



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 07, 2024 Agenda Item 2

### **Work Session/Presentation**

Update on Sustainability and Climate Action in Takoma Park

### **Recommended Council Action**

Receive presentation

### **Context with Key Issues**

Recent Activities:

1. The Greenhouse Gas Inventory was completed for Takoma Park by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) in 2022. The updated report to cover years 2021-2022 will be available later this year. The past report compares emissions from 2005 through 2020. However, new Environmental Insights from Montgomery County in the areas of Transportation and Building Emissions from 2022 are also available. A summary is attached.
2. Launch of a new multifamily grant program, the Multifamily Business Improvement Grant. This program is a collaboration with the Housing and Community Development Department, and is an extension of other multifamily grant programs launched in the past few years. This is utilizing ARPA funds and a DHCD grant to make \$750,000 available in grants for eligible multifamily properties between 3-30 units. Awards to cover 70% of the total project cost with a maximum award amount of \$250,000. This new grant cycle involves a direct partnership with the Montgomery County Green Bank, who will be assisting owners in conducting initial energy audits and helping with gap financing. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.
3. The City's Department of Public Works was accepted as a Host Organization by the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps program. A stipend of \$31,200 will be provided by Chesapeake Bay Trust to match a youth aged 18-25 with the City's position working in the areas of energy programs, urban forestry, environmental restoration, and stormwater. No matching funds were required by the City. Matching of Corp members and partners will take place this spring. The position will be filled August 2024 – August 2025. The application deadline is March 7<sup>th</sup>.
4. Key Montgomery County updates:
  - The Building Energy Performance Standard regulations passed last year have been put into effect. The City is working with energy auditor PulseIQ to complete benchmarking of the Community Center building, which should be finalized in a few weeks.
  - The gas powered lawn care equipment ban passed last year, and sales prohibition will go into effect July 1, 2024
  - The new Electrify MC program launched in 2023, and is being managed by County-selected contractor Elysian Energy. The pilot helps residents transition from fossil fuels in their homes by providing an energy audit and direct incentives on purchase of electric appliances. Data on the number of participating Takoma Park residents is forthcoming.

5. The PW Department is pursuing a grant opportunity with the Maryland Energy Administration for their 2024 Public Facilities Solar Grant Program. The funds would cover the cost of in the installation of additional panels on the roof of the new library. The application deadline is March 08, 2024.

#### Planned Programs:

- 'Go Solar TkPk' solar energy information event on March 12, 2024
- 'Healthy Homes Fair' home electrification event organized by ElectrifyDC on April 06, 2024
- 'Earth Day Celebration' event on April 20, 2024
- Sustainable Maryland application filing by June 30, 2024
- CDP Reporting filing by September 30, 2024
- Development of a City fleet transition plan to all-electric by 2035.
- Development of a voluntary benchmarking program for smaller businesses and multifamily buildings in the city (not covered by the new County law), possibly using a cooperative purchase agreement via MWCOG contracts to expedite the process.

#### Future consideration:

- Council consideration of a policy to not purchase fossil fuel-based equipment, with exceptions
- Further refinement and adoption of an Electrification Transition Plan, currently in draft form from work completed by the past Sustainability Manager.

#### **Council Priority**

- Environmentally Sustainable Community
  - Goal: Climate Change Mitigation: Work towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.
    - Strategies:
      - Prioritize and accelerate policies and programs that implement the 2020 Climate Emergency Response Framework strategies for buildings, transportation, renewable energy, and a fossil fuel-free community.
      - Coordinate and advocate for climate change mitigation resiliency and sustainability with county, state, region and federal governments.
      - Integrate City climate goals and strategies with other City policies and programs such as urban forest, housing, economic development, and Vision Zero transportation goals.

#### **Environmental Considerations**

Greenhouse gas emissions, sustainability, energy efficiency

#### **Fiscal Considerations**

- Due to the return of events post-pandemic and reactivation of sustainability programs with the Sustainability Manager position now filled, funding for a full-time intern, Special Events, and Communications & Outreach will be included in the upcoming FY25 budget request.
- The City has committed to being net zero by 2035. This can be achieved through purchasing offsets, which at current GHG emissions levels would cost at minimum about \$757,000 per year (\$5 per metric ton, 151,435 MTCO<sub>2</sub> per year).

- With the electricity grid expected to deliver 100% renewable electricity in the next 5 years through Community Choice Energy, focusing on electrification will greatly reduce the need to purchase offsets in 2035 and beyond in order to meet the net zero goal.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

Grants programs are including applications in four languages, and assistance is available for all income levels. Targeted outreach is being concentrated in areas of this city which have a higher concentration of low-to-moderate income residents and historically lower participation in City programs. The new MFBIG program specifically concentrates on small-scale multifamily properties, a group often left out of other support programs.

The new Justice40 Initiative is a federal mandate that requires 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments – including investments in clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure – to flow to disadvantaged communities. These communities can be identified in census tract-related data in the new Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). This is now a requirement for all funding application for programed related to the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) and similar equity considerations are now a part of State grants. The recently submitted OPEN grant to Maryland Energy Administration focuses on explicitly low-to-moderate income tenants as part of a Green and Healthy Homes survey and education campaign. Grant approval is pending.

### **Attachments and Links**

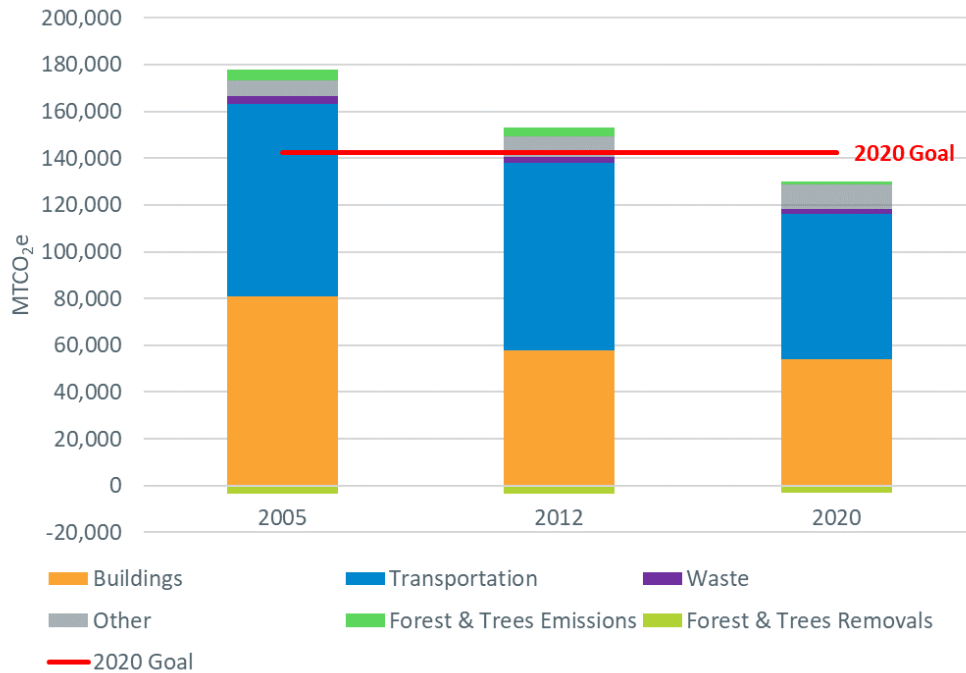
- Presentation
- GHG Inventory 2005 – 2020 Summary Factsheet, provided by MWCOG
- Summary sheets on 2022 Environmental Insights Data from Google
- Multifamily Building Improvement Grant Fact Sheet
- Upcoming Event Flyers

# COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY SUMMARY





## City of Takoma Park, Maryland

### EMISSIONS SUMMARY

The City of Takoma Park community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions decreased by 27% between 2005 and 2020, despite a 11% growth in population. In 2020, forests and trees sequestered more than 1,800 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) or 1% of total emissions.



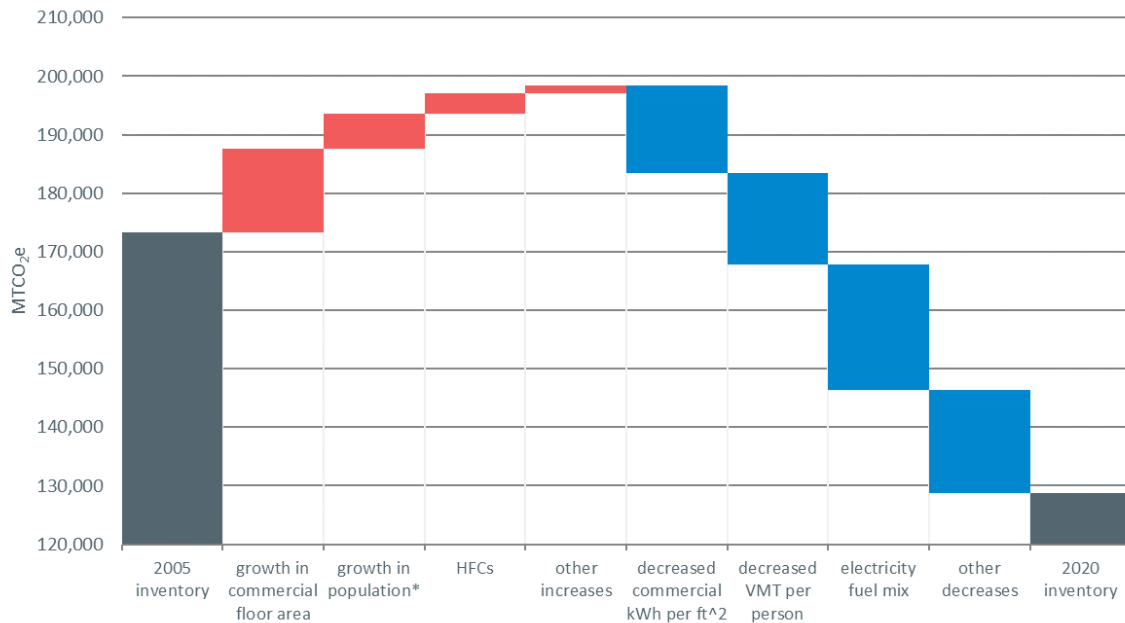
Note: Other refers to emissions associated with the release of Hydrofluorocarbons, emissions resulting from local natural gas system losses within the community, as well as emissions from Agriculture.

 <h1 style="color: #90ee90;">44.6</h1> thousand MTCO <sub>2e</sub> emissions reduced from 2005-2020  <i>This is the equivalent to taking &gt;8,600 homes off the grid for one year.</i>	 <h1 style="color: #90ee90;">42</h1> % total GHG emissions from buildings in 2020  <i>19% from commercial energy consumption and 23% from residential energy consumption</i>	 <h1 style="color: #90ee90;">49</h1> % total GHG emissions from transportation in 2020  <i>40% from on-road, 4% from off-road, 4% from air passenger travel, &lt;1% from commuter rail</i>	 <h1 style="color: #90ee90;">33</h1> % reduction of per capita emissions from 2005-2020  <i>Per capita emissions reduced from 10.9 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> in 2005 to 7.3 in 2020.</i>
--	---	--	---



## GHG CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

The City of Takoma Park GHG Contribution Analysis results show what has driven increases and decreases in emissions between inventory years 2005 and 2020. The graph shows the main drivers increasing emissions (red bars) are growth in commercial space, population, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Driving down emissions (blue bars) are mainly a cleaner grid, reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per person, and decreased commercial electricity energy intensity.



Note: \* Includes effects of population on residential energy, VMT, and waste generation.

## INVENTORY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and local governments across metropolitan Washington collaboratively established the regional GHG emission reduction goals of 10% below business-as-usual projections by 2012 (back down to 2005 levels); 20% below 2005 levels by 2020; 50% by 2030; and 80% below 2005 levels by 2050. Metropolitan Washington met both the 2012 and 2020 goals. Emissions from buildings and transportation saw a greater reduction than anticipated due to the 2020 pandemic.

COG completes GHG community-scale inventories for all 24 local government members, northern Virginia, and metropolitan Washington. COG GHG inventories are compliant with both the U.S. Communities Protocol for Accounting and Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions (USCP) and Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GPC). The inventories measure GHG-emitting activities undertaken by residents, businesses, industry, and government located in metropolitan Washington, as well as emissions from visitors.

## RESOURCES

- [COG Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories Methodology Guide](#)
- [COG Greenhouse Gas Inventories](#)
- [DMV Climate Partners GHGs in the DMV](#)



# MULTIFAMILY BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Program Information

## **Purpose**

The City of Takoma Park has made \$500,000 available in funding to assist multifamily building owners within the City in making electrification upgrades. This is a grant, not a loan that you will need to pay back.

## **Application Period**

The City will begin accepting applications January 16th, 2024. The City will continue to accept applications but buildings will be added to a wait list if no funds are available.

## **Grant Award Amounts**

The City anticipates awarding amounts based on project need as determined by a third-party energy audit. Projects can expect an award to cover 70% of the total project cost with a maximum award amount of \$250,000. The City reserves the right to revise the maximum award amount after determining the number of eligible applications received, the number of units in a building, and the work that is being proposed.

## **Who Can Apply**

This grant is intended for any building owner, or property manager, of a multifamily building that contains five (5) to thirty (30) units and is located within the City of Takoma Park and in compliance with the City's rental licensing policies.

**This grant does not apply to recently completed projects, it is only for new projects that have not yet started construction. In order to qualify, landlords must be current on their rent report with no recent or outstanding city or county citations. Previous City of Takoma Park grant recipients may apply.**

## **Project Timeline**

Award determinations will be made on a rolling basis as applications are received. Work that began prior to grant award will not be eligible for funding. **Funds must be expended by 6/30/2026.**

## **Additional Grant Requirements**

### **1. Technical assistance:**

All buildings applying for funding must work with Montgomery County Greenbank (MCGB) to conduct initial energy audits. The energy audit results are what will help determine what project within a building is funded

### **2. Apply for additional funding:**

The property owner needs to apply for any additional funding that is available. This information will be provided by MCGB after the audit process and does not need to be submitted with the application.

## **Eligible Projects**

This grant must be used for projects that support the transition away from fossil fuels. Project participants will work with the Montgomery County Green Bank (MCOGB) to identify projects based on their buildings ASHRAE Energy Audit results. Eligible projects include but are not limited to:

1. Replacing natural gas, propane, or heating oil equipment and appliances with electric or non-fossil- fuel based alternatives.
2. Installation of EnergyStar Certified high efficiency systems, including:
  - Heating and cooling (HVAC)
  - Heat pumps
  - Heat pump water heaters
  - Electric dryers
  - Induction and electric cooktops or convection ovens
3. Weatherization and envelope improvements, including:
  - Insulation
  - Air sealing
  - Window improvements/replacements
  - Electric vehicle chargers
  - Geothermal heating and cooling
  - On-site community solar
  - Electric panel upgrades
  - Building controls
  - Energy storage

## **How to apply**

Please use the electronic application to apply for this grant: [LINK](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/49d3d819ea1f4c7193580d743dd84769). The full link is <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/49d3d819ea1f4c7193580d743dd84769>.

## **Contact Us**

All questions may be directed to:

Devin McNally

Housing Manager, Housing & Community Development

**[devinm@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:devinm@takomaparkmd.gov)**

301-891-7222



Chesapeake  
Conservation &  
Climate Corps



# BECOME A CONSERVATION CORPS MEMBER IN TAKOMA PARK!

## WHAT YOU'LL GAIN:

- ✓ Earn full-time, 1-year stipend support of \$31,200
- ✓ Leadership skills, professional development training, and mentorship
- ✓ Experience work in Clean Energy, Urban Forestry, Community Engagement & More!

FOR YOUTH  
AGES 18-25



**APPLY NOW!**  
*Deadline March 7th.*  
*Scan for more info*

[cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/](https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-climate-corps/)

ESTRANSKY@CBTRUST.ORG | (410) 974-2941





**LET'S  
GO SOLAR  
TKPK!**



**Community Info Session:  
March 12th, 2024 | 7:00-9:00 PM  
City Auditorium - 7500 Maple Ave.**

**For both renters AND home-owners!  
Learn about solar co-ops, community solar, RECs,  
tax incentives, & more!**

*(Scan for more info)*



[takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability](https://takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability)



**For more info, contact:  
dorothy@takomaparkmd.gov or (301) 891-7623**

**FREE  
EVENT!**



(scan for more info)



[healthyhomesfair.org](https://healthyhomesfair.org)

# SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2024

DC Armory | 9am-12pm *professionals* + 12pm-5pm *general public*

**50+ EXHIBITORS / COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS / APPLIANCE "PETTING ZOO"**

*presented by*



*brought to you by*



*supported by*



*in partnership with*





**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

(\*Rain date April 21)



# **Takoma Park Earth Day Celebration!**



**Because there is no Planet B.**

**10 AM-2 PM | Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park Playground**

**Snowcones • Art • Games • Guided Tree Walk • EV Showcase**

More info: [takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability](https://takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability) | [dorothee@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:dorothee@takomaparkmd.gov) | (301) 891-7623