issue of **green jobs and economic justice**. Where participants clearly wanted more incentives to create green jobs and ensure that the breadth of Montgomery County’s diverse population benefitted from those opportunities, the report did not emphasize that topic. Among the small groups, the climate change economics group made particular suggestions about how to help create more green jobs through public procurement, training and certification and private sector initiatives.

Another topic largely missing from the Climate Mobilization Report but raised at the mini-summit was the connection between water stewardship and carbon sequestration. These topics may have been omitted due to the structure of the report and the perspective of the agencies that contributed to the report, but they are topics that call out for more consideration by County leadership.

Further analysis of the list of participants’ suggestions will reveal many more areas of agreement with potential actions listed in the County Mobilization Report and is worthy of more discussion and exploration.

## NEXT STEPS

Poolesville Green Executive Director Joyce Breiner led the last section of the program discussing outcomes from the August 14<sup>th</sup> program and upcoming programs. She explained that there was a process for participants to correct notes and make additions to the comments and suggestions captured at the mini-summit. Participants were informed that the comments offered at the mini-summit would be included in an outcome document and shared with the public and county leaders at the public briefing “Leading the Way—Montgomery County Confronts Climate Change” on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the County Council Office Building in Rockville.

## CONCLUSION

While the Global Climate Action Summit convenes in San Francisco, California, in September 2018, to reaffirm commitments to implement the historic 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, many residents of Montgomery County are also standing in solidarity with this and other efforts to address climate change. Affiliate events here in Montgomery County have demonstrated that local stakeholders are eager to create venues for continued dialogue among groups and experts in the County in order to secure significant, measurable progress. The organizers plan to take steps to help facilitate this. We are proud to know that our County is demonstrating the kind of leadership necessary to constructively address climate change, and we invite all committed residents, civic and faith organizations, businesses and the County Government to work together to achieve this.



From left to right: Ruthy Goldberg, intern for Montgomery County Councilmember Tom Hucker, Julio Cerón, legislative aide to Montgomery County Councilmember Tom Hucker, Jeffrey Barber, president of Integrative Strategies Forum, Karen Onthank, executive director of Integrative Strategies Forum, Laura Barnitz, operations manager of One Montgomery Green, Wendy Howard, executive director of One Montgomery Green, Patty Bubar, acting director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, and Joyce Breiner, executive director of Poolesville Green

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Montgomery County Green Bank	Karl Held
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Green Plate Catering	Alliance for Regional Cooperation
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch	HoCo Climate Action
Buzzword, Inc.	Less Plastic Please
Safe and Healthy Playing Fields	Beneficial Results
350 Montgomery County	SharePower
Integrative Strategies Forum	Indivisible Montgomery Environment and Science Committee
One Montgomery Green	Friends of Sligo Creek
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## Appendix A. Local Resource Organizations

**350MoCo:** We are driven by a single goal; to solve the crisis of climate change. We are the Montgomery County chapter of the non-profit grassroots citizens organization 350.org. We are fighting for solutions in our community. [www.350moco.org](http://www.350moco.org)

**Alliance for Regional Cooperation (ARC):** ARC is coalition of organizations and individuals that helps strengthen the well-being of local communities. ARC intends to help small independent (and especially disadvantaged population-owned) businesses to thrive. ARC aspires to build business support for sustainable, triple-bottom-line practices. <https://allianceforregionalcooperation.wordpress.com/about/>

**Arcadia Power:** Arcadia Power was created to give everyone a simple, free way to choose renewable energy. Now members in all 50 states are supporting wind farms, accessing solar power, saving money and reducing their impact one digital utility account at a time. <https://www.arcadiapower.com/>

**Biodiversity for a Livable Climate:** Our mission is to promote the power of the natural world to stabilize the climate and to restore biodiversity to ecosystems worldwide. We advocate for the restoration of soil, and of grassland, forest, wetland, coastal and ocean ecosystems to draw down excess atmospheric greenhouse gases, cool the biosphere, and reverse global warming. <https://bio4climate.org>

**BuzzWord, Inc.:** BuzzWord is a sustainability reporting and strategy development business that helps organizations achieve the transparency and authenticity needed to succeed in a changing world. <https://gobuzzword.com/>

**CleanChoice Energy:** We supply 100% clean renewable energy from wind and solar farms. We don't have any blended products, and we don't contribute to any fossil fuel or nuclear energy production. We source our energy from wind & solar farms as close to our customers as possible, bringing cleaner air closer to home. <https://cleanchoiceenergy.com/>

**Climate Finance Advisors:** We are a Benefit LLC with the explicit purpose of creating material positive impact for society and the environment. Our mission is to accelerate sustainable, climate-smart investments, and to integrate climate considerations into financial products, services and policies. <https://climatefinanceadvisors.com/>

**Climate Yogi:** Empowers people through the practice of yoga to act on climate change and restore a healthy and sustainable relationship between humanity and all life on earth. <https://climateyogi.org/>

**Friends of Sligo Creek:** We are a nonprofit community organization dedicated to protecting, improving, and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed. <http://www.fosc.org>

**HoCo Climate Action:** The mission of HoCo Climate Action is to inspire and engage the people of Howard County, Maryland, to take action to address the climate crisis. <http://www.hococlimateaction.org/>

**Indivisible Montgomery:** working in Montgomery County in defense of diversity, inclusion, fairness, transparency and the empowering of all Americans. We influence policy through our representatives and senators. The Environment and Science Committee supports evidence-based policy making around environmental protection issues such as industrial pollution, climate change, and wilderness preservation. <https://indivisiblemontgomery.org/>

**Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR):** Since 1974, ILSR has championed local self-reliance, a strategy that underscores the need for humanly scaled institutions and economies and the widest possible distribution of ownership. We seek to empower communities to take charge of their own future. <https://ilsr.org/about-the-institute-for-local-self-reliance>

**Integrative Strategies Forum (ISF):** Promotes and supports dialogue and collaboration among organizations and networks locally and around the world committed to creating sustainable communities and societies. ISF encourages sustainability values and integrative approaches particularly in the transition to sustainable production and consumption systems, lifestyles and livelihoods. <https://isforum.weebly.com>



**Interfaith Power and Light (DC,MD,NoVA):** Our Mission is to help hundreds of congregations of all faiths across Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change. <https://ipldmv.org/>

**Latin American Youth Center:** Our mission is to empower a diverse population of youth to achieve a successful transition to adulthood through multi-cultural, comprehensive, and innovative programs that address youths' social, academic, and career needs. <http://www.layc-dc.org/>

**Less Plastic Please:** Our mission is to promote ways to reduce plastic consumption and avoid excess waste. Refuse single-use plastics and help spread the word.

**Little Falls Watershed Alliance:** We are committed to restoring the water quality, natural habitat and ecological well-being of the Little Falls Watershed. We speak up for the needs of our parks and natural areas, and we advocate for clean water laws that are fair and enforced consistently. <https://www.lfwa.org/>

**Maryland Sierra Club-Montgomery County Group:** We focus on local issues, including improving public transit, maintaining clean water sources, supporting and monitoring the county's Climate Protection Plan, and endorsing and supporting green candidates. [www.sierraclub.org/maryland/montgomery-county](http://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/montgomery-county)

**Montgomery College:** Our mission is to empower our students to change their lives, and we enrich the life of our community. We are accountable for our results. With a sense of urgency for the future, Montgomery College will be a national model of educational excellence, opportunity, and student success. <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/>

**Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.:** Our mission is to preserve and improve the quality of life for all current and future residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. Since 1925, the volunteers of the MCCF have committed themselves to providing an effective citizen voice to government policy makers. <https://montgomerycivic.org>

**Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MC-FACS):** We unite people of faith to help solve the climate emergency that is disrupting and threatening life on Earth. We are a moral voice urging the Montgomery County Government to pass laws limiting our carbon emissions. MC-FACS is open to all faith and spiritual groups, ethnicities, and nationalities.

**Montgomery County Food Council:** Our mission is to bring together a diverse representation of stakeholders in a public and private partnership to improve the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of Montgomery County, Maryland, through the creation of a robust, local, sustainable food system. <https://mocofoodcouncil.org>

**Montgomery County Green Bank:** The Green Bank is a publicly-chartered nonprofit corporation dedicated to accelerating affordable energy efficiency and clean energy investment in Montgomery County, MD. We partner with the private sector to build a more inclusively prosperous, resilient, sustainable, and healthy community. <https://mcgreenbank.org>

**Montgomery County Green Democrats:** We are committed to making the Democratic Party more responsive to environmental concerns by: 1) providing a forum within the Party for airing environmental issues; 2) making environmental concerns known to Party elected officials; 3) promoting Democratic environmental activism; and 4) sponsoring environmental education and activities. <https://www.facebook.com/MocoGreenDems/>

**Neighborhood Sun:** Our mission is to empower neighborhoods to choose local community solar. Solar shouldn't be about creating new consumers, but rather about creating strong communities. <https://neighborhoodsun.solar>

**Neighbors of the Northwest Branch:** We are a local, citizen-based action group dedicated to restoring the health of the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River so that this urban treasure can be safely enjoyed by wildlife, our families, and generations to come. <https://neighborsnwb.org/>

**One Montgomery Green (OMG):** We are a nonprofit organization that fosters partnerships to support environmental sustainability and promote the development of a green economy. OMG acts as a catalyst for environmental responsibility among businesses, residents and government to improve the quality of life for all of Montgomery County. [www.onemontgomerygreen.org](http://www.onemontgomerygreen.org)

**Poolesville Green (PG):** Focuses on promoting alternative energy sources, encouraging the conservation of energy and water, and on raising awareness about existing hazardous and non-hazardous waste recycling programs. <http://poolesville.green>

**Precovery Labs:** Precovery Labs is a hub for community, impact and creativity. We focus on strategy, implementation and storytelling in support of resilience and precovery. <https://www.facebook.com/precoverylabs/>

**Refresh Interiors:** Blending the wisdom of Feng Shui with styling, space planning, and organizing expertise, we'll clarify the desires of your heart and create a sanctuary for you, those you love, and the life you lead ~ space for miracles to unfold. <http://www.refreshinteriorsdc.com/>

**Safe and Healthy Playing Fields:** We are an all-volunteer group that seeks to explain why grass and natural surfaces are the best choice for financial, environmental and public health reasons. <https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org>

**SharePower Responsible Investing:** SharePower Responsible Investing is an industry leader in socially responsible investing (SRI). We offer objective, quality, socially responsible investment and financial advice tailored to meet the unique goals, needs and values of each client. Everyone should have access to sound, affordable, socially responsible financial advice. <http://www.capitalsri.com/>

**The Climate Change Mobilization (TCM)-Montgomery County:** Aims to rapidly build the power of the climate emergency movement until it has the strength to launch a US mobilization to restore a safe climate. TCM Montgomery County is working to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the county by 2027. [www.theclimatemobilization.org/chapters/moco](http://www.theclimatemobilization.org/chapters/moco)

**Well Mind Association of Greater Washington:** The Well Mind Association of Greater Washington is a holistic medicine information clearinghouse with an emphasis on the environmental and nutritional influences on mental and physical well-being. <https://ahha.org/practitioner-referral-sources/well-mind-association-of-greater-washington/>

## Appendix B. Other Attending Government Offices

### Montgomery County Municipalities Represented:

City of Rockville  
City of Takoma Park

### Montgomery County Council Members, Government Offices and Agencies Present

Office of County Executive Ike Leggett  
Office of Councilmember Tom Hucker  
Office of Councilmember Hans Riemer  
Office of Councilmember Marc Elrich  
Office of Councilmember Nancy Floreen  
Office of Councilmember Nancy Navarro  
Office of Councilmember Roger Berliner  
Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
Montgomery County Department of General Services  
Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
Montgomery County Public Schools  
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission





# LEADING THE WAY— MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONFRONTS CLIMATE CHANGE



Office of  
Councilmember  
Tom Hacker

THANK YOU to the many supporters who helped make this event happen.

## SPONSORS



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