



## Sustainable Maryland Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Maryland Certification Report of Mount Rainier, a Sustainable Maryland bronze certified applicant.

Mount Rainier was certified on October 28, 2015 with 495 points. Listed below is information regarding Mount Rainier's Sustainable Maryland efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Maryland contact for Mount Rainier is:

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Title/Position:	Chairperson / Green Team
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## Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Mount Rainier was approved for in 2015 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

### Community Action

#### Innovative Demonstration Projects - Community Action

20 Points

**Program Summary:** We have 3 projects in this Category: 1. Little Friends for Peace. 2. Spring Greening Fair. 3. Partnership with elementary schools.

1. Little Friends For Peace (LFFP). LFFP is a local non-profit effort formed by residents MJ and Jerry Park, and supported by Mount Rainier in their decades of effort to educate, model, and support environmental education and sustainability. LFFP is a 501c3 and has a budget of \$90,000, some of which comes from United Way, Mount Rainier, private individuals, and grants. Over the years, in addition to financial support, Mount Rainier has supported LFFP through use of facilities and publicizing LFFP events. In addition to helping the youngest members of our community begin to understand sustainability, LFFP works with thousands of volunteers to help connect all ages in support of the environment. LFFP focuses on helping to bring about Peace to self, others and the planet. As explained by founders MJ and Jerry: The Mission of Little Friends For Peace is to : Answer the violence with skills for Peace , and to teach Peace at an early age and practice it at every age. The earth is our mother, our home and brings us peace. The more we get to know how special our earth is we will keep falling in love with it and not want to destroy it, hurt it or abuse it. Therefore Little Friends for Peace has made Green Education a top priority. LFFP has facilitated Peace Camps in Mt. Rainier every summer for the last 20 years at the Mt. Rainier Nature Center and Mt. Rainier Christian Church. At Peace Camp the curriculum includes care for the earth and each other. LFFP also runs Peace Club, through which children helped to create, plant and keep up the Peace Park at 30th and Arundel Road. And the Peace Club helps support local trash clean-ups organized every year by Joe's Movement Emporium. You can see more of LFFP's great work here: <http://www.lffp.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/LittleFriendsForPeace>

2. Spring Greening Fair. For the last two years the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission hosted a Spring Greening Fair (SGF) at Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center. This past Spring the event took place on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from noon to 4:00pm. The only event of its kind held in the City of Mount Rainier, the SGF showcases ways in which the diverse urban communities in the area can "go green", save money doing it, and have fun being outdoors. The SGF features environmental and sustainability presenters, demonstrations, and business in the fields of gardening, recycling, energy efficiency, and more, as well as green craft and art vendors, animals, children activities, and fun for the whole family. The City Green Team participated in 2014 with a booth about the City's sustainability efforts and provided composting and recycling demonstrations. The event includes workshops on pollinators, gardening, rain barrels, tree maintenance and more and is targeted to the public and kids. In 2015 due to scheduling conflicts the Green Team was not able to participate but promoted the event to the City Council and community via the Mount Rainier listserve. The City highlighted the event on their website ([http://www.mountrainiermd.org/ai1ec\\_event/spring-greening-fair/?instance\\_id=](http://www.mountrainiermd.org/ai1ec_event/spring-greening-fair/?instance_id=)) and MRTV live streamed the event on public access TV.

3. School partnership. In 2015 both public schools in Mount Rainier began efforts that could lead to becoming Maryland Green Schools, a goal for all Prince George's County Public Schools. In early 2015, the Green Team members, City Council member Brent Bolin and Assistant City Manager Veronica Owens met with teachers at Mount Rainier Elementary and Thomas Stone Elementary School to discuss their challenges with recycling. At that meeting we learned of impediments such as lack of training, lack of bin infrastructure and lack of capacity. As a result of the meeting in which they learned from Council member Bolin that the schools have a recycling contract with regular pick up service, Mount Rainier Elementary School began taking advantage of the recycling pick up services that Prince George's County offers to all county schools. Meanwhile several 3rd grade teachers at Thomas Stone Elementary implemented a program spanned subject areas where students calculated the amount of trash produced by the school, wrote letters to civic leaders concerning waste at the school, produced an art project "The Trash Monster" to show the level of waste at the school, and held an assembly to show the good work they did. In one breakfast, students generate close to 700 plastic milk bottles that are currently not recycled. The Green Team has followed up with Thomas Stone teachers and discussed serving as mentors next year and supporting efforts to find funding for in-class room bins. Specific members leading this effort include Green Team Chair, MaryLee Haughwout, Green Team members Joseph Jakuta and Raime Masket and Asst. City Manager Veronica Owens.

PDF: [DC GREEN FESTIVAL EXHIBITS](#)

PDF: [DC GREEN FESTIVAL PHOTOS](#)

PDF: [LFFP GAZETTE ARTICLE](#)

IMAGE: [PICTURE OF THOMAS STONE STUDENT PRESENTATION](#)

PDF: [PRESENTATION OF STUDENT WORK](#)

WORD: [MARCH MEETING MINUTES WITH SCHOOL TEACHERS](#)

#### Green Team Action Plan

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Mount Rainier Green Team created a Sustainability Plan for the City and has subsequently created an annual work plan and an annual accomplishments report to provide to the City. The Green Team's vision is to create a healthy and sustainable city for our residents, and thereby serve as a model for how a small city can achieve sustainable outcomes through community participation. Our group works to leverage the energy and leadership of our residents to decrease our environmental footprint and create a more livable future for the community and planet. The Green Team has created three documents for our Green Team Action Plan. The first document is the Sustainability Action Plan that shows the broader goals for our Green Team and City related to Sustainability. This includes ongoing projects by residents and the city, as well as future projects we would like to pursue, all of which fit into the SMC framework. The second document is our 2015 work plan that tiers off several City plans, including the Sustainability Action Plan. The third document is our 2014 accomplishments we submitted to the City Council at the conclusion of 2014.

WORD: [MOUNT RAINIER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN](#)

WORD: [MOUNT RAINIER GREEN TEAM 2015 WORK PLAN](#)

PDF: [MOUNT RAINIER GREEN TEAM 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS](#)

## Green Team

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In summer 2011, the City of Mount Rainier expanded its Environmental Protection Board to include a more diverse range of citizens, a council member, and a city staff liaison. We have been holding monthly meetings to discuss activities in the City pertaining to sustainability and implementing work plans. The Green Team is made up of citizens who have an interest in and/or history of furthering the city's sustainability goals.

**EXCEL:** [GREEN TEAM ROSTER 2015](#)

**WORD:** [GREEN TEAM 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

**WORD:** [MAY 2015 GREEN TEAM AGENDA AND MINUTES](#)

**WORD:** [MARCH 2014 GREEN TEAM AGENDA AND MINUTES](#)

## Community Based Food System

### Establish CSA Drop-off Location

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Mount Rainier CSA dropoff was established in 2011 with the dropoff location at the home of one of our green team members. The farm that delivers to Mount Rainier is Earth Spring Farm located in Gardners, PA. In 2015, 16 residents participated. Over the last couple years, participation has increased with the help of increased promotion including announcements on several local listserves and fliers placed around Mount Rainier and surrounding communities. Since the dropoff location was established in 2011, participation has more than doubled. The City is not directly involved in this action. Given the small staff and limited capacity of the City, the Green Team as a City Committee has led this action and one of the Green Team members hosts the dropoff site. The Green Team member also promotes the CSA opportunity.

**PDF:** [CSA IN MOUNT RAINIER FLIER](#)

### Local Food Cooking & Preservation Classes

15 Points

**Program Summary:** This year Mount Rainier partnered with Eco City Farms on a Community Nutrition Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to help residents read nutrition labels, understand ingredients, serving sizes and make healthy lifestyle changes. The event was free and hosted at Mount Rainier City Hall. This event was a HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Event to promote Healthy Living for the residents of Mount Rainier. There were 25 persons that attended. Attendees learned about: how to read nutrition labels, understand mystery ingredients, understand sugar, understand salt content and sampled many organic ingredients. Also, attendees learned how to incorporate healthy eating in their daily lives. The event was promoted in the City Newsletter, on the Community listserve and in the following youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svWZZynKqv8>

**PDF:** [COMMUNITY NUTRITION WORKSHOP FLYER](#)

### Spring Transplant Sale

10 Points

**Program Summary:** For the past eight years Mount Rainier in conjunction with volunteers and the Tool Shed has hosted native plant workshops, plant swaps (vegetable seedlings and perennials), and plant sales. The city has provided the location and helped publicize, and volunteers have helped facilitate. The latest event took place April 25, 2015 and included a plant and seed swap, an overview of the corn burning stove cooperative and a composting demonstration. Approximately 40 people attended. The event was publicized through the city listserve, in the City newsletter as well, along with the distribution of flyers. The City of Mount Rainier supports the Tool Shed by providing space and an annual budget of \$750.

**WORD:** [PLANT AND SEED SWAP FLIER](#)

**PDF:** [PICTURES FROM EVENT](#)

## Community Gardens

15 Points

**Program Summary:** The Mount Rainier Community Garden is currently in its third season. In 2013, the City of Mount Rainier granted permission to a group of volunteers to use a piece of city land on 31st Street for the purpose of a community garden. Jacquelyn Riposo is a Green Team member and also serves as the Community Garden Manager. This is a volunteer position and she coordinates regular meetings throughout the season with gardeners to coordinate activities. The City has also provided a budget line item of \$1250 annually for maintenance of the garden in addition to paying for the water fees. The Community Garden team build 32 plots (10ft x 4ft each) that are assigned to interested members of the community. The plots are assigned on an annual basis and members in good standing are eligible to keep their garden plot the subsequent year. Approximately 50% of the gardeners have returned each year and the remaining plots are assigned to new members. In addition to the 32 garden plots that produce organic, seasonal food, the community garden is a space to practice sustainability in various ways: · A composting system ensures that nutrients from leaves, grass clippings, and produce are kept on site to break down and reuse for future soil enrichment. · In 2014 the garden purchased a tool shed and installed a rain barrel to catch the water runoff from the tool shed roof. · Native wildflowers were planted around the border of the fence to attract pollinators · A fig tree and blackberries were planted outside the garden fence to provide perennial fruit to any members of the community who wish to harvest · A library in the tool shed contains books on gardening and sustainability practices that members can borrow · Educational workshops are held at the garden and open to the public Future goals of the garden include: · Increasing capacity to collect rain water · Increasing the number of educational workshops available to the public · Collaborating with a school group to involve children/youth in gardening The community garden group is developing a website and also has a Facebook page to disseminate information to members and the general public throughout the season: Online: <http://www.mountrainiercommunitygarden.org/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MountRainierCommunityGarden> In addition to the support from the City and membership fees, the Garden holds an annual fundraiser at Franklin's Brewing in Hyattsville. Also attached is the gardener agreement.

**PDF:** [GARDEN FUNDRAISER](#)

**WORD:** [COMMUNITY GARDEN AGREEMENT GUIDELINES](#)

## Energy

### Innovative Demonstration Projects - Energy

45 Points

**Program Summary:** We have four programs under this category: 1. Net-Zero Townhomes; 2. Net-Zero Demo Home; 3. Corn Bin Cooperative; and 4. City Solar Array; 5. Solar Bulk Purchase 1. Net-Zero Townhomes - Perry Street Townhomes is an innovative, for-sale townhome development located in the heart of Mount Rainier, Maryland. The sustainable design provides savvy residents with world-class elements including the energy performance of the internationally-recognized Passive House Standard: increased comfort and a more peaceful living environment, reduced utility bill burden, and environmental responsibility. Interested buyers are encouraged to consider a roof-mounted solar PV system to take their new home net-zero energy – the ultimate in sustainable living. The homes offer 1600 square feet of living space on three levels. The City is supporting this development project in several different ways. The developers, Flywheel Development, were booth partners at the DC Green Fest and the City adopted a resolution in 2014 to approve the Perry Street Townhomes project application for financing from the Community Legacy Project up to \$350,000. <http://www.flywheeldevelopment.com/projects/perry-street/> 2. Net Zero Demonstration Home - The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) is leading the transition to sustainable neighborhoods by kicking off the Net-Zero Home Demonstration Project on one of its currently vacant properties -- 3719 34th Street in Mt. Rainier. This new home will serve as a model of future residential development in Prince George's County. The developer that won the RFP - Urban Green - estimates the home sale price will be \$430K. This home will be the first net zero home developed in Prince George's County. The home will feature rooftop solar, sustainable construction materials, water saving features and more. The NZE home is located in Mt. Rainier, within the Gateway Arts District, because the City has embraced sustainable living. Mt. Rainier has proven itself to be a leader in sustainability efforts in the County – willing to innovate and step out of the “business-as-usual” ways of operating. The Mayor and Council supported this project in conversations with the Redevelopment Authority and are providing public support by facilitating information sharing in its newsletter, website and by Council member blogs. <http://www.mountrainiermd.org/net-zero-home-demonstration-project/> <http://brentcbolin.blogspot.com/2014/03/net-zero-home-demonstration-project.html> 3. Corn heating co-op - The Mt Rainier “Preserve our Planet” Corn Co-operative has been operating for six years, with support of the municipal government. A volunteer group runs the program, which is supported by membership fees. The corn bin was built on a city run property in 2009 and is now used by more than a dozen city residents. A Green Team member, Jodi Beth McCain is the key liaison between the cooperative and the City Green Team Committee. The corn in the bin is used by co-op members in bio-fuel stoves to heat their homes. The city supports burning corn as a source of home heat because it reduces pollution and green house gases, helps local farmers, increases energy independence and local self reliance and saves money on heating bills. In 2015, 16 community members participated in this program and made use of the corn bin to get fuel to heat their homes. Coop members measure their corn usage by five gallon bucket. Each member, upon renewing their annual \$25 coop fee, receives the number to the combination box that holds the key that opens the shoot of the bin. The corn is grown in northern Maryland by a family farmer who uses natural fertilizer and no till agricultural practices designed to limit the release of green house gases. Furthermore, when corn grows, it captures carbon; this same carbon is released when the corn is burned. The small net increase of carbon from burning corn comes from the hydrocarbons used by farm machinery. In 2015, local resident and member provided a presentation about the corn stove cooperative at the Toolshed's spring seed swap. More information about the cooperative can be found here: <http://www.saveoursky.com/> 4. City Solar Array - As a result of a multi-city grant funded by the federal stimulus plan, the City received \$100,000 to install solar panels. The grant program is intended to assist U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and Indian tribes to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation projects. The funding was provided via a Federal ARRA grant. The full solar array, which we installed September 2010 reduces fossil fuel emissions; and reduces energy costs at City Hall by approximately \$8000 annually. The array produces about approximately 14,000 kWh per year. The City receives solar renewable energy credits for the production every year, which is approximately \$1500/year depending on the current value of RECs in Maryland. The City of Mount Rainier owns the array so it is not a PPA. For maintenance, solar panels tend to be just about zero maintenance in particular when they are on such a steep roof like at City Hall--the rain does a good job in that application of keeping them clean. Picture attached. 5. Solar Bulk Purchase - Hyattsville/Mt. Rainier solar co-op was conceived and founded in Spring 2014 by Hyattsville resident Gina DeFerrari. Membership was open only to residents of the Hyattsville/Rainier area to preserve the economy of scale which enables the dramatic installation savings possible for homeowners. Approximately 10 Mount Rainier residents participated in the bulk purchase, the idea being by installing solar as a group, there will be savings on the total cost of installation. The group selected a single contractor to install systems on all of the homes, but each participant owns their own system and will sign their own contract with the installer. The City Green Team helped to promote the opportunity through its networks and email list. More information here: <http://mdsun.org/solar-bulk-purchases/hyattsville/> <http://mdsun.org/2014/06/17/hyattsvillemt-rainier-residents-select-frederick-md-based-sustainable-energy-systems-to-complete-solar-installations/>

**PDF:** [NET ZERO TOWNHOMES FLYER](#)

**PDF:** [PERRY STREET COMMUNITY LEGACY RESOLUTION](#)

**PDF:** [URBAN GREEN DEMO HOME](#)

**PDF:** [RDA RFP FOR NET ZERO HOME](#)

**WORD:** [CORN BIN PRESENTATION AT SEED SWAP](#)

**PDF:** [CITY HALL SOLAR ARRAY PICTURES](#)

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## Residential Energy Efficiency

20 Points

**Program Summary:** The City has two items in this category: 1. Empower Clean Energy – Communities Grant Program; and 2. Green Home Energy Upgrade Program. 1. Empower Clean Energy – Communities Grant Program - The last several years Mount Rainier has participated in a Municipal Collaboration with 14 other municipalities in an effort to provide energy efficient weatherization upgrades to income eligible residents for free. This program is currently funded by grants through Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and State of Maryland - Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the grant is of no cost to the homeowner and will help residents save money on monthly utility bills and make their homes more energy efficient. The program provides energy upgrades in new furnaces, air conditioners, energy star appliance, water heaters, and weatherization in attics. Over the past two years, the Municipal Collaboration has helped about 150 homeowners in Prince George's County. The City of Mount Rainier residents has had 15 residents participate in this program. The City publicizes this program on its website: <http://www.mountrainiermd.org/2015-maryland-energy-municipal-collaboration-grant/>. The City continues to market the program on the website, list serve, facebook and on the cable station. 2. Green Home Energy Upgrade Program. The green home upgrade program has been a yearly program since 2010, when the city applied for and received funding through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program through the Community Legacy Program and Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF) to sponsor a Green Home Initiative. In the first year 15 households, chosen on a first come first served basis, received an in-home audit conducted by greeNEWit of Columbia, MD and guidance on how to spend \$5000 per household on energy efficiency improvements. Under the project, windows, doors, furnaces, appliances and more were upgraded to more efficient and Energy Star models. In order to publicize the grants, we put notices in our city newsletter, the Message (attached, see pg 3), and on our Cable access station and announced the program at several council meetings. In addition to the energy improvements made under the program, the energy audits educated homeowners on how to make homes more energy efficient eliminating air intrusion at windows, doors, attics and opening under stairwells. In 2014, we continued the program, this time offering the grants to 16 resident households.

**PDF:** [ENERGY UPGRADE NOTICE IN NEWSLETTER](#)

**EXCEL:** [GREEN HOME ADDRESSES 2014](#)

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## Municipal Energy Audits

20 Points

**Program Summary:** In 2011, Mount Rainier had a full energy audit on City Hall, the Library, the Police Station and the municipal building annex (Terminal Snack Bar.) The audit gave a full accounting of the energy expenses of each of these buildings and made recommendations as to priority steps to increase the efficiency of each city building. The recommendations included: CFL lighting upgrades at City Hall; Motion sensors at City Hall; an HVAC upgrade at City Hall; a hot water upgrade at City Hall; a T8 lighting upgrade at the Library; a 2.5 kW solar PV array at the Library; a restaurant grade HVAC installation at the Terminal Snack Bar; and a new furnace installation at the Terminal Snack Bar. The audit was completed by the Khepra Energy Group. In 2014, Energy WatchDog Pros performed energy audits on the City Police State and City Hall. The focus of these audits was on lighting and lighting upgrades.

**PDF:** [ENERGY AUDIT REPORT](#)

**EXCEL:** [CITY HALL ENERGY AUDIT](#)

**EXCEL:** [POLICE STATE ENERGY AUDIT](#)

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## Greenhouse Gas

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### Innovative Demonstration Projects - Greenhouse Gas

25 Points

**Program Summary:** This item includes 3 projects: 1. Electric Car Grant, 2. Mount Rainier Bike Co-op; and 3. Bicycle Infrastructure – Racks. 1. Electric Car Grant - In 2015 the City of Mount Rainier applied for funding through the Maryland Energy Authority to purchase electric cars for our code enforcement officers. This vehicle will replace one of the aging cars in the fleet with high mileage. The City was notified it received funding, enough to purchase one electric vehicle for an amount up to \$18,500. The grant agreement is attached. At this time, the vehicle has yet to be purchased. 2. Mount Rainier Bike Co-op - The Mount Rainier Bike Coop (MRBC) was established in 2005 as a Mount Rainier city program. MRBC aims to enable residents of Mt Rainier and the surrounding area to own, maintain, and ride bicycles affordably. We reclaim, refurbish, and redistribute used bicycles that would otherwise be heading for the landfill; we teach bike repair to youth and adults, and partner with local organizations to promote an inclusive and responsible bicycling community. While the MRBC focuses its services on the residents of Mount Rainier, the shop and its programs are open to all on a donation basis. The City has supported the Bike Coop consistently over the years. The City furnishes the volunteer staff of the co-op with a \$1,500 annual budget, and a city account for money raised by the co-op. The City also provides a facility at 3601 Bunker Hill. MRBC has held regular open shops and workshops since its inception. Workshops are generally held monthly as volunteers are available, and have ranged in subject matter from routine bike maintenance to wheel truing to bike trailer construction. MRBC also works to promote bike safety and organizes community rides to various destinations in the community. MRBC promotes itself through the City website: <http://www.mountrainiermd.org/mount-rainier-bike-coop-announces-2015-new-hours/>, ([www.mrbikecoop.com](http://www.mrbikecoop.com)), facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/MrBikeCoop/>), and listserve (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mrbikecoop/>). 3. Bicycle Infrastructure –In 2013 the City of Mount Rainier received funding from a Maryland State grant to install several different types of bicycle parking infrastructure in the City. A large number of public bike racks have been installed in locations that focus largely on the city's downtown historic core, where vehicle parking demand peaks and where many bicyclists pass through. Utilizing the funds for new bike racks and low-cost retrofits for existing parking meters, the city generated 326 new bicycle parking spaces. These consist of the following: 6 large multibike racks (racks hold 4 bikes each); 9 Mount Rainier Branded U-Racks (racks hold 2 bikes each); and 142 meter rings (rings go on parking meters and secure 1-2 bicycles).

PDF: [BIKE RACKS IN MOUNT RAINIER](#)

PDF: [GAZETTE ARTICLE ON BIKE RACKS](#)

PDF: [INNOVATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS DOCUMENTATION](#)

### Municipal Carbon Footprint

15 Points

**Program Summary:** This year the City through the Sustainable Maryland Certified program worked with University of Maryland students and a Conservation Corps volunteer to complete a Municipal Carbon Footprint for the City. The City met with the student early in 2015 and the City provided copies of all its energy bills for its municipal buildings and gas and mileage for its municipal car fleet. As part of this project, Mount Rainier became a member of ICLEI to use its sophisticated software to support the audit. The cost of the membership was \$600, of which, Sustainable Maryland covered \$500. The project is complete and Nick Ryugo from Sustainable Maryland presented his results to the City of Mount Rainier in August. His report is attached for documentation.

WORD: [MOUNT RAINIER MUNICIPAL FOOTPRINT PROPOSAL](#)

WORD: [MUNICIPAL CARBON FOOTPRINT DOCUMENTATION](#)



## Health & Wellness

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### Innovative Demonstration Projects - Health & Wellness

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The City is submitting two projects under this category. 1. City of Mount Rainier's Commitment to Obesity Prevention and Complete Streets Program. Mount Rainier is a Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Community. Mayor and Council of the City of Mount Rainier recognize that obesity is a serious public health threat to the health and well-being of adults, children, and families in the City of Mount Rainier, and a commitment is needed to put healthy choices within reach of all residents. While individual lifestyle changes are necessary, individual effort alone is insufficient to combat obesity's rising tide. Significant societal and environmental changes are needed to support individual efforts to make healthier choices. To that end, the City of Mount Rainier adopted a Healthy Eating, Active Living Resolution. Mount Rainier is a HEAL community:

<http://www.healcitiesmidatlantic.org/map/> and passed an ordinance in 2014 resolving that City staff will work with HEAL Cities and Towns Campaign staff to explore HEAL policies and to identify those policies that are suitable for the City of Mount Rainier. One way we are working to support Active Living is through bicycle commuting. In 2014 the City adopted a Bicycle Master Plan and according to the 5 year America Community Survey, Mount Rainier bike commuters went from 42 in 2011 to 68 in 2013 - a 62% increase! The resolution commits the City to ensure the design and construction of parks, neighborhoods and streets are safe for all users and to adopt a Complete Streets Policy; Access to Affordable Nutritious Foods and adoption of a Municipal Workplace Wellness Policy. 2. Community 5K Run - For the last two years Mount Rainier has hosted a 5K run in partnership with the Gateway Arts District. Last fall was the second annual 5K on Saturday, October 18, 2014. Between 20-30 residents participated. The event was organized by former City Councilman Jimmy Tarlau and a team of volunteers. The City supported this run by providing overtime for police and public works staff to redirect traffic and set up street barricades.

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION COMMITMENT TO OBESITY PREVENTION AND COMPLETE STREETS](#)

**PDF:** [5K FLYER](#)

### Workplace Wellness Program

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The City adopted a resolution in 2014 that included a commitment to Municipal Workplace Wellness. Also via the City health insurance provider, a quarterly newsletter is distributed to City employees with information on health and wellness. In addition the Police Department has a fitness center open to all City employees featuring various exercise equipment.

**PDF:** [HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWSLETTER](#)

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION COMMITMENT TO OBESITY PREVENTION AND COMPLETE STREETS](#)

## Local Economies

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### Innovative Demonstration Projects - Local Economies

20 Points

**Program Summary:** Mount Rainier has three items under this category. 1. Art Lives Here and 2. Anacostia Hours. 3. Reuse and Recycling Guide: 1. Art Lives Here is an arts-economic development initiative for the Gateway Arts District housed initially within Joe's Movement Emporium in Mount Rainier. The initiative has been funded by three consecutive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts among other funders, and is supported by Mount Rainier and other Gateway communities. The project has been ongoing for two years, beginning in 2013 and consists of arts programming and micro grants for artists and businesses within the arts district. The idea behind it was to expand the current, and already expansive arts community with arts funding and support to help energize the arts identity of the Mount Rainier, Brentwood and North Brentwood corridor along Route 1. Funded projects included: Better Block - an annual one-night arts festival featuring community dance and pop-up art installations; Open Studio Tour - an annual tour of artist studios in Mount Rainier, Brentwood and North Brentwood featuring more than 100 artists; pop-up galleries and cafe's; a pop-up farmers market on Route 1; free portraits for any artist in the district; public art mural project; a music festival and much more. (see attached brochure produced by Art Lives Here). Phase 3 of Art Lives Here will begin in 2015 and will include an arts/technology business incubator. 2. Anacostia Hours is a local currency in Washington DC and Prince George's County MD, operating out of Mount Rainier. AH seeks to support local independent businesses. Several local businesses are members including Glut Co-op, Joe's Movement Emporium, Oscar's Flowers and the Shortcake Bakery. Anacostia Hours participates in outreach events such as the recent Spring Garden Event at Community Forklift March 28, 2015 in Edmonston, MD. More information on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/anacostiahours/timeline> 3. Reuse and Recycling Guide: Reduce and Reuse Guide. This past winter the Green Team developed a waste reduction guide with handy information for residents on recycling and local businesses and programs that help support waste reduction and reuse. This guide was included in the City newsletter and hard copies are available at City Hall. See PDF of the guide attached.

**PDF:** [ANACOSTIA HOURS PHOTO](#)

**PDF:** [ART LIVES HERE MAGAZINE](#)

**PDF:** [MOUNT RAINIER REUSE AND RECYCLING GUIDE](#)

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### Local Business Roundtable

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The Mount Rainier Business Association, founded in 1988, is a group of local businesses engaged in promoting our local economy. The MRBA consists of 75 members and meets once a month and functions as a Business Roundtable. A recent initiative is the Safe and Clean Street Initiative. The initiative provides two full-time and one part-time staff for 40 hours per week from Tuesday – Saturday in the Mount Rainier town center to remove trash, sweep sidewalks and curb beds, maintain alleys and green spaces, collaborate with public works department on repairs, remove signs in the public areas, weed, report issues to the police, and be a thoughtful and consistent presence in our town center. The Mount Rainier Business Association feels this is a critical step to support the beautification of the town center and has committed 70% of the funds to the first seven-month contract. More information about MRBA can be found here: <http://www.mountrainierbusiness.com/>

**PDF:** [MOUNT RAINIER BUSINESS ASSOC MEETING MINUTES](#)

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### Establish Local Business Directory

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Mount Rainier Business Association, founded in 1988, is a group of local businesses engaged in promoting our local economy. The MRBA consists of 75 members and meets twice each month and works on several initiatives each year, including the Mount Rainier Business Directory. The group includes local artists, which it gives a reduced membership rate to. The MRBA publishes a current directory of local businesses every few years. MRBA completed the latest update of their Business Directory in 2014. It can be found here: <http://www.mountrainiermd.org/wp-content/uploads/Mount-Rainier-Business-List-2014.pdf> The City promotes this Directory on their website above. The City's Economic Development Director participates in MRBA meetings as an official City liaison to ensure close coordination.

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### Join Maryland Green Registry

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Mount Rainier is a member of the Maryland Green Registry and recently updated its profile in the Spring of 2015 to reflect new activities and metrics. The City listing can be found here: <http://mde.maryland.gov/marylandgreen/Pages/GreenMembersList.aspx>

**PDF:** [MOUNT RAINIER MARYLAND GREEN REGISTRY PROFILE](#)

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### Green Purchasing Policy

15 Points

**Program Summary:** The City has gradually been implementing a green purchasing policy over the past five years, but in May 2012 codified this trend with a green purchasing policy voted on by the City Council and communicated to all department heads as well as posted on the city website for businesses and the public to see. The plan the city put in place was based on the template provided by Sustainable Maryland Certified, with a few revisions. We have attached a word doc of the policy, a memo sent to city staff, and the link to the pdf that is available online on the city's website. <http://www.mountrainiermd.org/wp-content/uploads/CITY-OF-MOUNT-RAINIER-GREEN-PURCHASING-POLICY.pdf>

**PDF:** [GREEN PURCHASING POLICY](#)

**WORD:** [MEMO TO STAFF](#)

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## Natural Resources



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## Innovative Demonstration Projects - Natural Resources

50 Points

**Program Summary:** We have 6 innovative projects under this category. 1. Community Tree Outreach - The Tree Commission has led three walks for the community within the last year to educate residents about the importance and benefits of trees and the history of the City and its trees. Today Mount Rainier strives to plant and maintain a diverse, mostly native tree canopy that will be resilient to future climate change. These trees will also be crucial for helping us adapt to climate change, which will be bringing us hotter summers and more intense storms. The three walks were well attended by at least 12-15 residents each outing. The first walk in November 2014 was focused around fall colors, the second walk in April was in celebration of National Arbor Day, and the third walk in May was focused on the future work along the Arundel Rd levee and the impacts to the trees. 2. Tree Ordinance - The City amended its Urban Forest Code for the City. The new ordinance went into effect July 1, 2014. The purpose of the code is to protect, preserve, and promote Mount Rainier's urban forest, which is part of a larger ecosystem that contributes significantly to the control of air, noise, and visual pollution; moderates climate extremes; promotes sound energy conservation; and has significant aesthetic value affecting property values and the community's quality of life. Because the City's urban forest is located in the Anacostia River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds, its absorption of stormwater supports the biological and hydrological integrity of these watersheds. Regulation of actions affecting the urban forest provides mutual benefits to City residents and property owners. One of the key changes to the code is the inclusion of private trees and the hiring of a City arborist. Under the new rules, residents cannot cut trees on their private property that meets or exceed 18" DBH without a permit from the City. 3. Re-Leaf Grant - The City for several years has received funds through the County's Re-Leaf Grant Program. Through this program the County provides funds to community groups and municipalities for planting native trees and shrubs in public or private common areas. Municipalities may receive up to \$10,000 per project. In 2014 Mount Rainier applied for \$6,950 in funding and received the full amount for street trees. Although we requested funding for 50 trees we were able to purchase 63 trees to plant in various locations throughout the City, both in the business district and residential neighborhoods. In addition the application, a list of locations and types of trees planted are included as documentation. 4. Buchanan Green Street Grant - Mount Rainier was granted \$242,500 as one of the recipients of the Green Streets, Green Towns and Green Jobs Initiative. In 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announced more than \$3.7 million in grants to be provided to 34 organizations through the Green Streets, Green Towns, Green Jobs Initiative (G3). This program was created in 2011 to advance watershed protection and economic vitality through the development of stormwater management techniques, green jobs creation, and enhanced livability. The announcement was the largest amount ever awarded in the program's history and includes 24 recipients in Maryland, four in the District of Columbia, three in Pennsylvania, two in Virginia, and one in Delaware. The funding in Mount Rainier will be used for the Buchanan Green Street. The goals of the project are to reduce stormwater flows in to the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, promote groundwater infiltration, increase tree canopy and native plantings, educate the community about the ecology of the watershed, and enhance pedestrian and bicyclist accessibility and safety. The City has awarded Broughton Construction with the Design/Build contract for the Green Street. The project will get kicked off in September and anticipated completion is June 2016. 5. Raingarden at the Mount Rainier Nature Center - Mount Rainier Watershed Stewards from the National Capital Region-Watershed Stewards Academy, constructed a rain garden on the grounds of the Mt. Rainier Nature Center (4701 31st Place) in Mt. Rainier, Maryland on November 5, 2011. The garden was built adjacent to the Nature Center's parking lot and is designed to capture stormwater runoff from the pavement before it runs off into a nearby channelized tributary of the Northwest Branch. The garden was installed with the help of 20 local volunteers, several of which were students, and included support from a variety of partners, including the City of Mt. Rainier. In 2013 an interpretive educational sign was installed to explain the function of the garden. Maintenance of the garden occurs twice per year where mulch is replaced, weeds are removed and bushes and plants are pruned or replaced. This year the last cleanup was led by a Watershed Steward Academy graduate with 3 volunteers from the Nature Center. Mulch was provided by MNCPPC. 6. Since 2013, the City initiated its backyard composting program. The Department of Public Works orders and stores the bins for residential pick up. Bins are available for backyard residential composting at a cost of \$20. The initial outlay of funding comes through a budget line in the City budget. About 50% of the cost is recouped when the bin is purchased by a resident. In the last two years, 114 compost bins have been purchased by Mount Rainier Single Family Homes. According to the EPA, the average household generated 474 lbs of food waste a year. Assuming the households are turning this food waste to compost, the City is diverting 54,036 lbs or 27 tons of food waste that otherwise would be disposed of in a landfill. Further, the City is saving as estimated \$1,594 per year by not disposing of this waste in a landfill. Current the tipping fees are \$59/ton. The program plans to continue next year as we continue to try and reach our goal of 225 households. The Green Team actively promoted the availability of the bins this past Spring with a blitz of messages on the Community Listserve, in the City Newsletter and at City Hall where a demonstration bin is displayed. The Team also promoted the bins at the Spring Seed Swap and through posters around town. The City also actively promoting the bins on their website: <http://www.mountrainiermd.org/save-earth-purchase-compost-bin/> The flyer for the compost bin can be found here: [http://www.mountrainiermd.org/wp-content/uploads/compost-bin-flier\\_final-2015.pdf](http://www.mountrainiermd.org/wp-content/uploads/compost-bin-flier_final-2015.pdf)

PDF: [URBAN FOREST ORDINANCE](#)

PDF: [CITY TREE TOURS](#)

PDF: [RE-LEAF GRANT APPLICATION](#)

PDF: [PHOTO OF RAIN GARDEN SIGN](#)

WORD: [TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS](#)

WORD: [PRESS RELEASE ON GREEN STREET AWARD](#)

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## Tree City USA

15 Points

**Program Summary:** Mount Rainier has been a Tree City USA for about 16 years. Mount Rainier is working to maintain and expand its tree canopy. The City has an active tree commission that organizes outreach activities from plantings, pruning training and seasonal tree walks. Our Tree City USA application was approved in October 2014. You can see more about the work of our Tree Commission on our website: <http://trees.20712.org/>.

PDF: [TREE CITY USA APPROVAL](#)

PDF: [TREE CITY USA APPLICATION](#)

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## Provide Incentives for Watershed Stewardship on Private Lands

15 Points

**Program Summary:** Stormwater Audit and Workshop on New County Rebate Program - On Saturday, September 13, 2014, close to 30 people participated in a stormwater audit and workshop coordinated by the Mount Rainier Green Team. The first-ever hands-on audit was led by officials from the Prince George's Department of the Environment's (DoE) Rain Check Rebate program. The workshop focused on what homeowners can do to manage stormwater on their private properties and how the County can help. The County's rebate program seeks to clean up stormwater through three key principles: slowing it down, spreading it out, and soaking it in and is funded through a stormwater fee added to County property tax bills. City of Mount Rainier Mayor Miles and DoE Director Adam Ortiz kicked off the event at the Mt. Rainier Nature Center and officials from the County's Rain Check Rebate program provided an overview of the new program and the basics of stormwater pollution. The County's rebate program provides low impact development (LID) solutions to promote the use of on-site natural features to protect water quality. This approach uses small-scale practices that mimic the natural hydrologic regime of a pre-developed watershed by infiltrating, filtering, storing and detaining runoff close to its source. The eligible practices through the County program include: planting urban canopy trees, installing rain barrels and cisterns, installing rain gardens and permeable pavement, installing green roofs and removing pavement. The City has been promoting this program through the City Newsletter, City Listserve, Green Team Facebook page and via social marketing.

PDF: [RAIN CHECK REBATE WORKSHOP FLYER](#)

PDF: [NEWSLETTER SUMMARY OF RAIN CHECK WORKSHOP - SEE PAGE 4](#)

PDF: [RAIN CHECK REBATE TRAINING PICTURES](#)

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## Facilitate Engagement in Existing Watershed Stewardship Opportunities

20 Points

**Program Summary:** Native garden/raingarden at Upshur Park - In 2010, the Prince George's Parks and Planning division began plans for renovation of a shared county/city park at Upshur Street and 34th. In the process of planning the park, a member of our city council and one of our residents convinced the county to plant the park with native plants, a raingarden and interpretive signage. The county agreed and in 2011 the park was created with a diverse mix of native shrubs, trees and perennials. The resident who was instrumental in getting the native plantings in place, Jodi Beder, also helped design what would be planted, and since the park's creation has organized a cadre of Friends of Upshur Park to help care for the plantings and the park in general. Jodi has worked to educate the town's residents about native plants, and has worked with the city and other volunteers to make this a great city asset for teaching people about the importance of native plants to biodiversity conservation. She sends out periodic announcements on the city listserv when the park needs special care. A group of 5-10 volunteers regularly help out with the park. In addition to volunteering at the native garden/raingarden at Upshur Park Mt. Rainier has partnered with Friends of Dueling Creek to facilitate engagement in existing watershed stewardship opportunities. Earlier this year, Mount Rainier resident Fran Toler established the Friends of Dueling Creek - a grassroots group to promote a healthy urban creek. Because of the small size of Mount Rainier and the limited capacity of staff, members of the community, working closely with Council members and the engaged citizens, are actively working to improve the watershed surrounding Mount Rainier. The Dueling Creek watershed is a subwatershed of the Anacostia River that encompasses the southern section of the City of Mount Rainier. The majority of the Dueling Creek is channelized underground until it emerges above ground in Colmar Manor. The FODC has an open membership and currently is made up of members from Mount Rainier, Colmar Manor and Cottage City and is working closely with MNCPPC. The City of Mount Rainier is engaged because Council member Bryan Knedler has participated in meetings and led nature walks in the Colmar Manor park. Green Team members are also participating in the meetings and outings and promoting events. The group is focused on raising awareness of the creek and many of the issues impacting its health, such as trash, stormwater, and invasive plants. To date the group has engaged the community by sponsoring a trash cleanup along the creek and two nature walks. The cleanup included over 30 attendees and the nature walks around 5 attendees. The creek cleanup resulted in the collection of 140 bags of trash, half a dozen tires, a couple of mattresses and a bicycle. More information about the watershed group can be found at their website and facebook page.  
<http://friendsofduelingcreek.org/events-2/> <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofduelingcreek>

PDF: [PARK PHOTOS](#)

PDF: [FODC GAZETTE ARTICLE](#)

PDF: [FODC EVENT SCREEN SHOT](#)

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## Create a Watershed Plan

20 Points

**Program Summary:** In 2014 the City Council adopted and finalized the Mount Rainier Green Infrastructure Master Plan. This plan was developed by the Low Impact Development Center in conjunction with the City's Green Team and Council members. Funding was received under a technical assistance award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Local Government Capacity Building Initiative. The purpose of the Green Infrastructure Plan is to provide a set of tools to be utilized when selecting and implementing projects to improve and reduce urban stormwater runoff. The City and its residents can use this document to identify tools and projects that will enhance their individual areas in stormwater management. These efforts signal Mount Rainier's continued commitment to collaboration and leadership on the environment. The Mount Rainier Urban Green Infrastructure Master Plan was created to support the Maryland State and Prince George's County stormwater regulations and incorporates elements from studies conducted within the Chesapeake Bay region. The City used the plan to support its successful grant application for funding to support the Buchanan Green Street and we are using the Plan to argue for more stormwater mitigation with the County on Arundel Rd.

PDF: [MOUNT RAINIER GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN](#)

PDF: [RESOLUTION APPROVING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN](#)

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## Planning & Land Use

## Innovative Demonstration Projects - Planning & Land Use

40 Points

**Program Summary:** Mount Rainier has four items under this category. 1. Mount Rainier's program for vacant spaces 2. MUTC Plan and Committee 3. Mount Rainier Bicycle Master Plan and 4. Architectural Conservation Plan Overlay Zone. 1. In 2014-2015 Mount Rainier created a program for Vacant Spaces. The purpose of this program transform vacant places into viable spaces to live, work, play and create. The guiding principles of Program for Vacant Spaces (PVS) are based on the Mixed-Use Town Center (MUTC) Design Standards and Guidelines, which was developed as part of the City of Mount Rainier MUTC zone development plan, to assist the MUTC Design Review Committee with analysis and review of new work, repair, and maintenance activities throughout the MUTC area. The MUTC Design Standards and Guidelines, will be used by Program for Vacant Spacing as guiding principles for all development activities within the City of Mount Rainier and will help to foster new development, while maintaining the character of the City of Mount Rainier. The program has many successes, some of which are already highlighted in other sections of the application - e.g. Perry Street NetZero Townhomes and NetZero Demo Home. In addition, the City is moving forward with the redevelopment of 3200 Block Rhode Island and granted the LDA to StreetSense and Neighborhood Development Company for a 200 unit apartment. This development will take the place of an old vacant funeral home that has been derelict for decades. In addition, the County Redevelopment Authority has granted the Menkiti Group with the redevelopment of the 3300 Block of Rhode Island Ave. Currently this is a vacant building that will now be occupied by 15 apartments, an ACE Hardware store and a restaurant. 2. The City has an active Mixed Use Town Center Committee. This committee was created to implement the Mixed-Use Town Center Development Plan. This plan articulates a future vision for downtown Mount Rainier through a broad and inclusive public participation process. Civic leaders, artists, business owners, property owners, residents and other community members enthusiastically participated in seven community meetings, including a hands on charrette design session to develop the plan. The project team, alongside community and civic stakeholders, synthesized several interrelated ideas, encompassing transportation, pedestrian safety, land use, demographics, cultural institutions, environmental issues, bike commuting, economic development, historic preservation and civic participation. One of the goals of the MUTC is to preserve and revive the historic urban center of Mount Rainier. Over the past decade, city, county and state governments have increasingly recognized significant opportunity for expressing Mount Rainier's richness and character. The plan also aims to preserve neighborhood identity and sense of place. The Development Plan envisions Mount Rainier as a vital, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use town center with special focus on the city's artistic, historic and environmental traditions. Rather than a singular design parti, the plan vision articulates multilayered ideas: a grand boulevard and traditional main street, separate but interconnected character areas, vehicular, bike and pedestrian design improvements, both modern and traditional architectural recommendations, and design guidelines for civic, residential and commercial buildings. Additionally, the plan proposes human-scaled green infrastructure to highlight the sustainability aspirations of the Mount Rainier community: a new public green at the prominent intersection at Rhode Island Ave and 34th Street, and a stormwater LID prototype at the topographic base of the 34th Street hill. 3. Mount Rainier Bicycle Master Plan – In 2014, the City Council approved the Mount Rainier Bicycle Master Plan. The impetus for this plan came from Mount Rainier's Green Team, a group of citizen volunteers and city staff that realize the importance of environmental stewardship, non-motorized transportation, and many other goals supported by bicycling. Therefore, to encourage more bicycling through development of better bicycle infrastructure in the city, the plan lays out: 1. A vision for bicycling in Mount Rainier that is integrated with surrounding municipalities; 2. Recommendations for potential programs or partnerships to encourage bicycling; 3. A convenient and attractive network of on-street bike lanes and associated infrastructure; 4. Connections to other modes of transportation like transit and non-motorized modes; and 5. A financial plan for construction, maintenance, and programming. Many Mount Rainier commuters travel by bicycle and the city is adjacent to several significant bicycle trails – the Sligo Creek, Northwest and Northeast Branch paved trails reach for miles into Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, providing not only commuter but recreational access to and from the city. Therefore, establishing a solid bicycle network and infrastructure within the City is important to serve not only commuting needs, but the recreational needs of all of the citizens of the city, as well as visitors. This plan is intended for all citizens and visitors to the city. The plan realizes that a fully accessible bike network is one that is designed for access by the least skilled of bicyclists as well as experienced riders and that attention needs to be paid to ensuring that cyclists of all ages feel comfortable with riding in the city. This plan is being used to apply for grants; most recently the Maryland Bikeways grant. 4. Architectural Conservation Plan and Architectural Conservation Overlay Zone for the City of Mount Rainier - The Prince George's County Planning Department—supported by the consultant team, Cunningham Quill Architects—initiated the development of an Architectural Conservation Plan in the City of Mount Rainier. The purpose of the plan, along with its accompanying design standards and overlay zone, is to help preserve and protect the architectural and historic character and scale of the city's single-family neighborhoods by promoting context-sensitive infill, additions, and renovations. The Mount Rainier Architectural Conservation Plan and associated overlay zone will be the first of their kind in Prince George's County. This project will create an Architectural Conservation Plan for the Mount Rainier Architectural Conservation District to include: \* a physical and historical description of the district; \* an architectural survey and building inventory; \* a user-friendly, highly visual pattern book to provide guidance to homeowners, architects, and contractors; and \* supporting design standards. The Green Team provided input on the project about preserving our tree lined streets and reducing waste through historic preservation practices and utilizing salvage companies to foster reuse of materials. A video was made about this project can be found here: [http://www.pgplanning.org/Projects/Ongoing\\_Plans\\_and\\_Projects/Community\\_Plans\\_and\\_Studies/ACAPACOMt\\_Rainier/Maps\\_-\\_Presentations\\_and\\_Rep](http://www.pgplanning.org/Projects/Ongoing_Plans_and_Projects/Community_Plans_and_Studies/ACAPACOMt_Rainier/Maps_-_Presentations_and_Rep)

**PDF:** [MUTC PLAN](#)

**PDF:** [MOUNT RAINIER BICYCLE MASTER PLAN](#)

**PDF:** [PROGRAM FOR VACANT SPACES](#)

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN](#)

**PDF:** [ACQZ COMMUNITY PRESENTATION](#)

**WORD:** [MUTC MEMBERS](#)

## Participation in DHCD Sustainable Communities

20 Points

**Program Summary:** Mount Rainier is an active participant in DHCD Sustainable Communities. Mount Rainier is listed on the DHCD website: <http://www.dhcd.state.md.us/Website/Programs/dn/communities.aspx> The City's approved plan and map boundaries are provided as documentation. Also attached is our application for funding for the demolition and remediation of two vacant and blighted City owned properties located at 3200 Rhode Island Avenue and 3701 Eastern Avenue to facilitate redevelopment. The DHCD designation has allowed us to access funding via the Community Legacy and gives us goals to follow throughout the year. Most recently funding was received to support the following projects: 1. Joe's Movement Emporium – 3309 Bunker Hill Road Joe's Movement Emporium is the largest independent performing arts center in Prince George's County. From the Community Legacy grant to Community Investment Tax Credits Program, Joe's has received support from several DHCD over the years. Joe's used DHCD funding to renovate their facility and support fundraising for their Theater Tech training program for at-risk youth. 2. Net Zero Perry Street Townhomes – 3210 Perry Street The City of Mount Rainier will create four innovative townhomes that demonstrates the viability of net-zero energy and low-impact infill development for the region. We will use the Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth funds from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for pre-development expenses, such as infrastructure improvements, site development and architectural drawings.

**PDF:** [APPROVED APPLICATION](#)

**PDF:** [BOUNDARY MAP](#)

## Transportation

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### Innovative Demonstration Projects - Transportation

15 Points

**Program Summary:** Mount Rainier has two activities to highlight; 1. Local gardening class, 2. Community Toolshed 1. Local gardening class. For the last 7 years, local resident master gardener Judy Walsh-Mellett has taught an organic gardening workshop in Mount Rainier. She has tended a garden in Mt. Rainier for over 25 years, and also has beehives. This year her organic gardening workshop series occurred March 7-April 18, 2015. The five-part workshop series focused on the following themes: 1) Growing good soil; 2) Garden planning; 3) What to plant when; 4) Preparing growing beds; and 5) The growing season. Her class included 10 participants. She advertised the workshop via fliers around town and on area listserves for Mount Rainier, Hyattsville, Takoma Park, and Riverdale. Former students also advertise within their social networks. The purpose of the class is to teach people to grow their own food and therefore supports food security. The City is not directly involved because of limited staff and capacity. Judy is a Green Team member, and the Green Team is an official committee of the City and has promoted this class. 2. Toolshed - The Mount Rainier Community Tool Shed is a collection of hand and power tools that can be used at no cost by residents, businesses and community groups of Mount Rainier to help create gardens, improve home efficiency and in general improve their properties. With initial funding provided by the Prince George's County Livable Communities Initiative, the Tool Shed's purpose is to increase the beauty and sustainability of Mount Rainier through home repair, gardening, and care of public spaces. With the initial funding the Tool Shed began with a cadre of dedicated volunteers and continues to this day. The City supports the tool shed via a specific budget line in the City budget and an annual budget of \$750, plus each member pays \$5 per year for a membership fee. The City also supports the Tool Shed by providing the facility to house the tools, utilities and internet access. The Toolshed has 78 members that share 134 tools worth \$10,039. In addition to providing tools, the Tool Shed hosts workshops on native plants, composting and other important sustainability topics. The inventory and checkout system is online: [neighborgoods.net/groups/toolshed](http://neighborgoods.net/groups/toolshed). Additional information on the Tool shed can also be found here: <http://www.communitytoolshed.org/>

**PDF:** [GARDEN WORKSHOP FLYER](#)