# GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & CLIMATE-RESILIENT LAND USE

Changing How We Do Business to Support the County's Climate Action Plan

### **Facilitators:**

Jen Cotting, Environmental Finance Center Shawn Bell, Frederick Douglass High Graduate Mary Abe, Department of the Environment Council Member Tom Dernoga, Prince George's County Council





# BENEFITS OF INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION INTO COUNTY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND LAND USE PRACTICES



- Natural resources provide essential ecosystem services for cleaner air and water and flood resiliency.
- Protecting existing forests moderates temperatures, provides habitat, and sequesters carbon

Environmental Benefit

- Create communities embracing healthy lifestyles; live where you work; walking and biking instead of driving.
- Mental health: Connect with nature where you live.

Human Health Benefit

- •Global market for clean technologies will create a \$23 trillion market by the end of this decade —promoting innovation helps local business complete in a global marketplace
- •Empowering economic sustainability through buying local
- •Job creation as we transition to a new way of living, working, and growing our communities.
- •Long term energy costs are reduced.
- Bond ratings maintained by proactively embracing climate resiliency measures.

Economic Benefit



DID YOU KNOW: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY IS #1 IN THE D.C. METRO REGION FOR CLEAN, SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION!



Country's largest community solar project opens in Fort Washington







<text>

Net-Zero: Suitland Home is 100 Years Old But State-of-the-Art When it Comes to Energy Efficiency

#### July 9, 2015



# Snapshot of Efforts in the County

- Long term plan policy created: Prince George's County Plan 2035
- Land Use Zoning Rewrite :House Bill 980 (PG-416-21), allowing Prince George's County to move forward with modernizing the county's 50-year-old zoning ordinance.
- Prince George's County ranks as the #1 County in Maryland to install solar (15,761 Installations) and is also ranked as the #1 County in the State to produce the most solar energy.
- Housing Initiative Partnership, Pepco and Emera Technologies Awarded \$200,000 Grant by the <u>Maryland Energy Administration</u> for Innovative Microgrid Community in Fairmount Heights



## Government Operations and Land Use Recommendations

- <u>Building for Climate Action Planning Capacity</u>: Climate staff and agency capacity to implement the CAP and continue the plan as a living document.
- <u>Lead by Example</u>: Transparency by tracking and measuring Climate Action Impacts to establish indicators and systems of accountability to monitor progress on the recommendations of the CAP. Update the Budget, Procurement, and Capital Improvement Plan Process to reflect climate mitigation and adaptation goals.
- <u>Land Use</u>: Strengthen the regulation of land use related to Smart Growth, Natural Resource Conservation, and Green Infrastructure.
- <u>Codes and Ordinances</u>: Update and adopt zoning codes, building codes, ordinances, the development review process, and associated planning documents to support climate ready buildings. This includes adoption of a Green Building standard, establishing a resiliency checklist and updated ordinances to prevent new construction or substantial retrofits in high-risk areas which flood repeatedly.
- <u>Provide funding</u> to County departments to incorporate climate resilience criteria into long-range County plans (including transportation, water supply, wastewater, stormwater, waste management, emergency management and health).



What does climate resilient government operations in Prince George's County look like?

- WHO?
- WHAT?
- WHEN?
- WHERE?
- HOW?



What could resilient government operations and land use in Prince George's County look like?

- E.g., tighter restrictions (without waiver) to development impacting waterways, wetlands, floodplains, tree preservation, and forest.
- New construction climate resilient requirements
- Climate resiliency measures incorporated into capital improvement projects
- Joseph Jakuta\_who-NEW Director for CAP, CEX or Council needs to appoint if this work not a subset of DOE-Czar of CAP. Champion
- Dr. Wilson\_Equity, zoning, special exceptions an issue, landfill –Equity and Justice must be embedded in government. Performance standards-for how you are including EJ in programmatic efforts. Tool to track investments and zoning and equitable zoning. TNI had no evaluation. Climate tool, tracks impacts and where are dollars going.
- Council Person Dernoga-questions loss of forest-mixing trees and forest
- Lore Rosethal: Lead by Example is important. Module for group, individual, and County actions. Encourage to do not just educate. Emulate what County is doing when leading by Example.
- Susan McCutchen-Not enough input from Municipalities –comes from top down. Needs to change. Have a say at earlier stage. MagLev issue. Bring it down to more at local level while at drawing board.

### **Challenges**

- E.g., perception that the County's tax revenue and local economy may suffer if smart growth and infill development is required
- Laura Allen-Funding. No money and staff capacity at local level. Model used in other states-Technical support from County be it staff or consultant. County coordination. Local interest just no money or capacity

### **Opportunities**

- E.g., green field and carbon neutral land development can position the County as a leader in Green Business attracting innovation
- Takisha James\_Similar to State of MD, establishing and requiring new bldgs to have net zero. Tie to MD renewable state portfolio.
- Dr. Wilson-How can we look at food as a CAP strategy. Change zoning to foster urban farming. Local produce. Resilient hubs. Food forests. How can we tap into more State funding- bring to County level. Reggie)?)) Federal will have funding-are we ready? Coordinate county, council, municipalities, state.



#### Who benefits?

#### •

## Who is burdened or left out?

 Susan McCutchen-left out of conversation are those not hooked in electronically, language barrier, especially important in Port Towns. Go where people are-need to make it real to them.

#### How do we ensure equitable outcomes?

- E.g., Prioritize projects, promotion of opportunities, or technical support in lowincome communities
- Dr. Wilson: Who are the trusted agents in the community-not just social media-we must Climate Change must make it about impacts and benefits. Connect to basic issues-food faith, jobs, social infrastructure, health, work, EJ, Cultural community-barber shop, beauty store, faith- based community. The poor. What is that they value and tie to CAP. How can you provide opportunity. Income inequality. Entrepreneurs.



What does success in the County look like in the next 3-5 years?

- Research and Data Needs
- Policy/Ordinance Changes
- Residential Outreach Efforts
- Monitoring and Evaluation



- E.g., Prioritization and funding to implement CAP through program creation, rebates, and incentives.
- Mandate land development adheres to Plan 2035, prioritizes natural resource protection, requires smart growth development.
- Revise Prince George's County building and site development ordinances and code to require resiliency measures and integrates cost-effective energy efficiency standards with on-site and/or off-site renewable energy to support the construction of zero carbon buildings.
- Lily Fountain\_More Transparency in land planning. Public does not understand the process-make it understood what, who, when, development-understand the exceptions. Lack of transparency before it is too late.
- Takisha-we should see a difference visually. Stop sprawl. More walkable, bikeable. Especially in EJ communities.
- Dr. Wilson-base line data-important. Tracking. SWM and GI Work force development. Scholarship for GI jobs. Social well being. Natural environment. Focus on Green Economy.
- Council Dernoga-Air pollution comes from west-coal fired. Ozone. Zoning-sprawl is still happening. Expensive-we don't compete well –smart growth. WE allow basically any type of developmentincentives can be applied without really Smart Growth features. Sprawl will still continue. WE need to relook at Plan 2035 and rewrite of Plan.

Apply to be a County Climate Action Resident Expert

• <u>https://forms.gle/z92cx7LLrYTmNLN17</u>

Visit the DMV Climate Partners Website

• <u>https://climatepartners.org</u>

Learn More About Upcoming Meetings

• mypgc.us/climateactionplan

Explore the County CAP Virtual House

• <u>https://bit.ly/2S7PgEQ</u>

Provide Comments and Feedback

• https://bit.ly/3vBKqNJ





10. IMP	10. IMPLEMENTING THE CAP THROUGH COUNTY PLANNING & OPERATIONS		
CHAT T	ΕΧΤ		
19:53:46	From 🏠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Please change your name back so we can recognize you		
19:53:55	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Hi, everyone! Susan McCutchen, Community Liaison, Bladensburg Citizens Against the SCMaglev and Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit. mcrt-action.org and stopthistrain.org		
19:54:35	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Tom Dernoga rocks!		
19:54:48	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : 🙄		
19:54:51	From Gary Allen : amen		
19:55:04	From Anthony Field - CCAN : I wish I rocked as much as him		
19:56:59	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Make sure we connect with the goals of the Biden Administration.		
19:57:01	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : •STAY ENGAGED!		
	Apply to be a County Climate Action Resident Expert: https://forms.gle/z92cx7LLrYTmNLN17		
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	Provide Comments and Feedback: https://bit.ly/3vBKqNJ		
19:57:08	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Are the PV-power numbers decieving? Is the amount of PV-generated power evaluated by population and/or land mass (since PGCo is the largest MD county)?		
19:57:31	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : 2d largest?		
19:57:46	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Good question		
19:58:24	From Mayor Alan Thompson : We are #6 in land area		
19:58:32	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Susan very good point		
19:58:58	From Operations : Need to include equity, equity, equity and justice		
19:59:13	From Anthony Field - CCAN : Does requiring new construction to be electric count? No gas hook-ups!		
19:59:39	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Is it reasonable for county property developments to Lead in Climate- responsible building planning & design?		
19:59:45	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : counts		
20:00:01	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Government buildings, community centers, etc.		
20:00:01	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Very reasonable		
20:00:06	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Finding a way for local governments to have more say in transportation projects and their potential climate and environmental effects and benefits when they are on the drawing board, rather than having to react after the fact.		
20:00:12	From Martha Ainsworth : An end to text amendments in the zoning ordinance that allow exceptions to zoning categories to developments that violate transit-oriented development.		
20:00:12	From Martha Ainsworth : An end to text amendments in the zoning ordinance that allow exceptions to zoning categories to developments that violate transit-oriented development.		
20:01:18	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : The Council rejected the plant		
20:01:41	From operations : provide NO waivers to development when the loss of trees in forested areas will be significant. Our community recently received an award as an arboretum and we are already a designated wildlife habitat. However extensive plans are afoot to add more residences and cut down over 100 mature trees. We residents are just sick thinking about losing our forested land. WE have a flood control		

	dam which the county takes are of BEAUTIFULLY by removing silt from run off in sandy areas next to us. Without trees we will be silting our own dam with a chance for downstream flooding.
20:02:46	From Susan McCutchenCAP : TNI overall was a feel-good failure.
20:03:31	From Candace Alphonse : Well said, Dr. Wilson!
20:03:40	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : What programs are being considered to aid the design community to become ultra-low energy, resilient-savvy at a reasonable cost? Very few currently have such capability.
20:03:50	From Laura Allen, Berwyn Heights : The County Zoning Ordinance needs to change to enable local control so communities can determine what works for them. Include a requirement that property owners manage water on their own property. Also, the County could make a significant impact by providing technical support to all municipalities so they can create their own CAP. That coordination across the County is essential. It's a great combination of local control and countywide coordination. Thanks - lallen@berwynheightsmd.gov
20:04:12	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Need to institute a green area ratio.
20:04:23	From Pat Jackman : Encourage/request municipalities to name CAP action coordinators and have them
	report on milestones and annual progress. Expect reports on levels. Some now have a Sustainability Coordinators.
20:04:38	From Implement Lily Fountain : Tom Dernoga, great point about the difference between forest and tree canopy!
20:04:59	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Also need to increase the saplings for trees extracted ratios. Afforestation and re-wilding is needed.
20:05:11	From Operations : yes Laura! All municipalities should have a CAP
20:05:21	From 🐇 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : tedernoga@co.pg.md.us
20:05:56	From Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : There theoretically is a green area requirements
20:06:04	From Operations : yes sir, swilson2@umd.edu; Is Matt your son? We published a paper together 5 or 6 years ago with Fred Tutman
20:06:26	From Martha Ainsworth : We need air quality monitors across the county, to capture and address air pollution impacts in the hardest hit communities.
20:06:26	From 🐇 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : I claim Matt
20:06:29	From Laura Allen, Berwyn Heights : Most cities don't have the resources to name a CAP action
20.00.23	coordinator. Technical support from the County is needed and results in a coordinated approach.
20:06:33	From Operations : HAHAHA
20:06:50	From Operations : We can assist the County with building an air quality monitoring network
20:07:00	From Operations : We already have one in Cheverly. working with MDE
20:07:03	From Takisha James : Respectfully, I'd add the Ernest Maier special exception request was not
20:07:03	appropriately characterized. Even though it was not approved by the Prince George's County Council the
	owner has kept his word and commitment to sustainability in the Town of Bladensburg. As an example
	they have installed enough rooftop solar panels to divert 46.8 tons of CO2/year and will produce more
	energy than the plant consumes.
20:07:32	From Operations : We will be deploying 50 air quality sensors in the County
20:07:45	From Operations : EM did not do an actual baseline air quality assessment
20:07:51	From Operations : the HIA was not done correctly
20:08:02	From Operations : need to have consistent just practices across the board
20:08:13	From Operations : EM is at fault and the zoning office
20:08:14	From Karen Moe : Zoning, and the recent "update" doesn't address cumulative pollution impacts. Monitoring environmental impacts needs to increase.
20:08:24	From Operations : thank you Karen
20:08:27	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : How about encouraging the Co to include disaster sheltering, mobile phone chargers, etc. in coming community centers? Full-on Red Cross Shelter design is daunting, but
	something short can still be of community benefit.
20:08:45	From Operations : cumulative impacts- see recent bill in Virginia, bill from last year in New Jersey

20:08:46	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Zoning rewrite promotes sprawl
20:09:24	From Operations : Justice 40 initiative, bring back environmental benefits districts
20:10:10	From Operations : yes sir, zoning rewrite has to include equity and public health foci
20:10:26	From Joseph Jakuta - Mount Rainier : Opportunity: denser development helps with taxes since you need
	less per capita for maintenance, etc. and less need to replace trees, build new roads, pipes etc.
20:10:31	From Implement Lily Fountain : A recent national study showed that having benchmarks that are shared
	publicly over time were correlated with the most decreases in green house gases. Make sure we have
20.40.20	firm benchmarks!
20:10:39	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Yes. Funding for technical support that is needed comes out of municipality government budgets, which is a real challenge.
20:10:58	From Bill Walmsley : Challenge in reorienting the perception that progress/growth is defined only by
20.10.30	developing every square inch of undeveloped/green land.
20:11:30	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Bladensburg is a leader in green projects!
20:11:38	From Operations : Yes Bill!!!!!!!!!!!
20:11:42	From Joseph Jakuta - Mount Rainier : Opportunities: denser development will also increase the housing
	supply making it more affordable, which is a huge problem in the metro area
20:11:51	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Joseph, yes, but plan 2035 intentionally has
	no requirements
20:13:12	From Susan McCutchenCAP : People don't follow the rules with chickens and they can create their own
	climate challenges and spread disease.
20:13:14	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Bill, Great point
20:13:37	From Joseph Jakuta - Mount Rainier : Then we need a 2035 plan update!
20:13:37	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : County parkland is increasingly planned for built developments (some
	have called it "paving over paradise"). Is it reasonable to look at rewilding, afforestation, and
	implementing Green Area Ration standards as was done in WDC in 2013? https://www.adaptationclearinghouse.org/resources/district-of-columbia-green-area-ratio-zoning-
	regulations.html
20:14:06	From 🏠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Great idea
20:14:22	From 🙋 Facilitator: Jen Cotting, UMD, EFC to 📝 Co-Facilitator: Mary Abe, DoE(Direct Message) : RGGI -
	Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
20:14:40	From Laura Allen, Berwyn Heights : You can use the ARPA funding to address climate change.
20:14:56	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Transit projects are descending on our green areas in the Northeast
	Corridor, the lungs of Maryland.
20:15:03	From Gary Allen : DR WILSON GOOD INPUT
20:16:15	From Operations : Thanks Gary!
20:16:23	From Operations : Yes Laura, ARPA!!!
20:16:24	From 🎇 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Susan, printing and engraving
20:16:35	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : • STAY ENGAGED!
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20:16:36	From Bill Walmsley : We should be looking at our future infrastructure needs in everything we while we
	are doing it and not waiting until its falling down around us and then looking to others to solve the
20:16:50	problem.
20:16:50	From Operations : We can use mapping tools to microtarget neighborhoods, blocks. etc
20:17:31	From Operations : 95% smart phone penetration across incomes, bigger gap with WI-FI
20:17:55	From Operations : active engagement, food, faith, family, health and jobs
20.13.11	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Speak up if you have not said anything

20:19:28	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Small-scale fossil fuel-free transportation means—bicycles, walking— is challenging. Roadway easements are littered, poorly maintained, debris filled. Pedestrian and bicycle
	use may be increased & designed for Safety. Access to bus stops, etc. can be cleaned up & redesigned to
	beautify & make-safe for our citizens.
20:19:53	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Sean? jhanna? Steve?
20:20:24	From 🙋 Facilitator: Jen Cotting, UMD, EFC : Yes! Food, faith, family, health and jobs - something in ther
	speaks to everyone!
20:20:39	From Co-Facilitator, Shawn Bell, Student : I agree Cameron, I do notice much trash on side of road ways
	in the County.
20:20:48	From Co-Facilitator, Shawn Bell, Student : •STAY ENGAGED!
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20:20:55	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Money does talk. Often those who are concerned with development are
	not interested in the "real people," only the project. The county and the municipalities are the link to the
	residents.
20:20:57	From Joseph Jakuta - Mount Rainier : Schools too, children are a great voice!
20:21:12	From Jhanna Levin : Benefit: By building environmental stewardship in our youth, we ensure that these
	projects/initiatives become sustainable in the future. But education without action is not as impactful or
20.21.20	sustainable. We need tangible results to model.
20:21:29	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : When Money talks, planning walks
20:22:04	From Co-Facilitator, Shawn Bell, Student : Yes, we have to have seminars in schools where individuals go
	speak to students about how important it is to make solutions for climate change and become more Carbon neutral as a community
20:22:07	From Susan McCutchenCAP : The education efforts have to be modeled for different kinds of students,
20.22.07	young, middle-aged, and older. We have to be creative.
20:22:18	From Co-Facilitator, Shawn Bell, Student : Lagree Susan
20:22:51	From Laura Allen, Berwyn Heights : There are ways to design the zoning code to address climate change.
	The County should pursue those.
20:22:58	From Jhanna Levin : We need systems in place to use as models for our students. Way more impactful
	when we can show examples in PGC rather than California, etc.
20:23:11	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Jhanna are the schools teaching
	sustainability?
20:23:27	From Operations : Commissioner are they teaching environmental and climate justice?
20:24:06	From Operations : We were the first state to have an environmental literacy mandate
20:24:16	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Laura, the zoning rewrite requires green
	Building, but arguably a low bar
20:24:16	From Gary Allen : Specific implementation plan for the CAC
20:24:21	From Jhanna Levin : The short answer is yes.
20:24:33	From Co-Facilitator, Shawn Bell, Student : As a recent graduate of PGCPS, we really don't learn about
	climate change nor sustainability Councilman Dernoga. We barely even recycle in schools 🧟
20:24:37	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Government building design meeting the Living Building Challenge.
	Non-reliant on grid power, healthy, resilient, improved land planning, etc.
20:24:53	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : Lead, not follow.
20:24:54	From Operations : Shawn come to UMD- I teach climate justice
20:25:04	From Jhanna Levin : The state is currently writing a framework for counties to use as a guide from the
	newly adopted 5 standards of environmental literacy.
20:25:20	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : Good
20:25:21	From Jhanna Levin : We are several PGCPS teachers at that writing table.

20:25:34	From Operations : hopefully that includes environmental justice, climate change, climate justice
20:25:35	From 🛠 Commissioner: Thomas Dernoga, Council Member : 👍
20:25:42	From Gary Allen : Provide a scoring for GHG on all dev, proposals
20:25:53	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Unless we are regarded as having worth (unfortunately as in money), we
	will not be listened to as readily. Top levels of government look at the money and forget about the
20:25:54	people.
	From Joseph Jakuta - Mount Rainier : I hope that the school climate plan being worked on changes the teaching of sustainability too.
20:26:15	From Operations : yes change the permitting and development process to have more meaningful and authentic engagement
20:26:18	From Laura Allen, Berwyn Heights : The lack of local control over the zoning process is a huge issue.
20:26:31	From Implement Lily Fountain : We need to increase t
20:27:33	From Jhanna Levin : Standard 4 and 5 speak to justice.
20:28:26	From Susan McCutchenCAP : Yes, Laura! For example, even with new zoning, Route 450 is seen as an
	opportunity to bring in more businesses (a strip of businesses, not small entities) rather than trying to help us bring out the livable communities.
20:29:24	From Bill Walmsley : How about not seeing trash everywhere?
20:29:27	From Cameron-CAPin Riverdale : We also need to plan for change induced by rising temperatures
	(flora, storms, etc.).
20:29:37	From Operations : excellent Jhanna! I love it! We can provide modules. We are working with teachers in
20.20.11	Montgomery County to integrate environmental justice into curriculum
20:30:11	From Laura Allen, Berwyn Heights : Beltway Plaza is a prime example
20:30:14	From Operations : We have built a climate equity and health tool for the state could be repurposed to have a county specific tool
20:31:02	From Operations : Happy to work with county leadership and colleagues at UMD such as CGIS team to
20.51.02	build a climate equity and health mapping tool
20:31:13	From Operations : We should also revisit environmental benefits districts
20:31:26	From Gary Allen : Good ideas thanks
20:31:34	From Co-Facilitator, Shawn Bell, Student : •STAY ENGAGED!
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	Provide Comments and Feedback: https://bit.ly/3vBKqNJ
20:32:31	From Takisha James : I agree with your last comments Dr. Wilson. COG releases a report to local
	jurisdictions every other year and I watch out for that data every time it's release to see how my
	community is doing. In Bladensburg our GhGs continue to go down, but I think other communities should
	continue to do what they can to reduce GhGs as we work toward success. The Town of Bladensburg
	community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions decreased by 14% between 2005 and 2018 and we'll
	continue efforts to drive that down.