

A photograph of a community event, likely a farmers market or a food fair. In the foreground, two women wearing green aprons over black shirts are preparing food at a table covered with a red cloth. One woman is smiling and talking to a woman holding a baby. The table has various fresh vegetables, including leafy greens and tomatoes, and small bowls of food. In the background, there are other people, a white SUV, and a stop sign. A circular logo with the word "SUSTAINABLE" is visible in the bottom right corner.



Introducing...

Takoma Park is a city of people who care deeply about the environment, the community, and each other. The city has a rich history of environmental action that continues today. From the early days of recycling and tree protection laws to the recent banning of polystyrene, plastic bags, and innovative

pilot projects testing new solar technologies and building infrastructure for electric vehicles, Takoma Park remains committed to sustainability. Takoma Park's leadership and staff consider climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions extremely critical, and the City is actively monitoring its emissions

to measure the success of its programs. This Sustainability Catalog is a resource for Takoma Park residents, businesses, stakeholders, and all those interested in learning more about sustainability efforts in Takoma Park.



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Stay connected

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About the covers

Front: A family samples some locally grown produce at the Wednesday Crossroads Farmer's Market on Anne St. between University Blvd. & Hammond Ave. in Takoma Park, MD.
Back: Sustainability Interns Shereen and Bryant share information about curbside food waste collection and composting at the Montgomery County GreenFest in Takoma Park.

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Sustainable Energy Action Plan

In 2014, the City of Takoma Park, its Committee on the Environment (COE), and staff, with the help of the consulting firm the Brendle Group, created a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) to serve as a guide for Takoma Park's efforts to reduce greenhouse (GHG) gas emissions.

While the City agrees that there are many environmental issues that are important to its citizens and businesses—stormwater, air quality, land use, pollution, etc.—the SEAP specifically focuses on energy use and associated GHG emissions.

The SEAP was developed over the course of nearly nine months, including the review of existing programs and policies that might influence GHG emissions in Takoma Park, an update of the City's GHG inventory, and new strategies. The review of the existing related programs and policies included a group discussion that was used to find gaps in existing plans. The result is a list of 17 key strategies to reduce GHG emissions city-wide.

The SEAP contains an update to Takoma Park's original GHG inventory that includes new methods of data collection and more content than the previous GHG inventory conducted. The total resulting emissions of **94,572 MTCO₂e** represents per capita emissions of just **5.5 MTCO₂e**. This is much lower than the average GHG emissions for other U.S. cities (10 to 20 MTCO₂e/capita). The updated inventory reveals that the biggest sources of GHG emissions in the community are residential buildings, contributing 50% of the city's total GHG emissions.

The SEAP prioritizes actions that are cost effective and provide a mix of enhancing Takoma Park's quality of life and helping the environment. The SEAP also builds on the extensive work reflected in the City's Local Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions, and the 2010 Task Force on Environmental Action (TFEA) Report. Both of these past documents include a number of goals and recommended actions regarding environmental sustainability in Takoma Park – many of which are included in the SEAP.

The SEAP can be viewed online on Takoma Park's Sustainability Webpage.

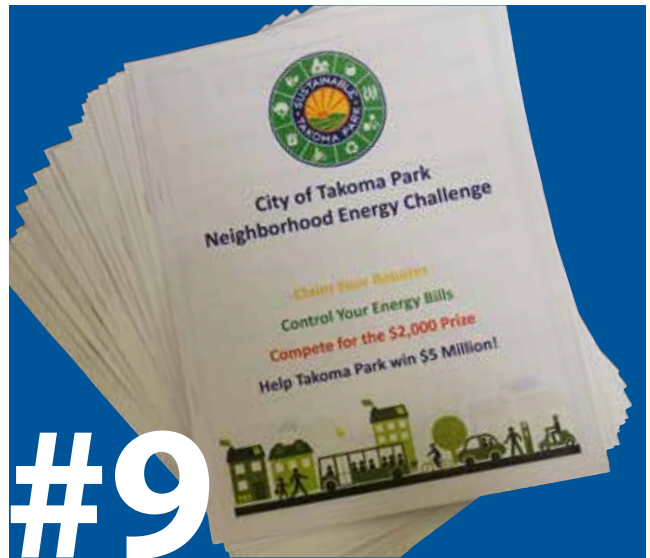




17 Strategies

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Takoma Park

1. Leverage Smart Meters
2. Expand Carpooling and Car Sharing
3. Offer Free, Efficient Appliances and Products*
4. Use Property Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency Upgrades*
5. Guide Residents through Energy Efficiency*
6. Have the City Lead by Example*
7. Encourage Apartment/Condominium Building Efficiency*
8. Develop an Energy Efficiency Challenge for Businesses*



#9

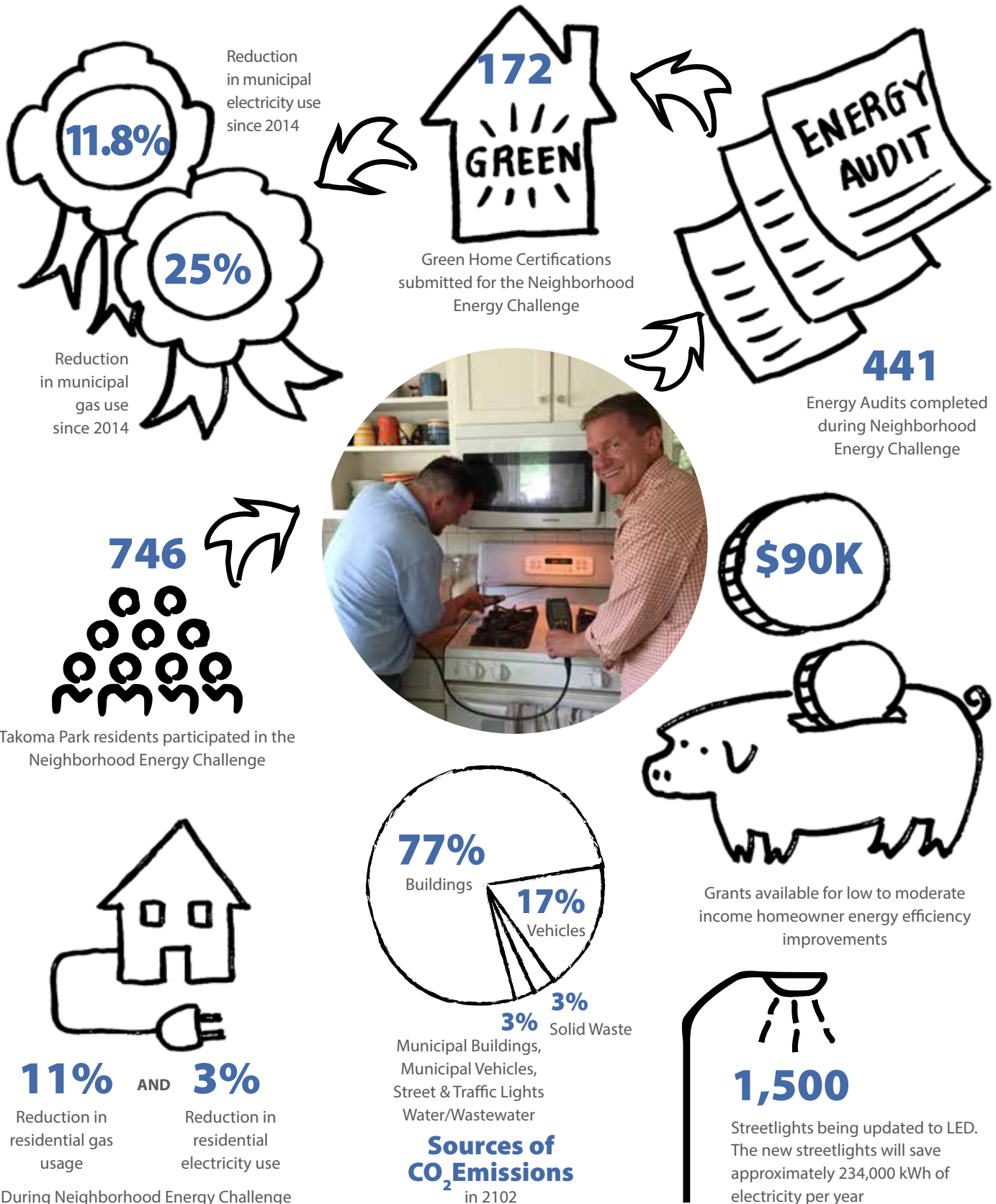
9. Develop an Energy Efficiency Challenge for Residents*
10. Purchase Renewable Energy*
11. Encourage Solar Projects*
12. Provide Sustainability Guidelines for Redevelopment
13. Develop a Transportation Community Challenge*
14. Expand Capital Bike Share Stations*
15. Create Circulating Shuttle
16. Expand Mobilization and Outreach for Sustainability*
17. Establish a Carbon Tax

*These strategies have already been implemented or are currently underway.



#11

Takoma Energy by the Numbers





Municipal Buildings Efficiency

Two LEED Certified City Buildings

Buildings that are LEED certified save money and have a positive impact on the health of occupants, through the use of clean, renewable energy.

The City of Takoma Park has two LEED Certified Buildings: the Public Works Building and the Community Center Auditorium.

Water & Energy Efficiency

EPA estimates ~56 billion kilowatts (34% of national electricity), or \$4 billion, is used in providing drinking water and wastewater services each year. The Public Works building, in order to reduce energy and water usage:

- Uses low flow faucets and dual flush toilets
- Uses the first grey water system in the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission service area. The water from the sinks and showers is collected, combined with captured rain water and used to flush toilets
- Has a geothermal heating and cooling system

Individual heat pumps in each of the offices provide zone heating or cooling on demand. The benefits include reduced life cycle cost, energy conservation, ease of use, and the ability to handle heating and cooling at the same time.

Solar and Wind Energy

Solar panels were installed over the Vehicle Repair Building and the Administration Building at Public Works. The City purchases the power produced by the panels at a set price for 20 years in exchange for the installation and maintenance of the panels. These panels and the ones placed on the Community Center were part of a Power Purchase Agreement enabling the City to access solar power for no upfront cost and at a lower price per kilowatt than charged by PEPCO.

- We generate 99,412 kWh each year with solar panels on the Community Center building and Public Works.
- The City purchases wind RECs to cover over 100% of its electricity use, about 1.8 M kWh each year.



The City is

- Completing energy audits in all city owned or operated buildings
- Completing lighting retrofits in all city owned or operated buildings
- Upgrading heating and cooling systems at the Recreation Center, the Community Center, and Heffner Park
- Converting all 1500+ streetlights to LEDs
- Engaging staff with operations of city facilities and an energy saving competition

The Georgetown University Energy Prize

The Georgetown University Energy Prize was a national competition for communities leading the way in energy efficiency. Takoma Park was among a group of 50 semi-finalists competing for the \$5 million prize. The contest ran January 1 2015 – December 31, 2016, and the \$5 million prize will be awarded to the community that achieved the largest reductions in municipal and residential energy use with the most innovative and replicable programs. As

of August 24, 2017 the prize committee is still evaluation data, and it is expected the top 10 communities will be announced shortly.



Takoma Park achieved:

- 11.8% reduction in municipal electricity use, 25% reduction in municipal gas use
- 3% reduction in residential electricity use, and 11% reduction in residential gas use

The top 10 communities must submit a plan for how the community will utilize the \$5 million prize, which must be utilized for sustainability related projects.

The Neighborhood Energy Challenge

The Neighborhood Energy Challenge was created to help residents reduce energy use and save money, contribute to the city's efforts for the Georgetown University Energy Prize, and support the city's existing goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The challenge ran for a year from March 2015 – March 2016. Eighteen neighborhood teams competed for a \$2,000 prize.

The winning teams all chose to use their prizes for tree planting projects.

Grand Prize \$2,000 TIE!

Forest Park for Highest:

- Average Points per Participating Household
- Average Points per Home in Neighborhood
- Certification Rate of those Participating

Longbranch Sligo for Highest:

- Raw Data: Points
- Raw Data: Certifications
- Average Certification per Home
- Percent of Households in Neighborhood Participating

Second Place Prize \$1,500

Central Carroll Team for Second Place In:

- Percent of Households in Neighborhood Participating
- Average Points per Participating Household
- Average Points per Home in Neighborhood

Runners Up \$500

BF Gilbert Team and
Old Town Residents Team



Green Home Certification

To score the Neighborhood Energy Challenge and to recognize residents who took action towards energy efficiency a Green Home Certification program was created. There are three levels of Green Home Certification, light green, medium, and dark green. In order to achieve the

different levels of certification, households must complete all of the goals listed for each level, with some exceptions. Goals range from routine lightbulb changes to major home improvements including insulation, air-sealing, and installing renewable energy systems.

Residents can still earn Green Home Certification, and a new category – Transportation – has been added. <http://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability/20160729-green-home-certificaiton-booklet.pdf>



Many neighborhood teams held meetings during the challenge to discuss how to earn points, hold energy audit Q&A sessions, and discuss ways to reduce energy use at home.

Resources

City of Takoma Park Rebates

\$50 rebate for qualified Comprehensive Energy Audits

\$0.15 per therm and kWh of annual savings up to \$500
www.takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability/energy-efficiency-rebates

Insulation, Air, Duct Sealing and Appliance Rebates

Pepco

Up to \$7,500 for insulation, air sealing, heating and cooling equipment, duct sealing, and more!
homeenergysavings.pepco.com/home-performance-with-energy-star-program

Heating and Cooling Equipment Rebates

Washington Gas

\$200 for gas water heater,
\$30 for programmable thermostat.

Energy Wise Rewards

Get a **FREE** programmable thermostat.
energywiserewards.pepco.com/md

\$500 for a new EPA certified log (stick) burning stove. Stoves must emit no more than 3 grams of particulate matter per hour and be EPA certified.

\$700 for a new pellet burning stove. Pellet burning stoves can also burn corn, available through the Takoma Park Corn Co-op!

Clean Energy Grant Program

energy.maryland.gov/Residential/cleanenergygrants/index.html

- **\$1,000** for new Solar Photovoltaic systems sized 1 - 20 kW
- **\$3,000** for new Geothermal systems sized 1 - 10 tons
- **\$500** for new Solar Water Heating systems sized 1 - 100 sq. ft.

Available at the Takoma Park Library

- FLIR ONE Infrared cameras that work with your smartphone are available to check out. Use the camera to scan your walls and home for hidden air leaks and missing insulation.
- Energy Meters that measure how much electricity an appliance uses are available for checkout at the library. Find out how much energy your TV, computer, or microwave is using.

Financing and Loan Options

Maryland Home Energy Loan Program

Up to \$20,000 loan with 9.99% interest rate for energy-efficiency upgrades. energy.maryland.gov/mhelp/index.html

Maryland Energy Administration Audits

energy.maryland.gov/Residential/cleanenergygrants/index.html

Green Bank

Green banks

- Leverage public-purpose dollars to draw in private investment
- Recycle public-purpose dollars and are cost-efficient
- Are a proven means of speeding up clean energy deployment

Montgomery County is investing in clean energy to meet state and local goals

A green bank is the ideal means of quickly scaling up clean energy investment in Montgomery County

More information on Green Banks can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/energy/green-bank.html

PACE

PACE stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy and is a program that offers commercial properties financial assistance towards energy saving projects.

Why is this important?

Typical building contractors might only meet minimum requirements for energy efficiency in their projects due to price or time commitments. The PACE allows for the loan repayment to be assessed through annual surcharges on the property tax bill. The loan stays with the property and a subsequent owner continues to pay the surcharge until the loan is fully paid. This encourages greater investment in energy efficiency and sustainable building.

More information on PACE can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/energy/pace.html

Green Business Certification

The Green Business Certification Program for Montgomery County recognizes the efforts made by various types of non profit organizations to enhance their sustainability within the County. www.mcgreenbiz.org/





Green Impact Campaign

To help local businesses save energy, Green Impact Campaign hosted a community-wide project called the **Takoma Park Kilowatt Smackdown** to provide free energy assessments for local, small businesses.

Trained university student volunteers completed free, 30 minute energy assessments for businesses to inform them about energy saving opportunities in their buildings.

Students competed against each other to see which student could assist the most local businesses—earning scholarships, internships, and other prizes along the way.

Results

63 participating businesses

480,000 kWh of energy savings

\$92,000 of energy cost savings

32% average energy savings



Results

101

Participants

32

Signed Contracts

19

in Takoma Park City Limits

28%

increase in
Solar Panel installation

Solar Co-op

During the first 3 months of 2015, the City of Takoma Park, Community Power Network (CPN), and CPN's project MD SUN organized a Takoma Park/Silver Spring Solar Co-op. Any homeowner or small business located in Takoma Park, Silver Spring, or a surrounding neighborhood in MD could join. By going solar as a group, members saved 25% off the cost of a solar system. Members also have the support of the co-op and access to experts at CPN in case of complications or questions.



City Vehicle Fleet

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) The City of Takoma Park uses HEVs powered by a combustion engine that can be run on conventional or alternative fuel and an electric motor that uses energy stored in a battery. HEVs combine the benefits of high fuel economy and low emissions with the power and range of normal vehicles.

City trucks operate with a 20% biodiesel fuel mix. Future plans may include a pilot project to convert some trucks to 100% biodiesel. The City fleet also has one plug-in hybrid and an all-electric car.

Wind-powered Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

In Takoma Park there are **three charging stations** open for public use.

- Behind the Community Center on Maple Ave. and Philadelphia Ave.
- At the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Ave.
- At BF Gilbert Park on Carroll Ave.

A level 3 fast charger is available at the Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. Rates are \$1.50 plus \$0.25/minute.

A second level 3 fast charger will be added late Fall 2017. Check Plugshare.com for location

There are also several locations near Takoma Park where electric vehicle owners can access charging stations.

Transportation

Getting Around Takoma Park



Bus Transit Center

A transit center for buses recently opened just outside City limits at the MD 193/ MD 650 intersection. The project provides a secure and comfortable off street facility with ADA accessibility, lighting, bathroom, shelter and large canopy. It accommodates 12 buses and will be a transfer point for the future Purple Line.

Safe Routes to School Program

The Takoma Safe Routes to School program encourages students to walk and bike to school regularly and safely. The program serves students and families at Takoma Park, Piney Branch, Rolling Terrace, and East Silver Spring Elementary Schools, and Takoma Park Middle School. A Safe Routes to School grant from the State of Maryland funds the program.

Crosswalk Simulation Activity

To reinforce safe pedestrian practices, Takoma Park Safe Routes to School developed a Crosswalk Simulation Activity for elementary school aged kids.

The workshop, offered in schools and in the community, emphasizes all the basics of pedestrian safety including tips for students to share with drivers. It includes a mock crosswalk, traffic signs and signals, a working mini traffic light and other interactive props to engage the students.

Skateboarding Safety

The increased popularity of skateboarding to school has prompted Takoma Park Middle School and Safe Routes to School to team up to offer workshops with demos modeling skating skills and safety practices.



TKPK5K Challenge

The Safe Routes to School Takoma Park 5K Challenge promotes pedestrian safety by challenging the students, parents and staff at participating schools, and area residents to train and compete in the annual event held the first Sunday in May. Events include a 5K run or walk, a one mile fun run and a quarter mile youth race. Proceeds from the 5K Challenge fund pedestrian safety and health initiatives through the local Parent Teacher Associations.

Transportation

The Car Free Challenge



CAR FREE CHALLENGE

The Car Free Challenge is a competition for everyone who lives or works in Takoma Park. It runs May 19 2017 – October 19 2017. Participants earn points for the number of miles and the number of trips they take without using their car — biking, walking, carpooling, or taking metro, commuter trains, and buses instead. Trips must originate or terminate in Takoma Park. Air travel, walking the dog, and exercise do not count.

Participants compete as individuals and on teams. Monthly prizes and a grand prize will be awarded including new bikes, bike lights, bells, baskets or paniers, new walking shoes, and loaded smart trip cards.

Residents of Takoma Park can also earn their next Green Home Certification sticker by participating in the Car Free Challenge. To earn a Light Green Certification for transportation, residents must complete 15 trips (minimum of 15 miles) during the challenge. Medium Green Certification will be awarded to those who take a minimum of 75 trips (minimum of 75 miles) during the challenge, and Dark Green Certification for anyone taking 200 or more trips (minimum 200 miles) during the Car Free Challenge.

Accept the Challenge!

Reducing the number of cars on the road does more than help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Biking and walking is great exercise, and fewer cars means safer roads for everyone. You might also be able to save a little gas money. Research even shows that riding or walking to work makes you happier than driving. So break out your sneakers, padded bike shorts, and metro cards and get ready to burn some calories instead of fossil fuels!

Register online at www.carfreetkpk.com.



Walk, Bike, Share, Ride

Transportation

Biking in Takoma Park

Bike To School Day

Modeled after the successful Walk to School Day, students celebrate **Bike to School Day** by riding to school with their peers, teachers, parents, and guests on the second Wednesday in May. Students also learn about proper helmet fitting and basic bike safety.

Bike Safety Rodeos

Safe Routes to School has teamed up with area schools to offer **bike safety rodeos** free of charge to local students. With a combination of classroom learning and hands-on bicycle training, this program teaches best safety practices for biking to school and around town.

Ican Shine Bike Camp

Thanks to Takoma Park Safe Routes to School, iCan Shine's **iCan Bike** program came to Takoma Park to teach individuals with disabilities how to ride a conventional bike and become lifelong independent riders!

Bike Share Stations

Takoma Park currently has **7 bike share stations** operated by Capital Bikeshare available for use by bikeshare members. Check out the Capital Bikeshare website to learn more about getting a membership and how the program works.



Transportation



Bike Repair Station

In October of 2015 the City's first **bicycle repair station** was installed at the Takoma Park Community Center, near the Police Station entrance off of Maple Avenue. The station offers all the tools needed for basic bike repair, a snazzy pump, and a QR code linked to instructional repair videos.

A second bike repair station has been added where Sligo Creek Trail crosses New Hampshire Avenue.

Bicycle Improvements

In 2013, Takoma Park was designated an honorable mention as a **Bicycle Friendly Community** by the League of American Bicyclists. The League provided a feedback report recommending steps to become more bike friendly.

In 2014, the City of Takoma Park was awarded **Maryland Bikeways Program** funding to:

- Install bike parking at the Takoma Park Community Center and the Takoma Park Recreation Center
- Install sharrows on Carroll Avenue from the DC line to the bridge over Sligo Creek Parkway, and on Takoma Avenue linking to the Metropolitan Branch Trail
- Support the construction of bike lanes as part of the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project

Biking Lanes & Trails

Takoma Park maintains signed, onstreet **bike routes** between commercial districts, Community Center, transit facilities and regional trails. The city also hosts part of the 8-mile Metropolitan Branch shared use cycling and pedestrian trail.



City Staff Bicycle Program

In June of 2016, the City received 4 new bicycles to add to the transportation fleet. As an alternative way for the staff to get around, they help the city reduce carbon dioxide emissions while also providing the rider with exercise. The Community Center and the office of Public Works each have two bicycles that are equipped with a rear rack, front basket, front and rear lights, helmets, bike locks and a tachometer to collect mileage data for calculating the amount of CO₂ emissions diverted.



Bike to Work Day

To promote cycling in Takoma Park, the City coordinates the annual **Bike To Work Day** in May with "pit stops" in Old Takoma and on New Hampshire Ave. Registration opens in March, and interested volunteers and sponsors are encouraged to contact the Planning division.



The free **Takoma Park Bike Map** helps plan routes and is available at public buildings and bike shops in the City.

Health and Safety

Keeping Takoma Park Clean, Green, and Groovy

It is hard to believe that a city like Takoma Park has a litter problem, but like most cities it still struggles to keep litter in check. Efforts to keep Takoma Park Clean, Green, and Groovy include the public education campaign with the ubiquitous anti-litter TKPK bumper magnets, seasonal litter clean-ups, an Adopt-a-Spot program, and an annual Sick of Signs campaign. City Council has also taken action to curb litter by passing a plastic bag ban and polystyrene ban, both sources of litter that are harmful to the environment. You can do your part by picking up litter when you see it, and joining in on neighborhood clean up days.

Seasonal Litter Clean-ups

April is Anti-Litter Month. This is the best and easiest time to find a way to join the effort to rid Takoma Park of litter. School groups from elementary all the way through the university level have clean ups scheduled.

The **Takoma Langley Crossroads Association** has regular clean ups advertised on their website: takomalangley.org.



Main Street Takoma invites residents to come out in April, www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/spring-community-clean-up-day.

The Alice Ferguson Foundation hosts the **Potomac River Watershed Clean Up** with sites all over the region, to volunteer visit: fergusonfoundation.org/trash-freepotomac-watershed-initiative/potomacriver-watershed-cleanup/volunteers.

Many residents make **Sweep the Creek**, sponsored by the Friends of Sligo Creek, a tradition. You can too: www.fosc.org/sweepthecreek.htm.

Adopt-a-Spot

Adopt-a-Spot allows individuals or groups to adopt areas located within Takoma Park for regularly scheduled litter pick-ups. The City recognizes the individual or group with a sign bearing the group's name at the spot. The City will also provide cleaning equipment, such as trash bags and gloves. Download the application from the City website: takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/anti-littering.

Sick of Signs

During Sick of Signs Week in September, the City urges residents to put "Street Spam" back in the can by tearing down illegally posted signs in the public right-of-way. Don't wait for September, go ahead and take down illegal signs anytime.

Polystyrene Ban

Polystyrene foodservice ware or packaging is marked with plastic resin code #6

Young Activist Act Food Service Polystyrene Ban

Passed in 2014, effective July 1, 2015, the Young Activist Act prohibits food service facilities from using polystyrene-composed packaging or food service ware when providing prepared food for onsite or takeaway consumption.

Why is Polystyrene Prohibited?

Polystyrene is made from styrene, a petroleum byproduct which is nonrenewable and a chronic pollutant. Styrene is a known neurotoxin that is classified as likely to be a human carcinogen. Polystyrene is not recyclable and once discarded stays in the environment for years.

One form of polystyrene is used to make the foam cups, plates, and clamshell food containers that are sometimes referred to as Styrofoam. Other forms of polystyrene are used to make certain clear or solid plastic cups, lids, straws, utensils, as well as other foodservice ware.

Who is Affected by this Ban?

Any restaurant, coffee shop, bakery, retail market, cafeteria, takeout counter, commercial kitchen, grocery store, convenience store, and catering operation; food trucks or stands, sidewalk or festival vendors or temporary stands; any foodservice facility in an institution, hospital, club, school, church, park or public building, meeting or convention facility, or camp

Plastic Bag Ban



Effective December 1, 2016, the commercial use of plastic single use bags at point of sale is prohibited in Takoma Park. Exceptions include dry cleaning bags and newspaper bags where newspapers are delivered by the publisher.

Environment

Safe Grow Zone

Passed unanimously by City Council on July 22, 2013, the Safe Grow Zone law restricts the use of lawn pesticides for cosmetic purposes on private and public property within Takoma Park. This law made it illegal for a commercial pesticide applicator to apply lawn pesticides for cosmetic purposes on private property or public rights of way in the City as of March 1, 2014. The law applied to private residents on January 1, 2015.

Restricted Pesticides

The City of Takoma Park's list of restricted use pesticides includes those identified as carcinogenic or likely to be carcinogenic to humans by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Class 9 pesticides by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment; and Class 1 Endocrine Disruptors by the European Commission.

Minimum Risk Pesticides Allowed by the Safe Grow Act

The City also maintains a list of minimum risk pesticides and other alternatives that are allowed to be used for cosmetic lawn care.

Posting Required Notice

The law requires that a notice be posted by the commercial pesticide applicator, property owner, or resident on any property where allowed lawn care pesticides are applied. The notice must be



visible to the public right of way closest to the application area for two days after application. Failure to post and maintain the notice is a violation and a Class G municipal infraction will be issued.

Exceptions

A restricted pesticide may be applied to protect against an imminent threat to human health and safety and to control noxious growths, noxious weeds and invasive species. A waiver of the law may be provided if the applicant proves that they have exhausted all reasonable alternatives. A waiver request shall be submitted, approved, and posted before a restricted pesticide is applied.



2-Phenethyl Propionate
Castor Oil
Cedar Oil
Cinnamon and Cinnamon Oil
Citric Acid
Citronella and Citronella Oil
Cloves and Clove Oil
Corn Gluten Meal
Corn Oil
Cottonseed oil
Dried Blood
Eugenol
Garlic and Garlic Oil
Geraniol
Geranium Oil
Lauryl Sulfate
Lemongrass Oil
Linseed Oil
Malic Acid
Mint and Mint Oil
Peppermint and Peppermint Oil
Potassium Sorbate
Putrescent Whole Egg Solids
Rosemary and Rosemary Oil
Sesame and Sesame Oil
Sodium Chloride (Salt)
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate
Soybean Oil
Thyme and Thyme Oil
White Pepper
Zinc Metal Strips

Minimum Risk Pesticides

Pulling weeds, lawn care management, and biological controls should be your main course of action to maintain your property. If these lawn care methods fail the Safe Grow Act allows materials designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as minimum risk pesticides under section 25 (b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). At right are some examples of effective products for weed control.

Farmer's Markets

Crossroads Farmer's Market

Wednesdays, May 31-December 27
11am-3pm, rain or shine!
Anne St. between University Blvd. and Hammond Ave. (across from Rite Aid)

Takoma Park Farmer's Market

Sundays year round, 10am-2pm
Laurel Ave. at Eastern Ave.





Natural Resources

Tree City USA

Takoma Park has been a part of Tree City USA for over 30 years by committing to sound urban forestry management. This entails maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

In an effort to protect Takoma Park's urban tree canopy, city law requires an assessment of tree impacts during construction and a permit for tree removal. City law also requires replanting after tree removal.

What is Tree Canopy?

Tree canopy is the sum of all the leaves, branches and trunks of trees that cover the ground surface if viewed from above. Tree species vary in the height that they will ultimately achieve, but overstory trees are the largest—they form the bulk of the canopy in an urban or natural forest.

Why Is Tree Canopy Important?

A healthy tree canopy offers many community benefits: controls storm water and erosion, cools and protects from wind, reduces energy use, provides habitats and food for wildlife, balances carbon emissions, provides privacy screens, enhances the aesthetic, raises property value, and benefits air quality.

The Bulk Buy Program

Twice a year the City offers residents a chance to purchase new canopy trees at a discount during the fall and spring bulk buy program. The City provides an additional \$100 discount for the first tree purchase.

"The Council of the City of Takoma Park hereby finds that it is in the interest of the citizens of the City to protect, preserve, and promote the City's urban forest."

The start of Section 12.12 of the City Code, Urban Forest section.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Stormwater Management

Why we manage stormwater

Stormwater is rain water that is not absorbed by the ground, trees, or plants. This water flows over streets and other impervious surfaces, picking up oils, sediment, and other contaminants on its way to Sligo Creek, the Anacostia River, and the Chesapeake Bay. As stormwater increases in volume and speed, it causes stream bank erosion and dumps more sediment into the stream, harming aquatic insects, fish and animals that depend on the stream for their food and habitat.

Takoma Park projects include:

- Installing bioretention areas that use native plants and trees to filter pollution from storm runoff.
- Stream restoration and stabilization projects, such as the Circle Woods Stream project.
- Developing green streets, such as the Flower Avenue Green Street Project.
- Restricting the use of cosmetic pesticides through the Safe Grow Act.

The Program is funded through the stormwater management utility fee, which is based on each property's actual contribution to stormwater runoff.

Goals

- Maintain and replace stormwater infrastructure
- Perform stream restoration projects and other water quality improvement projects
- Add stormwater treatment facilities, such as green streets
- Reduce the amount of untreated stormwater runoff by 20% by the year 2025.

Environment

Green Street Projects

Green Street projects result in energy savings, pedestrian access and safety, and proper stormwater management.

Flower Avenue

The Flower Avenue Green Street project has six primary objectives:

- 1 to design ADA compliant sidewalk on the east side of the street and identify repairs for the west side
- 2 to locate and design low-impact stormwater retention facilities to capture and filter runoff
- 3 to improve pedestrian crossings and bus stops
- 4 to replace street lights with energy efficient fixtures
- 5 to identify the amount of onstreet parking needed for current residents
- 6 to assess the optimum road configuration to enable objectives 1 – 3 above.

Location

Approximately one mile of Flower Avenue between Piney Branch Road and Carroll Avenue.



Pedestrian Access and Safety

Traffic calming, by means of bump-outs, 4-way stops, sidewalks, crosswalks and bus stops will increase walkability and safety.

Stormwater Management

The project will install Environmental Site Design (ESD) facilities, which will capture and filter runoff from the street, limiting erosion and reducing the amount of soil and pollution entering the Anacostia Watershed.

The City will repave the street after the project improvements are made.

Climate & Resiliency

Mayor & City Council

The City of Takoma Park enjoys a politically proactive Mayor and City Council who not only compliment but initiate new environmental efforts that benefit Takoma Park and its residents.

Climate Resiliency

In addition to the SEAP and working to reduce GHG emissions, Takoma Park is committed to building climate resiliency in the city. Mayor Kate Stewart joined the Global Covenant of Mayors in 2016 (formerly the Compact of Mayors) and committed Takoma Park to developed a climate risk assessment and resiliency plan by 2019.

Takoma Park staff, City Council, and Mayor are active members of many regional boards including participating in many Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Committees including the Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee, Built Environment & Energy Advisory Committee, Recycling Committee, Multi-Sector Workgroup, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, and more.

Paris Agreement

In June 2017, Mayor Kate Stewart joined with Mayors from around the County to adopt, honor and uphold the commitments of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

What Takoma Park is doing:

- Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Action Plan in place
- Residential energy efficiency incentives
- Low – moderate income energy efficiency grants
- Intensive municipal energy efficiency retrofits
- Urban forest management
- Support renewable energy
- Bicycle and transportation expansion
- ...and much more!



Awards & Recognition

Certified Wildlife Habitat

Tree City USA

Sustainable Maryland Certified

ICLEI Local Governments For Sustainability

Climate Protection Award

LEED Certified Facilities

- Auditorium
- Public Works

Georgetown University Energy Prize Semifinalist

Maryland Smart Energy Communities Award

Moving Towards Zero

Environment

Get Involved Locally

Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)

Local Takoma Park nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to fighting global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
chesapeakeclimate.org/

Friends of Sligo Creek

Nonprofit community organization dedicated to protecting, improving, and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed.
www.fosc.org/

MoCo 350

Grassroots organization fighting for solutions to the climate crisis.
www.350moco.org/

One Green Montgomery

Fosters partnerships that help others to achieve their goals of supporting sustainable communities while promoting the development of a green economy.
onemontgomerygreen.org/

Sierra Club of Montgomery County

Focuses 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

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment

Official advisory and coordination role for the City Council on all matters related to environmental sustainability, protection and restoration.
takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/committee-on-the-environment/

Takoma Park Mobilization

Environmental Group - Neighbors working together to engage our community and take action.
tpmobilization.org/home/environment

Young Activist Club

Student organization dedicated to environmental activism in Takoma Park.
www.facebook.com/YoungActivistClub/



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Ordinance

allows a 15% price preference for products that

- Use recycled materials.
- Generate minimal waste in manufacturing or use.
- Are durable, longer lasting, reusable, refillable or compostable.
- Use minimal energy and water.
- Involve minimal use of toxic and hazardous materials.
- Minimize production of greenhouse gases.
- Minimize production of environmental pollutants including ozone precursors.
- Are locally supplied or produced.

Takoma Park is a Nuclear Free Zone. Established in 1983, the ordinance restricts any award, contract or purchase order, directly or indirectly, to any nuclear weapons producer or any of its subsidiaries.

Solar Streetlight Pilot Project

The City of Takoma Park has two newly installed solar streetlights and several new solar crosswalk lights outside of the Takoma Park Community Center. The pilot program is in partnership with UNO, a South Korean business, and the Korean Institute for Civil Engineering and Building Technology. Takoma Park was selected as a pilot because of its reputation as a sustainability leader throughout the region.

The project compliments the City's ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also increases overall pedestrian safety.



Don't Trash... We Recycle

The City of Takoma Park works to reduce all types of waste both in collection services and in the City's internal practices.



What Goes in Your Recycling Bin

- Bottles, jars, cans, and cartons (glass, plastic, metal, and milk or juice cartons)
- Rinse or clean out items before placing in the recycling bin.
- Paper should be bundled in a paper bag or tied with string before being placed in or beside recycling bins. This prevents paper from blowing out of bins or trucks.
- NO plastic bags, food, polystyrene foam or plastics marked #6

Computers and electronic items

can be brought to the Public Works facility for recycling. Place items in or next to the bin in the front of the office, as demonstrated here by **Skippy, the Sustainability Dog**.

City of Takoma Park Public Works Department

31 Oswego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-891-7633

Medication drop off

Takoma Park residents may dispose of excess or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications at:
City of Takoma Park Police Department
7500 Maple Avenue, 1st Floor Lobby
Takoma Park, MD 20912



What's Recyclable?

Consult Takoma Park's **Waste Wizard**

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/curbside-collection-services/>

Waste

Food Waste Collection Program

The Food Waste Collection Program

is a curbside collection service provided free to eligible Takoma Park residents.

It makes it easy for residents to dispose of household food waste in a sustainable fashion.

Collected food waste is converted into compost.

Results

- **Reduces waste** sent to the landfill
- **Curbs GHG emissions** from waste incineration — a large contributor to GHG emissions
- **Encourages organic yard care**

Out of the Trash, into the Bucket

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- nuts, beans, seeds, rice, grains
- bread, pasta, cereal, baked goods, etc.
- dairy products
- meat, fish, shellfish (including bones)
- coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- chopsticks and popsicle sticks
- paper products, pizza boxes



323 tons

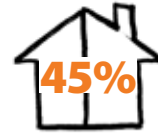
food waste collected for composting so far

13 lbs

Food waste the average household puts out per week.



4%
of the City's total waste stream for single family residences is **food scraps**



45%
of Takoma Park households are participating in the program.

1800

goal for number of households participating by the end of 2017 (55%)



Closing the Loop - Compost

Participants in the Food Waste Collection Program can get up to five buckets of **free compost!**

- Encourages organic yard care
- Primarily available in the spring and summer.

Residential recycling collection and yard waste collection

are year-round, weekly curbside services. The Public Works Department collects household recycling and yard waste from all single family homes and most small apartment buildings within the city.

Ready to recycle your yellow bin?

New and replacement recycling bins are available from Public Works.

Mulch

After yard waste is collected, it is turned into mulch that is available for self-loading at Public Works.

Deliveries are also available for a fee beginning in March and lasting until the supply is exhausted.



Takoma Park MD Sustainability Catalog 2017

