

Prince George's County

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

october 2014



Green Scene

newsletter



Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

The DoE Mission

The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.

DIRECTOR'S *Corner*



Dear Friends,

This October has been jam packed with activity I *almost* don't know where to start.

I said 'almost' because I must start with a request for you to join me in thanking Dr. Mow Soung Cheng for bringing his expertise, indefatigable work ethic and thoughtful presence in service to our County for more than three decades. Dr. Cheng is respected nationwide for his transformational contributions to clean water. His retirement will be a great loss for DoE and environmental protection. You can read more about this remarkable man and career in the pages that follow.

It is important that we practice what we preach here at DoE, which is why we are so pleased to be the recipients of a National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) grant to retrofit our office building and parking lot with rain gardens and other stormwater 'devices' to naturally filter polluted runoff. This will mark the beginning of a government-wide effort to transform all of our government properties to be more sustainable.

Speaking of preaching, we are thrilled to have launched our new partnership with faith communities and nonprofits through our Alternative Compliance Program (ACP). As you may know, all property owners pay a fee to the County based upon the amount of impervious surface (roofs, parking lots, etc.) that contribute to runoff pollution. Recognizing the special role that churches and nonprofits play in our communities, we developed the ACP in partnership to advance our shared goals of being the best stewards that we can be to our planet.

On that note, thank you for everything you are doing to keep Prince George's County clean, green, healthy and beautiful. From rain barrels to recycling, every little thing each of us does for sustainability adds up to make a lasting difference.

Sincerely,

Adam Ortiz
Director

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The DoE Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Department of the Environment. We welcome story suggestions, photos and special event articles.

For more information, please contact the Communications Office at (301) 883-5952.

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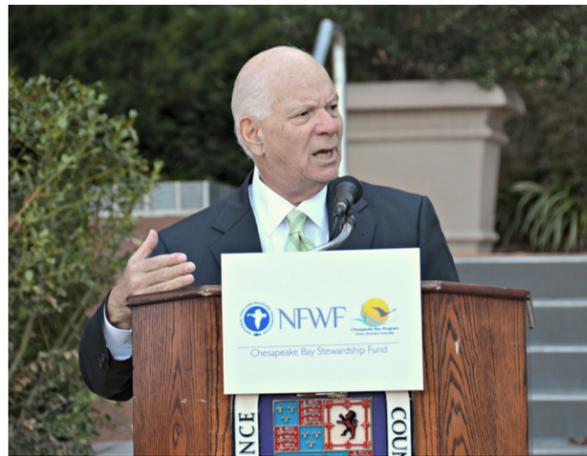
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www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/environmentalresources

DoE RECEIVES \$375K GRANT TO RETROFIT COUNTY OFFICE COMPLEX



The Department of the Environment (DoE) received a \$375,000 grant to retrofit a 7.8 acre County office complex to help reduce stormwater pollution in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay at an awards ceremony that included U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-Md) and EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. The grant announced by the Chesapeake Bay Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is awarded through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, which is financed by the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program and the Small Watershed Grants Program. The ceremony was held at DoE's office headquarters in Largo.

"The Chesapeake Bay is and will always be an intangible cultural symbol for Maryland and the region as a whole," said Sen. Ben Cardin, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife. "I want to stress the importance of broad involvement of all stakeholders in the effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay. If we all work together and do our part, we will see progress and leave our children a Chesapeake Bay that is healthier than it is today."

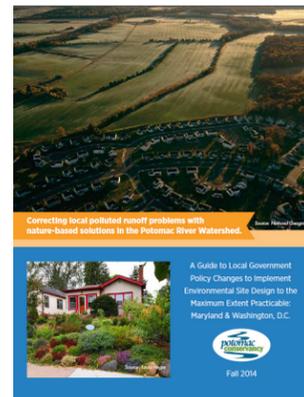
"EPA is committed to supporting local governments and other organizations in their efforts to use innovative and sustainable approaches for managing stormwater and improving the health of their local waters," said EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin.

The Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program awarded the grants to DoE, along with seven other projects that will use on-the-ground restoration, habitat conservation and community engagement techniques to improve local watersheds. DoE plans to employ a variety of stormwater management methods like adding rain gardens and removing impervious surfaces at their office complex.

DoE Director, Adam Ortiz said that pollution is a problem and much of it comes from water running off of impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roads and roofs. The solution, said Ortiz, is to build rain gardens throughout the property in order to make sure every drop of rain is treated naturally before it runs off the property. "Here in Prince George's County, we're controlling pollution from urbanized areas to make our County healthier, more beautiful and it's a great way to put people to work."



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE DESIGN IS KEY TO REDUCING STORMWATER POLLUTION

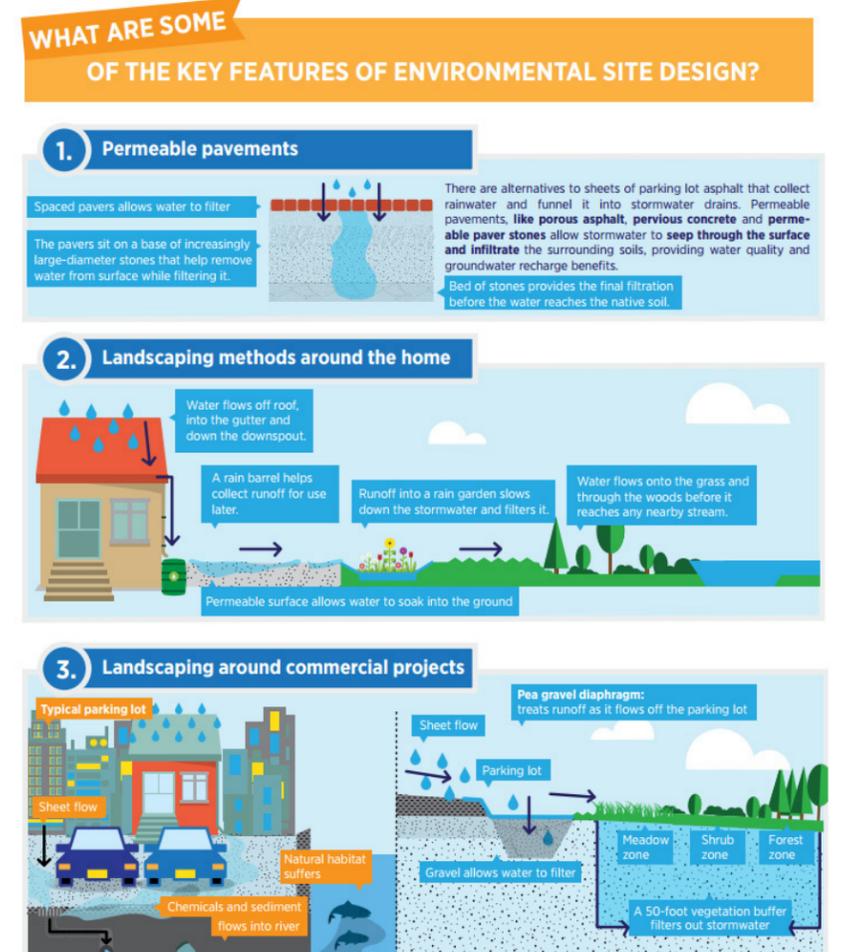


Earlier this month, DoE Director Adam Ortiz participated in a media conference call with local leaders involved in the protection of water quality to discuss the importance of environmental site design to minimize the negative impacts of impervious cover on local waterways. Organized by the Potomac Conservancy, a nonprofit advocacy group working to protect the Potomac River and its tributaries, the group issued a regional report that identifies regulatory obstacles that prevent or prohibit the installation of these site design solutions and offers tips to overcome such barriers. The report provides local jurisdictions with a road map to improve the health of our local rivers and streams.

"In Prince George's County, we are already highly developed so our focus is on making our older communities more green and sustainable," says Adam Ortiz. "Since we are more urbanized already, we can use sustainable stormwater practices to beautify existing neighborhoods and create local jobs."

The group recognizes that the amount of developed land has doubled since 1970, with related losses in forest and agricultural land. The most rapidly urbanizing areas include the Monocacy and Lower Potomac subwatersheds, particularly Frederick County, MD; Prince William, VA; and Charles County, MD. In the last three decades, many areas of the watershed have more than doubled in population. Based on the 2010 census, the population is approximately 6.1 million, with nearly three-quarters residing in the Washington metropolitan area (ICPRB, 2013). The Potomac River is an important resource to this region as it supplies almost 90 percent of the drinking water to the District metropolitan area.

To view a full copy of the report, visit www.potomac.org.



feature 3

feature 4



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
BIDS FAREWELL TO
DR. MOW-SOUNG CHENG

Among his fellow colleagues, Dr. Mow-Soung Cheng is known as a very humble and hardworking man with a long list of stormwater management accomplishments who would prefer to sit quietly in the shadows. But now, it's his time to be in the spotlight, because after more than 30 years of public service, Dr. Cheng will retire at the end of the year.

Dr. Cheng began his County career in 1984 as a group manager with the Stormwater Management Technical Group (SMTG) at the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) where he was responsible for the day-to-day supervision and operation of the Group and served as a liaison to all governmental entities to coordinate local, State and Federal stormwater management activities. The major function of SMTG was to develop comprehensive watershed management plans in the County. The management plans identified flooding and water quality problems within the watershed, evaluated all possible alternatives and recommended the solutions.

In 1987, he became Section Head of the Flood Management Section, which later became the Watershed Programs Section at the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER). His responsibilities included administering the County's stormwater management programs; developing, managing and administering the U. S. EPA mandated NPDES Permit Programs for the County's storm drain systems; stream restoration/ retrofit programs; investigating storm drainage and water quality complaints; conducting and implementing comprehensive watershed management plans (for both flood management and water quality improvement); wetland banking and creation; overseeing grant applications and administration, and capital improvement programs; coordinating the County's stormwater programs; revising County Ordinance/Codes and reviewing floodplain studies prepared by consulting engineers for new development projects.

During his tenure, Dr. Cheng rose through the ranks at DER (now known as the Department of the Environment (DoE)) and served as Assistant Associate Director of the Environmental Services Division and as Special Assistant to the Department Deputy Director and the Director. Dr. Cheng is affectionately known as the man who finds the 'money' for DoE by searching, applying and administering grants from various Federal and State agencies and serving as the coordinator between Department, Office or Agency coordinator of grant projects. He conducts work development information and data collection, and assists in the preparation of the annual Stormwater Management Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Budgets. He serves on relevant Proposal Analysis Groups (PAG) and has served as Chair on the PAG representing the County on regional committees. He provides assistance in the management of special projects and programs (coordinating the Department's emergency responses with other County agencies and MEMA for natural hazards); investigating and researching difficult and complex inquiries, problems or complaints and initiating appropriate resolution and assists in the development of necessary legislation in the form of ordinances, regulations and resolutions.

(continued on the next page)

INTERVIEW WITH DR. CHENG

How many years have you worked with the County?

Approximately 30 years, including 3 years working for the M-NCPPC Planning Department in Upper Marlboro.

In your capacity as the grant manager for DER/DoE, how much money would you estimate you have secured in grant awards?

Too much to count through the years, but know that it has ranged in the millions. We've just recently been approved for two more grants; with a total of approximately \$615k. A grant proposal of approximately \$3 million was submitted.

Is there a grant award that you are most proud of?

In 1987, when I first joined DER/DoE as the Section Head of the Flood Management Section, we received several grants from both FEMA and DNR to acquire and to flood-proof approximately 80 flood-prone homes. That total grant amount was several million dollars.

Is there a grant award that you didn't win that you wished you had won?

We have been very fortunate in that most of the grant proposals that the Department submitted have been approved/awarded, with at least a 90 percent success rate.

What's the next chapter for you?

Retire and enjoy my life.

Do you have a favorite motto?

I said "No problem" and "Perfect" a lot. Also, I often joked by saying "You are in big trouble".

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
BIDS FAREWELL TO
DR. MOW-SOUNG CHENG



Dr. Cheng lived in Taipei, Taiwan and came to the United States in September 1970 to pursue his higher educational studies. He holds a B.Sc. in Hydraulic Engineering from Cheng-Kung University, a M.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in Water Resources System Engineering, from the University of Iowa. He is the author of several publications and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Dr. Cheng is a registered professional engineer in the states of Michigan and Maryland. He met his wife Judy in Taiwan and they have been married for almost 40 years. Together, they have one daughter (Kathy), and she and her husband have one son and are expecting another baby later this year.

"Dr. Cheng's contributions have been monumental," said Adam Ortiz, Director of DoE. "He has had a central role in developing the science and engineering behind low impact development, but importantly, also had the administrative know-how to get projects funded, designed and built to

show the world that government can make great ideas a reality. He is a master of his craft, and we will miss his abilities as well as his kind and collaborative spirit."

"Dr. Cheng leaves us having achieved a legacy of excellence, innovation and worldwide recognition in urban stormwater water quality management and flood control that will never be matched," said Larry Coffman, Deputy Director of DoE. "As a Professional Engineer with a PhD in hydrology and hydraulics he provided exceptional leadership in the development of pioneering work in watershed and flood control modeling, low impact development and new green treatment technologies. Without a doubt during Dr. Cheng's time with the County, he has been one of the most influential experts in the country helping to shape and engineer the current state-of-the-art in urban stormwater management. The local, regional and national awards below are recognition of Dr. Cheng's exceptional contributions. We all owe Dr. Cheng our deepest thanks and gratitude for improving our quality of life in our County."

His current and former colleagues will miss his gentle nature and passion for work and will honor his retirement with a special recognition and proclamation.

"I have been privileged to be a member of this County government and Department, and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved in that time. With the support of our Director, a whole host of other individuals, plus a dedicated, expert and hard-working staff we have made a real difference in the field of stormwater management and driven the agenda through our innovative initiatives. The time is now right for me to move on."

And with those parting words, on behalf of everyone in County government, DoE would like to wish our dear colleague, friend and mentor our very best wishes as he moves into the next amazing chapter of his life.

Cheers to Dr. Cheng!

NATIONAL AWARDS

- 1992** EPA National Second Place Award, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "The Use of Innovative Technologies in Controlling Stormwater Discharge"
- 1993** Technology Achievement Award, Public Technology, Inc., "GIS-Based Flood Management Models"
- 1994** Excellence Award for the Bioretention Design Manual, ASLA, Chesapeake Bay Chapter.
- 1995** Exemplary Systems in Government Award, Urban & Regional Information Systems Association, "GIS Applications on Stormwater Management"

- 1996** Special Achievement Award, National Association of Counties, "Innovative GIS Applications to Automate the Stormwater Programs"
- 1997** Innovations in American Government Award, The Ford Foundation and Harvard University, "GIS Applications to Stormwater Programs"
- 1997** Special Achievement Award, National Association of Counties, "GIS-Based Tool for Nitrogen Loading From Septic Systems" Stormwater Programs"
- 1998** Chesapeake Bay Communities Award, U.S. EPA, "Protecting the Chesapeake Bay and Its Rivers and Streams"

- 1998** First Place National Excellence Award, U.S.- EPA "The Outstanding Stormwater Management Program"
- 1999** Distinguished Achievement Award, Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, "Using GIS to Assess Septic System Impacts to the Patuxent River"
- 1999** Distinguished Achievement Award, Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, "Inglewood Rain Garden Demonstration Project"

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Prince George's County, Maryland. Department of Environmental Resources. "Low Impact Development Design Manual, Site Design", EPA / PGC, 1999.
- Prince George's County, Maryland. Department of Environmental Resources. "Low Impact Development Guidance Manual, Hydrologic Analysis", EPA / PGC, 1999.
- Cheng, M.S, Coffman, L.S. and Clar, M.L., "Low Impact Development Hydrologic Analysis", Prince George's County, Maryland, 2001.
- Coffman, ET. al., "Kettering Demonstration Project – Final Report Public Education and Public Participation", Prince George's County, 1998.
- "Low Impact Development an Alternative Stormwater Management Technology", Harvard Water Sensitive Design Conference, 2001.
- "Low –Impact Development Design: A New Paradigm for Stormwater Management, Mimicking and Restoring the Natural Hydrologic Regime", ASCE, 2000.
- Cheng & Coffman "Comparison of Hydrological Responses from Low Impact Development with Conventional Development", ASCE, 2003.
- "Feasibility Study for the Use of Low Impact Development for Wet Weather Flows in Urban Areas", US EPA, 2001.
- Weinstein, Neil A., Mow-Soung Cheng and Larry Coffman. "Low Impact Development Applications for Urban Wet Weather Flow", Novatech, 2001.
- Weinstein, Neil A., Mow-Soung Cheng, Larry Coffman, and Michael Clar. In publication. "Low Impact Development Hydrologic Analysis and Design." The 25th Annual Conference on Water Resources Planning and Management. American Society of Civil Engineers, 1998.

ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

DoE celebrates the gift of pet adoption

Many have found the love of their life at the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility. Some "couples" were united here 12 years ago; others, just a few weeks ago. In addition to love, these couples have provided each other with companionship, friendship and a dependable exercise buddy.

To celebrate their love, the Department of the Environment's Animal Management Division (AMD) hosted its second annual Adopters Reunion sponsored by Council Member Mary Lehman, District 1. Held at the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro, this fun-filled event brought together pet adopters who helped save lives by providing a "forever home" to an adoptive animal from the County's shelter.

The Reunion included a picnic lunch, a pet costume contest, an animal caricaturist and pet products raffle. "Pet parents" attended with their "babies" and shared their stories of successful adoptions. Adopters who could not attend the Reunion, participated by posting photos of their adopted pet on the AMD Facebook page. Special thanks are given to 2014 Adopters Reunion volunteers and pet product vendors who helped make the event a great success.

If you are considering adding a new addition to your home, stop by the Animal Services Facility to see the wonderful group of cats, dogs, fish, birds and even reptiles who would love to become a part of your family. AMD staff and volunteers will support you through the pre- and post-adoption process including selecting a pet, reviewing adoption rules and completing necessary adoption paperwork. They will also help you schedule spay/neuter and microchip surgeries for your pet, shots and vaccinations, and assist you with obtaining a County license for your new companion.

To view the animals available for adoption, [click here](#). For more information about the annual Adopters Reunion and other events, contact the Animal Management Division at (301) 780-7201 or visit their website at www.princegeorgespets4us.com.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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COUNTY, CHURCHES AND NONPROFITS REJOICE IN NEW INITIATIVE TO SAVE ON STORMWATER FEES

New program provides groups with incentives to go green

As part of the County's ongoing effort to reduce stormwater runoff and protect water quality, Prince George's County officials and other special guests officially launched the County's Alternative Compliance Program (ACP) at Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church in Forestville. The ACP is designed to help congregations and nonprofits reduce and treat stormwater runoff by incorporating best management practices such as building rain barrels and gardens, starting a green team or ministry, coordinating tree plantings and directing community cleanups. Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church is the first faith-based organization selected to participate in the County program.

Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure Victor L. Hoskins remarked that he was excited about the County's introduction of the Program. "Prince George's County is taking a major step in making a change toward our environment," said Hoskins. "This public-faith partnership shows what can happen when like-minded people in government and the private sector come together to make a huge change for the better." Jon Capacasa, Director

of the EPA Water Protection Division Mid-Atlantic Region added that backing programs such as the ACP will put us in a much better position in restoring and protecting water quality for the future. "It's important that we continue to explore clean water initiatives that will assist us in meeting the challenges we face ahead," says Capacasa. "I applaud Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church in stepping out and taking a risk. The EPA is pleased to be here and to be a partner in this effort."

Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church was selected to receive the County's assistance in retrofitting their property due to the commitment expressed by Pastor Reverend Dr. Nathaniel B. Thomas to be a willing participant in changing attitudes and mindsets about the environment. "We want to do what God wants us to do," said Reverend Thomas. "This is God's property and we must do what we can to not only be a good church, but a good neighbor and good steward."

Prince George's County Department of the Environment Director Adam Ortiz shared how ACP is a true partnership between government and faith-based and nonprofits groups to help improve water quality in our local waterways. "We didn't want to impose significant financial burdens on these organizations," said Ortiz. "So together, we drafted a blueprint of innovative water pollution solutions that would provide tax bill savings, partnerships and grants." Ortiz added

that the project at Forestville New Redeemer will serve as a model so other organizations can see what can be done.

Some of the retrofit projects to be installed at Forestville New Redeemer include tree planters, rain barrels, permeable pavers, cistern and bioretention facilities. The project is expected to start construction later this year and will cost the County approximately \$100,000.

The ACP contains three options that provide qualified organizations with a reduction in their Clean Water Act Fee (CWAFF). One option provides the County a right-of-entry agreement to install stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on property owned by the organization. This option provides groups with a 50 percent reduction on their CWAFF. The second option requires groups to assist the County with their Rain Check Rebate outreach and education campaign. This initiative raises awareness of water quality issues to the community at large and provides rebates to eligible applicants for installing approved stormwater management practices. In addition, groups agree to create a green ministry to teach the importance of environmental stewardship. Groups that participate in this option can earn a 25 percent reduction in their fee. The third option asks property owners to utilize certified green lawn companies for the proper use and application of fertilizers on their lawns for the protection of water quality. This option also provides a 25 percent reduction.

Tax-exempt religious groups and other 501(c) nonprofit organizations that are interested in the ACP can apply by filling out an application online or by clicking here.

For more information about the County's Rain Check Rebate Program, visit http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.9146461/k.6D3F/Prince-George8217s_Rain_Check_Rebate.htm

For more information about the Alternative Compliance Program, visit <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/CleanWaterActFees/Alternative%20Compliance/Pages/default.aspx>



SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon
DoE Acting Associate Director

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MAKE YOUR YARD 'BAY-WISE'

What you do to keep your lawn beautiful and weed-free can have an impact on local waterways, the Chesapeake Bay and the environment. The misuse of fertilizers, poor soil management and improper plant selection can all contribute to water pollution. By changing a few simple landscaping and lawn care practices, you can help reduce the amount of pollution reaching our waterways.

In upcoming issues of the Green Scene newsletter, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) in conjunction with the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Program will explore the following nine "Bay-Wise" sustainable lawn and garden practices. You can use them to improve water quality and make your yard Bay-Wise certified.

The Maryland Bay-Wise Program, administered by the Maryland Extension Master Gardener Program, focuses on water quality and includes a comprehensive set of environmental topics that affect the health of our local water ways.

For more information about the Master Gardener Program and the Bay-Wise Certification Program, contact Esther Mitchell, Program Coordinator, at evtmitchell@co.pg.md.us or visit www.extension.umd.edu.



"BAY-WISE" SUSTAINABLE LAWN AND GARDEN PRACTICES

1

Cleaning stormwater: Collect and treat stormwater (rain water and melted snow that runs off streets, lawns and other sites) through rain gardens and other wet weather green infrastructure.

2

Lawn mowing and watering: Cut grass at the proper height for your type of grass and water the lawn only when necessary – it reduces runoff and conserves water.

3

Fertilizing: Apply fertilizers at the right time and don't over apply to avoid creating salt problems in the soil.

4

Mulching and recycling yard waste: Mulch helps to keep soil moist and prevent weeds from growing; and, recycling grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn it returns nutrients to the grass and soil.

5

Managing yard pests with Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Improper use of pesticides can be harmful to humans and the environment. IPM is a comprehensive process used to manage pests and provide alternative options for controlling yard pest problems.

6

Planting wisely: Choosing plants well-suited for your yard and garden will require less water and fertilizer and reduce stormwater runoff from your yard.

7

Encouraging wildlife: Support birds, butterflies and insects that visit your yard by providing food, water and shelter.

8

Protecting the waterfront: Waterfront property includes those properties that border even the smallest streams. Practice good lawn care to reduce pollution of creeks and rivers.

9

Composting: Grass clippings, leaves, yard trimmings and food scraps, such as vegetable & fruit peelings, egg shells, tea and coffee grounds can be recycled rather than thrown away.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Roger E. Merritt, Jr.
DoE Associate Director

3500 Brown Station Road
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TALKIN' TRASH... and COMPOSTING

The Prince George's County Composting Pilot Project takes center stage at BioCycle magazine's East Coast Conference 2014. The Conference, which will be held in Baltimore, October 27-30, includes exhibits, educational workshops and sessions on composting, anaerobic digestion, food waste, nutrient management and green infrastructure. The four-day conference also includes site tours of the state-of-the-art composting facilities in Maryland.

One of the facilities featured on the site tours includes the County's Western Branch Composting Facility located in Upper Marlboro. Adam Ortiz, DoE Director will guide tour participants through the facility that processes 50,000 tons of yard and food waste annually. He will also discuss the County's plans to expand the program Countywide by 2016.

Tour participants will also hear from Steven Birchfield of the Maryland Environmental Service who will discuss use of GORE® Cover technology for organic waste composting at the facility. Prince George's County is a leader in the use of the innovative GORE® Cover to reduce composting odors, dust and volatile organic compounds while creating a high-value compost product for gardening and farming.

About BioCycle magazine

BioCycle is the premiere publication in waste management. Its authoritative coverage on composting, organics recycling, anaerobic digestion, renewable energy and community sustainability make it one of the most reliable magazines supporting the advancement of sustainable waste management. For more information about BioCycle magazine and their East Coast Conference 2014, visit www.biocycle.net.



About Composting

Natural composting, or biological decomposition, began with the first plants on earth and has been going on ever since. As vegetation falls to the ground, it slowly decays, providing minerals and nutrients needed for plants, animals, and microorganisms. Humans have advanced this natural system to combine organic wastes (e.g., yard trimmings, food waste) with bulking agents (e.g., wood chips) and allowing the materials to mature through a curing process. To learn more about the Western Branch Composting Facility, [click here](#).



ANNOUNCING THE PRINCE GEORGE'S GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM!



Prince George's Green has partnered with Green America (www.greenamerica.org) to do a pilot green business certification program in Prince George's County. Beginning this fall, green businesses located in Prince George's County, Maryland will be able to earn a Green Business Certification from Green America.

Prince George's Green has developed support for this green business certification program from the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, and the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce. Green America's Green Business Certification is the oldest green business certification with more than 3,000 businesses certified.

The numerous benefits of this certification program include: national promotion on the Green Business Network website; local promotion on the Prince George's Green Prince George's Chamber of Commerce website; eligibility for exclusive benefits with Green America that include, a listing in the National Green Pages, access to Green America's online program, and advertising in Green America publications. Certification also provides access to social retirement plans, credit card processing, discounted packaging materials and shipping services as well as exclusive access to green business seminars, webinars and reports.

Green America's Green Business Certification must be renewed each year. Prince George's Green will assist businesses with the certification process at no charge. Prince George's County businesses should [CLICK HERE](#) to apply for the certification. For more information or assistance, please contact, Lisa Lincoln, Executive Director of Prince George's Green at lisa.l.lincoln@gmail.com.

POTOMAC PIRANHAS

Prince George's Green has partnered with the Alexandria Emerging Technology Center (www.aetc.org) and the Livability Project (www.livabilityproject.com) to coordinate the Potomac Piranhas™ a program committed to cleaning up the Potomac River-Chesapeake Bay watershed through the rapid development and deployment of innovative solutions. These partners bring together the business and environmental communities for a common purpose: to deliver real, measurable results that respect the triple bottom line. The biggest way they do this is through events. The first annual Potomac Piranhas™ Pitch, scheduled for Jan/Feb 2015, is similar to the ABC television program "Shark Tank", where entrepreneurs and inventors will compete for grant and start-up funding, from local investors right here in our own watershed community.

Prior to the main event, Potomac Piranhas™ Hackathons will be held to network, collaborate, and develop ideas in order to be ready to compete most effectively in 2015. For more information on how to participate, visit potomacpiranhas.org/hackathon.html for more details.

GREEN BULLETIN

BROWN IS THE NEW GREEN

Remember: The County only collects yard waste in paper yard waste bags or reusable containers labeled YARD WASTE.



9th Potomac Watershed Trash Summit

Join the Alice Ferguson Foundation, business leaders, elected officials, policymakers and community activists for the 9th Potomac Watershed Trash Summit, held through their Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative.

Learn from our expert panelists in small group sessions and be inspired by the keynote speaker Jim Dinagar, President and CEO of the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

Network and meet with colleagues to identify challenges, strategize about solutions, and take actions to enhance the communities in which we operate and live.

Help your bottom line by investing in solutions to the pervasive problem of litter that detracts from our businesses. Light refreshments and lunch are included with registration.

Location:
Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center
Stadium Drive
University of Maryland College Park
www.riggs.umd.edu

Cost:
\$75

For more information:
trash@fergusonfoundation.org
301-292-5665
www.trashsummit.org

SUPPORTING YOUR SUCCESS

It takes dedication. It instills self-confidence. It fosters career advancement and it keeps you competitive.

Earning a professional certificate is a highly effective way to manage the trajectory of your career. It is a process through which you can enhance your skill set and acquire additional knowledge that helps you move to the next level professionally. This form of professional career development shows employers that you are committed to your profession, gives them confidence in your abilities and it makes you more marketable within your career field.

Benefits of receiving a certification include employment and advancement opportunities; higher pay and competitive advantage. Career coaches advise that it is best to invest in your career and personal development with a purpose and goal. Certificate programs are offered for academic study and job-specific training. Programs are typically short-term and highly-career oriented. Some certificate programs are offered online and provide the option of applying credits earned towards a bachelor or master degree.



(from left to right) Certified Public Managers® program participants: Rushane Jones, DoE; Carol-Lynn Snowden, Department of Family Services; Corey Smedley, Special Assistant to DCAO; Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, DoE; Craig Connors, Department of Social Services.

Recognizing the value of investing in employees and the importance of having a highly skilled workforce, the Department of the Environment (DoE) is supporting and facilitating employee leadership development by participating in the Regional Executive Development program, which is sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG). Upon successful completion of the 12-month program, participants are credentialed as Certified Public Managers®.

Recently, two DoE employees, Dawn Hawkins-Nixon and Rushane Jones completed this program examined special challenges and responsibilities that come with leading large, complex public organizations; discussed issues that impact local

government; and, shared best practices for solving problems, developing joint solutions and establishing manager networks.

“Through the certification program, I have obtained a greater understanding of how the many arms of government operate, and acquired practical tools to facilitate cross agency and intra-jurisdictional efforts. Also, the program has afforded me the opportunity to establish professional relationships with the next generation of leaders in the region. These emerging leaders will be great sources of support for many years to come,” said Dawn, Acting Associate Director of the DoE Sustainable Initiatives Division.

Rushane, Section Head of the DoE Budget and Procurement Office noted that “the certification process has allowed me to enhance my leadership skills and learn about innovative business practices employed in the public sector. The course reviewed leadership challenges and responsibilities, and provided tools for managing complex public organizations. Completing this certificate program requires dedication and time, but it has assisted me in becoming an even greater asset to the County.”

DoE congratulates Dawn and Rushane on their wonderful accomplishment! To learn more about the Certified Public Manager program, visit www.mwcog.org/ire/program.html.