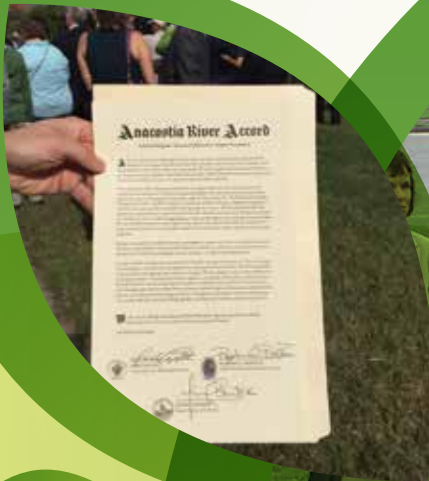


# GREEN SCENE

n e w s l e t t e r



2016 year in review

# 2017

*Prince George's County*

DEPARTMENT OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

# DIRECTOR'S GORNER

Dear Friends,

As suggested by the founders of our country, I confidently subscribe to the belief that their intention is that this would become not just a great nation, but a just nation. A just nation seeks to provide fairness and opportunity to all persons, with a commitment to continually “provide for the general welfare.”

This means clean air, water, and land. This means that we vigorously embrace our responsibility to leave our planet better than we found it.

We must encourage the new administration in Washington to build on the progress we have made. The Baker Administration and this agency are fully committed to the principles of decency, responsibility, and stewardship, today and in the days ahead.

And so, this “Year in Review” issue could not come at a better time. We’ve had a good year. Our programs, across the board, are innovative, fun, and making a difference. Now, entering year seven of the Baker Administration, we are at or near the top performers of any County in Maryland and the DC region, in every category. We have come far, and have you to thank.

Regardless of the national climate, we expect 2017 to be even better and hope to serve as an example that we can work together across differences to make a difference. Thanks again for your partnership and support.

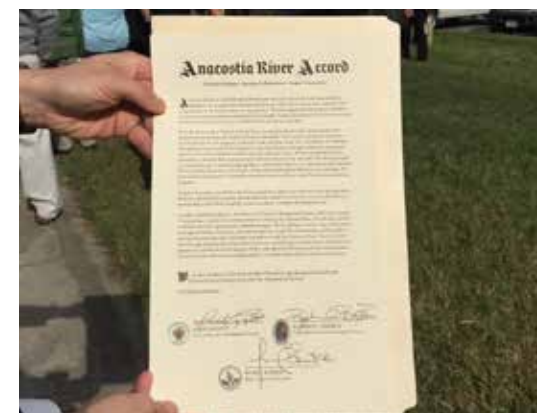
Sincerely,

*Adam Ortiz*  
Director



# CONTENTS

green scene newsletter | department of the environment | year in review 2016



**FEATURE**  
**RENEWED COMMITMENT.....04**

**TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS.....06**

**2016 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....08**

**CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP YEAR IN REVIEW..... 10**

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW..... 12**

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT YEAR IN REVIEW..... 14**

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT YEAR IN REVIEW..... 16**

**SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES YEAR IN REVIEW..... 18**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT YEAR IN REVIEW.....20**

## 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.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND  
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER  
AND INSTAGRAM

[environment.mypgc.us](http://environment.mypgc.us)

The Green Scene newsletter is a quarterly 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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# RENEWED COMMITMENT

*Anacostia Accord binds Washington, DC and Maryland*



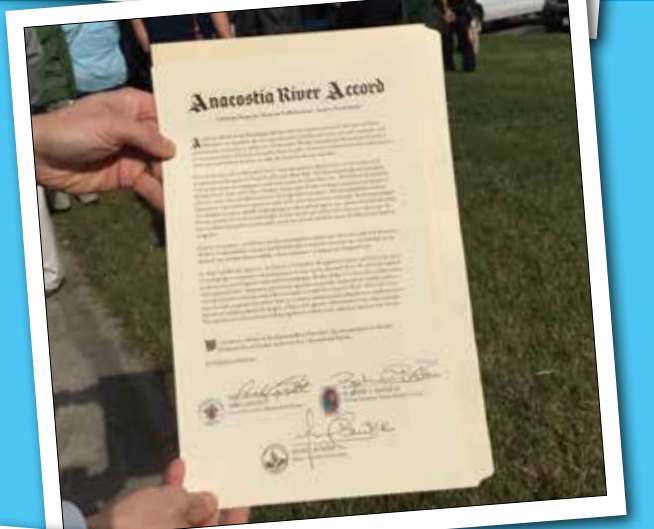
Along the banks of a healthier and cleaner Anacostia River, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett signed the Anacostia River Accord - a renewed commitment in the Washington Metropolitan Area to reduce trash and pollution in and around the Anacostia River.

Prince George's County, the District of Columbia and Montgomery County pledge to work together with regional leaders, businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, communities and residents to develop innovative solutions to achieve the goal of a trash free Anacostia River.

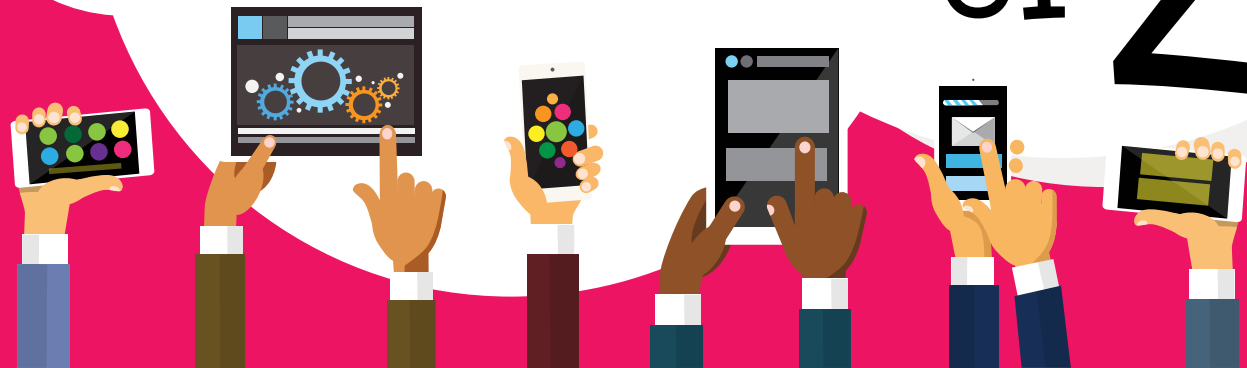
"The Anacostia River is such an important part of who we are as a region, so we must make every artery as clean and healthy as possible," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Today's signing of the Anacostia River Accord is a significant step forward for our region and is symbolic of what we can accomplish together. Standing with our friends and neighbors in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Prince George's County is committed to ensuring that the Anacostia River is cleaner and safer for our residents."

Litter is a nuisance and eyesore that interferes with our enjoyment of local waterways and other community resources. It impairs environmental health and sends a message of blatant disregard for the law and property values, and threatens to erode the character of our communities.

Prince George's County takes the issue of litter seriously and has established several programs to effectively reduce the amount of litter reaching the Anacostia River by 170,628 pounds per year by 2019. County litter reduction programs include Clean Sweep, Comprehensive Community Clean Up, Storm Drain Stenciling and Clean Up Green Up. The County also introduced its new LitterTRAK mobile app, which is used by Prince George's County agencies involved in the removal of litter and illegal dumping throughout the County.



# TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS of 2016



favorite instagram post  
**FREE MULCH VIDEO #MulchMadness.**  
April 19, 2016

▶ 49 views

instagram followers  
**226**

instagram likes  
**1,457**



favorite twitter post

**It starts at 10 AM! #ClearTheShelters with NBC4 and DoE Animal Service Facility.**

▶ 6,119 impressions

most retweeted post

**The agenda has arrived! #DoEGreenSummit**

▶ 1,240 impressions



top facebook post

**Hey Prince George's County...final notice! Today is the last day that the County will provide Wednesday Yard Trim Collections.**

▶ 13,700 people reached

favorite facebook share

**Jobs, jobs, jobs...and sustainable schools...and stormwater sand filters. Find out more on DoE TV.**

▶ 5,700 people reached



[www.facebook.com/PGCDoE/](http://www.facebook.com/PGCDoE/)



[twitter.com/pgcsprout](https://twitter.com/pgcsprout)



[instagram.com/pgcsprout](https://www.instagram.com/pgcsprout)

# 2016 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS for DoE

**155**  
stormwater  
outreach, and  
education  
events

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**  
Conducted 155 Stormwater Outreach and Education events on water quality and climate issues involving **13,000 participants.**

**67%**  
live release  
rate



**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**  
Served as caretakers for **10,000 animals** with a 67% live release rate in 2016.

**CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP**  
DoE continues to manage the acclaimed Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Agreement which provides for the restoration of 2,000 acres of impervious land, at \$100M for an initial three year term.

- ▶ 1,000 acres are currently in construction
- ▶ **\$10M has been paid to County businesses** to date including 20,000 hours worked by County residents
- ▶ Received the National Association of Counties 2016 Achievement Award
- ▶ Recognized at the 2016 Clinton Global Initiative America



**LITTER REDUCTION**  
DoE removed approximately **88,000 pounds of litter** within the County with the assistance of 300 volunteers.

- ▶ Kicked off Clean Sweep, an intergovernmental litter-reduction initiative
- ▶ Launched PGLitterTRAK, a smartphone application designed to assist County residents, community organizations and businesses report trash and debris collected during clean-up events



**YARD TRIM AND FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING**  
DoE received between **55,000 and 60,000 tons of yard trimmings and food scraps** which in partnership with the Maryland Environmental Service turns into 45,000 to 50,000 cubic yards of the popular Leafgro and Leafgro Gold compost.

- ▶ Featured in Governing Magazine, November 2016



**WASTE DIVERSION AND RECYCLING**  
Under DoE's leadership, the County maintained the **highest waste diversion rate** and the second highest recycling rate in the State of Maryland for two consecutive years.



**DoE PGCPs SCHOOL RETROFIT PROGRAM**  
DoE retrofitted **15 schools** throughout the County to improve water quality and to integrate educational benefits and opportunities with the PGCPs Environmental Literacy mandate.



**STORMWATER STEWARDSHIP GRANTS**  
DoE issued **\$1.5 million in grants** for 13 water quality restoration projects on County properties.



**GROWING THE TREE CANOPY**  
DoE planted nearly **3,000 trees** and issued 14 grants for community tree planting projects.

# CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Through its partnerships with Prince George's County government, communities, organizations and businesses, CWP experienced a momentous year. Nearly \$10 million has been invested in local businesses and jobs for the restoration of 1,000 impervious acres throughout the County with green stormwater retrofits. For its efforts, CWP was awarded the National Association of Counties 2016 Achievement Award.

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) team is excited about the tremendous progress made in 2016. To learn more about the Clean Water Partnership, visit [www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com](http://www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com).

### CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

CWP's commitment to improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay and developing businesses that serve the environmental needs of the County were highlighted during the Clinton Global Initiative. This annual meeting, established in 2005 by President Bill Clinton, convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. To date, more than 3,400 commitments have been made by members of the CGI community, including the commitment to action made by Prince George's County, MD and Corvias Solutions, to perform a benchmarking study of the county's new and innovative community-based public private partnership water investment model known as the Clean Water Partnership.



### DEVELOPING THE FUTURE

CWP launched its Mentor-Protégé Program. Designed to create a source of County-based companies with the capacity to perform high-quality stormwater projects, the Program is an important tool supporting CWP's economic development goals. Through this initiative, each protégé receives customized training in green infrastructure design and construction. The inaugural class of the CWP Mentor-Protégé Program represents businesses with a diverse mix of capabilities, expertise and qualifications.

### CWP AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Through the CWP Schools Program, 18 public schools in Prince George's County received stormwater management tools, which were installed on the schools' campuses to help treat and clean stormwater runoff from impervious areas such as sidewalks and parking lots. Students from a combination of elementary, middle and high schools planted trees to increase the tree canopy on the campuses. Over the next two years, the CWP Schools Program will install stormwater retrofits and educational signage at 40 County schools. In total, 58 County schools will receive eco-friendly stormwater retrofit devices and be used as environmental teaching tools to more than 15,000 students.



### JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT FINANCE PARK

CWP worked with the Junior Achievement Finance Park in Landover for the installation of three bio-retention devices. These stormwater retrofit projects serve to inspire students visiting the Park to become environmental stewards within their communities and encourage them to adopt eco-friendly practices that keep our County healthy, beautiful and green. Project design and construction was completed by Bradley Site Design and Green Forever Landscaping, both County-based businesses.



### GREENBELT LAKE

To close out an amazing year filled with significant milestones and accomplishments, CWP celebrated the completion the Greenbelt Lake forebays retrofit. It's one of the Partnership's largest projects to date treating approximately 337 impervious acres. The forebays were reconfigured and enlarged in order to provide more efficient sediment and pollutant removal capacity. Approximately 2,385 cubic yards of silt, sediment and other debris were removed from the forebays including invasive plants, which were replaced with native wetland plant communities to provide ecological uplift. The forebays are now properly functioning and will be preserved in the future through periodic maintenance and cleaning.



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

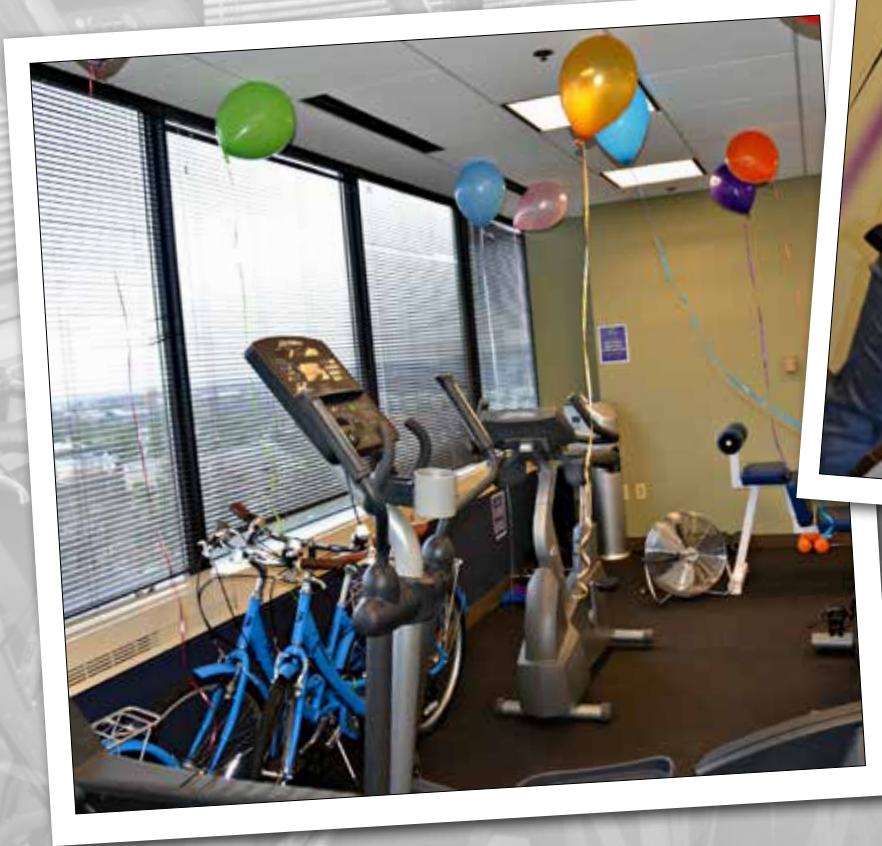
## YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

### OXON RUN FITNESS STUDIO

DoE headquarters recently welcomed a new resident to its fifth floor suite - the Oxon Run Fitness Studio. The grand opening, held after Thanksgiving, included a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by DoE Director Adam Ortiz and DoE Associate Director of Administrative Services Michelle Russell.

During his grand opening remarks, Adam noted that "the Oxon Run Fitness Studio is the perfect addition to DoE. There are many things competing for our attention throughout the day, and sometimes it's hard to find time to squeeze in a 30 minute workout. It's my hope that this mini-gym will have a positive impact on DoE team members' and enhance their work-life balance."

Healthy snacks and beverages were provided to grand opening attendees in addition to a gym towel commemorative gift. The studio is equipped with a wide variety of workout items including a treadmill, exercise bikes, a row machine, free weights, resistance bands and medicine balls.



# ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2016



In 2016, the team at the Prince George's County Animal Management Division (AMD) cared for 10,000 pets at the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro. Staff and volunteers successfully placed 67 percent of these pets, which included dogs, cats, snakes, rabbits, turtles and guinea pigs into loving "forever" homes with families in and around the County.



Special adoption events held throughout the year were instrumental in AMD achieving its record breaking live release rate. AMD participated in NBC4's Clear the Shelters, a single-day nationwide pet adoption event. Fifty-seven pet adoptions were completed and VIP Petcare, a Clear the Shelters and AMD partner, donated preventative health care services including, rabies vaccines, heartworm/lyme combo tests, flea and tick medicine, and microchips. In addition, AMD hosted adoption events including, Staff Favorites, Pet Adopt-a-Thon, Adopt-a-Dog Month, and All I Want for Christmas Is...You! to showcase pets available for adoption.



Hundreds of County students participated in AMD's annual Be Kind to Animals Poster Contest. Focusing on the positive care for pets, students created unique posters illustrating actions pet owners can take to ensure that their four-legged family members live a long, healthy life. Prizes and commemorative gifts were presented to first, second and third place contest winners during a special awards ceremony.

AMD collaborated with local pet retailers including Pet Smart and the Bowie Baysox organization to promote pet adoption and share the importance of microchipping, and spaying and neutering animals to control the County's pet population.

In addition to great pets, the Facility offers an outstanding adoption support team that provides a wide range of services for new pet owners including pet care and safety education. Visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com) to learn more.





# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016



DoE's Stormwater Management Division (SMD) works to secure clean waterways in Prince George's County through responsible management and treatment of stormwater. SMD works with many partners in the state and federal governments, private sector, businesses and residential communities to achieve a healthy and sustainable County. Following are highlights of SMD's most recent accomplishments.

## CLEAN WATER GRANTS

In 2016, DoE in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), awarded 13 grants totaling \$1.5 million to non-profit organizations and local municipalities to develop and install stormwater treatment devices and engage citizens in clean water projects focusing on the value of environmental stewardship. These grants support the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences and the Alternative Compliance initiatives, which engage students, teachers and members of faith-based organizations in the installation of stormwater management devices on schools, universities and church campuses throughout the County.

## CLEAN WATER MAP

DoE launched a new online resource tool for residents and businesses to search for Construction Improvement Projects (CIP) associated with water quality. Called the Clean Water Map, the online map tool uses data from the County's web-based GIS to provide a fully searchable and user-friendly resource for clean water information which is accessible 24 hours a day. The new web-based tool benefits planners, designers and construction teams through GIS-based environmental, geographic, property types, utilities, impervious surface, infrastructure and other pertinent layers to assist with project development. Some of its unique features include major watersheds and stream delineations, stream assessments, stormwater management and infrastructure facilities, project inventories (planning, design, construction, completed) project and address query tools and much more.



## MISSION: QUALITY & CONTROL

Core to DoE's mission is improving water quality in the County and providing flood protection to residents. In 2016, DoE identified 1,775 acres of impervious land that will be retrofitted to enhance the filtration of stormwater, stabilize stream beds or prevent slope erosion.

DoE also successfully completed the design and construction of conventional water quality filtration devices in the Camelot community. DoE designed and installed six unique devices, which clean harmful pollutants from stormwater before entering the stormdrain system. In total, 23 devices were constructed to treat water from 20 acres of land. The devices will be monitored in partnership with graduate engineers from the University of Maryland, who will evaluate rainfall events and efficacy of harmful pollutant removal.



Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, DoE completed the Anacostia Restoration Plan, which identifies 3,000 green restoration opportunities within the Anacostia River subwatersheds and the Tidal River. DoE partnered with Low Impact Development Center to secure \$5.9 million in grant funding for the design and installation of 19 water quality projects in Prince George's County.

# SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Charged with reducing litter, increasing the tree canopy, improving flood awareness, and encouraging the use of stormwater management practices on residential and community properties throughout Prince George's County, the Sustainable Initiatives Division (SID) of the Department of the Environment (DoE) continues to implement programs that improve the County's environmental health.

### LITTER FREE IN PGC

In the fight for a litter-free Prince George's County, DoE removed approximately 88,000 pounds of litter from communities, roadsides, parks and streams through voluntary community, contractor and agency cleanups. Assistance from 300 citizen volunteers facilitated the removal of trash and debris from several dumping hot-spots throughout the County. Clean Sweep, an intergovernmental litter-reduction initiative involving seven County agencies and one state agency, focuses on the removal of litter in communities along the Anacostia River Watershed and within the County's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) service areas.



### PGCLitterTRAK

DoE developed and launched a mobile application to assist residents, community organizations and businesses report their efforts to reduce trash and illegal dumping. The PGCLitterTRAK app is a tool designed to aid users in tracking trash and debris collected by individual citizens or during group-focused clean up events. Data collected and submitted through PGCLitterTRAK including bags of litter removed, items collected and litter pick-up locations, is reported to DoE.

Built on the Survey123 platform, litter collection data provided through PGCLitterTRAK supports DoE's efforts to build informative maps detailing the frequency of litter clean-up events and the amount of litter collected. Data is shared with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and credited to the County's mandated trash reduction rate of 170,628 pounds per year within the Anacostia River Watershed.



### PAINT THE TOWN

Storm drain stenciling is an effective program utilized by DoE to engage community youth, prevent stormwater pollution and improve the quality of the County's waterways. Throughout the year, DoE collaborated with Prince George's County's public schools to prevent illegal dumping into the County's stormwater system. School students and teachers painted eye-catching murals on storm drain inlets as helpful reminders that trash, debris, motor oil and other harmful pollutants should be disposed of properly. Interns from DoE's Summer Youth Employment Program also painted storm drains in Mount Rainier and Hyattsville, Riverdale Park and Largo. Adorned with colorful, environmental-themed graphics, these unique murals help to spread DoE's "Don't Dump" message and encourage the proper disposal of hazardous waste that is harmful to County waterways.



### FLOOD SAFETY

DoE successfully completed its in-house update to the County's digital flood insurance rate map. Prince George's County is one of a few counties in the United States to complete this task independently and before the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) digital update of flood insurance rate maps nationwide. These maps identify the County's special flood hazard areas and help determine what type of flood insurance is needed for homes, buildings and other structures within the flood plain.

Visit DoE's flood management resource site at [environment.mypgc.us](http://environment.mypgc.us), to learn more about the County's flood management tools including flood warning systems, flood damage reduction strategies, and efforts to increase flood safety awareness throughout the County.



### TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Environmental education and outreach is vital to the success of DoE. Many of DoE's accomplishments could not have been made without the support and actions of community members who are deeply invested in the sustainable health of our County.

In 2016, DoE conducted 155 stormwater outreach and education events on water quality and climate issues involving over 13,000 participants. DoE planted nearly 3,000 trees and issued 14 grants for community tree planting projects. Two-hundred twenty rain barrels were distributed to residents and business owners throughout the County; and, DoE in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, issued nearly \$1.5 million in grants to non-profit organizations and local municipalities for 13 water quality restoration projects.

# WASTE MANAGEMENT

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

### LEADER OF THE STATE

For a second consecutive year, Prince George's County has maintained the highest waste diversion rate and the second highest recycling rate in the State of Maryland. In 2016, through innovative programs and outstanding efforts by County residents and businesses, Prince George's County remained #1 in keeping waste out of the landfill (waste diversion) and ranked #2 in the State for recycling.

Credit for these achievements is given to the residents of Prince George's County for their ongoing support and dedication to fundamental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling waste. Their adoption of small behavior changes in the disposal of trash and debris, result in a positive impact that not only affects this County, but creates a sustainable ripple effect nationwide.

Recycling initiatives helping the County reduce its carbon footprint include a single-stream recycling program that utilizes a 65-gallon wheeled recycling cart, a food scrap composting pilot program for residential, commercial and educational institutions; and, the County's ban on disposable plastic bags in yard waste collection, reducing the amount of waste reaching the landfill and "mining" of materials on the landfill. The County also passed a law requiring owners of businesses, apartments and condominiums to establish recycling programs within their offices and complexes; continues to foster a recycling partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools; and, conducts public outreach and educational programs for residents and businesses.



### FOAM FREE IN PGC

To reduce the amount of foam waste entering Prince George's County's landfill and littering roadways, neighborhoods and local waterways, Prince George's County began enforcing the use of non-foam food packaging products that are environmentally-friendly and requiring everyone to be "Foam Free in PGC."

In 2016, the County officially banned the sale or use of polystyrene (commonly referred to as Styrofoam or foam), polystyrene loose fill packaging (also known as "packing peanuts") and other foam articles in Prince George's. Found in large quantities along the Anacostia watershed, polystyrene is lightweight and is easily blown by wind and carried by rain from streets and sidewalks into stormdrains where it goes directly into rivers and streams. Not only is foam litter unsightly, it has harmful effects on the health of the County's local bodies of water, wildlife and citizens. In addition, foam is not commonly recycled. Prince George's joined Washington, D.C., Montgomery County and the City of Takoma Park in Maryland in requiring business such as fast food restaurants, cafeterias, supermarkets and grocery stores, retailers and wholesalers to be foam free.

### THE NEW WAY TO RECYCLE

Featured in Governing Magazine, the Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility in Upper Marlboro received between 55,000 and 60,000 tons of yard trimmings and food scraps in 2016. In partnership with the Maryland Environmental Service, DoE turns the trimmings and scraps into 45,000 to 50,000 cubic yards of the popular Leafgro and Leafgro Gold compost. Sold at local gardening retailers, and used by customers such as the White House, the University of Maryland and landscaping companies, creation of the compost from yard and food waste diverted from the County landfill continues to be very successful.

### ONCE-A-WEEK TRASH COLLECTION

Prince George's County joined its neighbors including the City of Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, as well as several municipalities, and adopted a once-a-week trash collection program. Thanks in major part to residents' efforts to recycle more and trash less, the County seized the opportunity to save money and introduced a new collection schedule. With trash and recycling collected on the same day, residents make one trip to the curb each week. In addition, residents received a free trash cart to facilitate easier transport of trash to the curbside. The new pick-up schedule saves the County \$6 million annually and stabilizes future solid waste rates.

