



# Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 07, 2024

## Agenda Item 1

### Work Session/Presentation

Update from Sustainable Maryland Committee and Action Recommendations

### Recommended Council Action

Receive the presentation.

### Context with Key Issues

The Sustainable Maryland Committee is supporting the City's Sustainability Manager and City Council in achieving and renewing the Sustainable Maryland Certification which will help meet its environmental goals. The Sustainable Maryland Committee has identified projects that meet the City's interest and needs for Sustainable Maryland Certified, and has developed a few recommendations to pursue as part of the new Action Plan.

In the coming months, the committee will also be assisting the Sustainability Manager in the data collection and documentation of necessary information to achieve certification through the Sustainable Maryland program, which is due on June 30, 2024.

Proposed Recommendations:

- Improve and Expand EV Infrastructure in Takoma Park
  - Collaboration with regional/state entities on grant applications to pilot alternative fuel infrastructure like hydrogen for medium/ heavy duty trucks and light duty vehicle fueling
  - Launch local educational efforts on available incentives for charging and vehicle purchases
  - Set City adoption goals for EVs and charging and goals to decrease vehicle ownership in the city
- Reduce Food Waste and Expand Food Waste Collections
  - Pilot a community-wide questionnaire to better understand how residents deal with food waste
  - Launch a public education campaign which informs on the negative environmental and financial impacts of food waste and offers solutions for addressing it

Future consideration:

- Council consideration of developing specific goals and policies for deploying new charging infrastructure
- Consider an addition to the City Code to make food separation and separate collection mandatory for single family homes and multifamily homes of less than 30 units (as was recently done in Laurel, MD)

## **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, electrification, waste reduction

## **Fiscal Considerations**

For EV charging stations, Level 3 unit cost:

- Networked 50kW DCFC – \$28,000
- Networked 150kW DCFC – \$75,000
- Networked 350kW DCFC – \$140,000
- Excludes labor and utility upgrades, which can be very significant

Level 2 networked commercial chargers:

- Equipment: \$1,500-\$3,000 per unit
- Installation: bollard-mounted units cost between \$1,500 and \$3,500
- For a business to install 4 level 2 chargers costs could range between \$12,000 to \$26,000

Tax credits, grants, and rebates may be available (ex. MDOT NEVI grant)

For food waste collection expansion, the 2023 Food Waste collection amount was 266 tons from approximately 1,900 households. The projected budget for Solid Waste services in FY24 is \$1,278,228. The portion for trash collection is \$682,476 (53%), the amount for Food Waste is \$111,740 (9%). An expansion program would first aim to do an education/outreach campaign and aim increase this food waste collection percentage. Specific costs would be staff time for project management and outreach, costs for advertising and hosting meetings and conducting outreach to residents, and staff time for expanded curbside pick-up.

## **Racial Equity Considerations**

Outreach for programs is conducted in four languages, and assistance is available for all income levels. For EV charger installations, targeted outreach would be first focused on charger installations at multifamily buildings and targeted expansion of chargers in public right-of-way areas in the city before updating old chargers. For food waste, educational and outreach campaigns would first focus on outreach to low-to-moderate income households and multifamily residences.

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 track-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 NEVI grant funding program from Maryland DOT also takes into account these equity considerations.

**Attachments and Links**

- PPT- Improving and Expanding EV Infrastructure in Takoma Park
- PPT- Reducing Food Waste in Takoma Park