



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEWSLETTER

December 2021

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## News



The Environmental Finance Center honored 12 Maryland municipalities, four of which were in Prince George's County, at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference on October 12th. This Awards Ceremony marks Sustainable Maryland's 10th year of helping communities build a more sustainable future.

Congratulations to **Cheverly, Cottage City, Laurel, and Mount Rainier** for being recognized as Sustainable Maryland Certified communities! Check out the certification reports of all Sustainable Maryland Certified municipalities [here](#).

## Tips to Prepare Your Rain Check Yard for Winter



As winter approaches, it is important to maintain and prepare your rain barrels, rain gardens, and other practices for the cold temperatures to ensure that they continue to function properly.

Here are five tips to help you prepare your Rain Check Yard:

- Drain and disconnect rain barrels.
- Remove leaves and other debris from rain gardens and permeable pavement.
- Apply a new layer of mulch in rain gardens and around trees.
- Use salt not sand, which can cause clogging, in moderation to melt ice on permeable pavement.
- Continue to water young trees this fall if they do not receive 1.5 inches of rain per week.

**What is a Rain Check Yard?** A Rain Check Yard is a property that has installed one or more of the seven eligible practices from the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate](#) program. The seven eligible practices include rain barrels, cisterns, tree plantings, rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs. This program provides reimbursements to property owners for installing these approved practices. Rain Check Rebate participants can receive a yard sign to proudly display their commitment to keeping our waterways healthy and clean!

Read the whole blog post [here!](#)

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## Public Comment Period for Climate Action Plan Ends December 1, 2021



DoE has hosted virtual and in-person listening sessions for the draft Climate Action Plan, released for public comment on November 1st. Join us to have your voice heard!

The plan provides recommendations on how the County can lead on climate action to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, establish adaptation measures that build community resilience, and implement equitable climate solutions that protect our most vulnerable populations. From renewable energy to smart growth communities, from low-carbon transportation to resilient water systems, this plan sets out a road map for a clean, safe and more equitable future.

The last public session will be held virtually on Tuesday,

November 30th from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Registration is required for all virtual sessions. Sign up at [bit.ly/PGCvirtualCAPmtg](https://bit.ly/PGCvirtualCAPmtg).

Residents, organizations, businesses, and County-based entities can submit responses to the plan that can help create climate change resilient communities throughout Prince George's County.

To view the plan, submit comments, by December 1, 2021, visit

[mypgc.us/climateactionplan](https://mypgc.us/climateactionplan).

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### Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Whitney Vong at [wvong@citrust.org](mailto:wvong@citrust.org) to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



## Events and Opportunities

### **Water's Way: Thinking Like a Watershed**

Wednesday, December 8, 2021- 7pm to 10pm  
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Virtual

*This new film offers a cinematic journey through the rivers and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay to experience the watershed as it was before colonization and how it could be if we learn to think like a watershed. [Learn more](#)*

### **River Terrace Trash Sorting Challenge at the Bostwick House**

Saturday, December 11, 2021- 12pm to 3pm  
Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), Bostwick House

### **Clean Energy Opportunity for Prince George's Residents through Community Solar at Paddington Square**

[Groundswell](#)

### [Community Solar at Paddington Square](#)

will be providing clean, equitable energy for households in Prince George's County (and Montgomery County) for 28 income-qualified subscribers, free of cost. Subscriptions will also be available to 63 local households who want to be a part of an equitable clean energy future for Maryland.

Subscribers to this SharePower community solar project will receive

Join the AWS staff and volunteers remove trash from the Anacostia River. These trash cleanup events contribute to data that has been integral in passing legislation and educating the public. If you want to participate, you must register online by December 9. [Learn more](#)

### **Watkins Youth Birding Club**

Saturday, December 11, 2021- 8am to 10 am  
MNCPPC, Watkins Nature Center

Calling all young wildlife enthusiasts, ages 10 to 17, who enjoy hiking and the outdoors to join the Watkins Youth Birding Club. Led by a Naturalist you will learn skills like using binoculars and scope, learn how to recognize and identify birds and start a "Life List". Bring binoculars if you have them. This program will meet in front of the Nature Center and take place outdoors. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Must register by 12/10/21. Learn more at [outdoors.pg parks.com/calendar.aspx?EID=17744](https://outdoors.pg parks.com/calendar.aspx?EID=17744)

about half of their home or apartment's monthly electricity usage from the solar panels installed right here in Maryland. The goal of this project is to eliminate the financial barriers and long-term contracts that often limit solar power's accessibility. To learn more about this program, visit [sharepower.groundswell.org](https://sharepower.groundswell.org) or reach out to [kevin.goodson@groundswell.org](mailto:kevin.goodson@groundswell.org) or [customerservice@groundswell.org](mailto:customerservice@groundswell.org).

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Due to COVID-19's impact on our region, many in-person events have moved to remote meetings, were postponed, or were cancelled. As information becomes available, the County's updates and resources are [here](#).

Stay safe and healthy, Prince George's County!

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### **ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the streams, rivers, and other natural resources of the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration.

Since 1985, the Trust has awarded more than \$140 million in grants and projects that have engaged over 2 million dedicated individuals in efforts that are making a difference for all of our local systems—Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny.

For nearly two decades, the Trust has received a "4-star rating" from Charity Navigator, the nation's leading independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations.

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