

Summary of Sustainability FY18

In 2014 the City adopted the Sustainable Energy Action Plan with 17 key strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide. Since 2014 nearly all of the strategies have been implemented. These strategies include voluntary residential energy efficiency initiatives, directly installing energy efficiency equipment, free energy coaching for residents and businesses, multifamily energy efficiency grants, expanding bike share locations, and more.

In FY18 the major focus of sustainability programs was low to moderate income single family energy efficiency upgrades. Nine homeowners received complete energy efficiency retrofits to their homes. The average energy savings is over \$500 per year per homeowner. This program was funded by the Maryland Energy Administration with supplemental funds from the City.

Takoma Park also participated in the 2018 county-wide Solar Co-op, helping several residents complete new rooftop solar installations. In 2018 the Sustainability Manager was a member of the planning board for the fourth annual Montgomery County GreenFest, hosted at Jessup Blair Park. An estimated 1,200+ people came to GreenFest, the third time it was hosted in Takoma Park/Silver Spring. In 2019 GreenFest is combining with the Brookside Gardens Earth Day Festival, leveraging resources and reducing duplication of efforts for the County.

Lastly, in 2018 the greenhouse gas inventory was updated. A chart comparing the 2012 inventory to 2015 is attached. Increases in heating and cooling degree days account much of the 2% increase in emissions. While the city's overall emissions increased, municipal emissions decreased 163 MT CO₂e or 12% from their 2012 levels. More than half of this reduction was due to decreases in electricity use while the remainder came almost entirely from reductions in natural gas use. These emission reductions can be attributed to the city's concerted efforts to lead by example.

The consultants that worked with staff to update the inventory highlighted a pathway forward for future years to utilize MWCOG's inventory methodology. This will save the City money and enable a reliable, consistent inventory for future years.

FY19 is focused on increasing the adoption of renewable energy and new multifamily energy efficiency efforts. Increasing energy efficiency in multifamily buildings will help improve the quality of the housing in Takoma Park while helping to reduce utility bills and reduce emissions. The new program will focus on monitoring and optimization of building systems for long term efficiency rather than stand-alone energy efficiency grants.

FY19 – 20 will also focus on updating the City's Sustainable Energy Action Plan. This will include robust public input.