

2025 Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards

Presented by the Maryland
Sustainable Growth Subcabinet

Supported by the Maryland Department of Planning

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Flora, AICP, Secretary,
Maryland Department of Planning

The annual Sustainable Growth Awards (Awards) traditionally presented by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) are being presented by the [Sustainable Growth Subcabinet](#) (SGSC) in 2025 to broaden participation and reflect the multiple disciplines of sustainability that are encompassed in the membership of the SGSC that includes fourteen agency secretaries, the governor's office and the National Center for Smart Growth.

The awards recognize and celebrate significant achievements by individuals, businesses, organizations, and local governments throughout Maryland for their efforts to advance sustainable growth policies, practices and projects that are models for duplication by others.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The following categories will be utilized in determining the type of initiative the nomination is best aligned with. The SGSC reserves the right to reclassify nominations and may identify more than one awardee for each category and/or identify an exemplary nomination that goes far beyond others in achievements.

Leadership The Leadership category recognizes individuals and organizations that undertake advocacy, education or other outreach to advance public support for sustainable growth methods.

Projects

The Project category showcases the application of best practices in sustainable design and construction of physical buildings, places, infrastructure or landscapes.

Policy

The Policy category features the adoption and/or implementation of public policies, regulations and/or plans supporting sustainable land use planning and development practices.



Plantation Park Heights
*2023 Maryland Sustainable
Growth Award winner*

Nominations accepted November 1 -December 20, 2024

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Timeline: Nominations may be submitted from November 1, 2024 through December 20, 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST.

Types: nominations may include individuals, non-government and government organizations, and private sector businesses.

Location: nominations must be located in Maryland.

Alignment: nominations must align with the Sustainable Growth Policy and Planning Principles (Principles) and provide demonstrable outcomes.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The 2025 Sustainable Growth Award criteria are based on the newly developed Sustainable Growth Policy and Planning Principles (Principles) in support of a balanced approach to Land Use Policy and Planning that considers economic growth within the context of environmental stewardship and social well-being. Nominations must provide a narrative and other evidence of how they have addressed *at least three* of the Principles directly to be considered for further evaluation.

- 1. LAND:** Optimize land productivity within population centers and in proximity to existing or planned infrastructure and facilities.
- 2. TRANSPORTATION:** Prioritize transportation networks that create energy efficient, affordable, and reliable connections to jobs, housing, and services.
- 3. HOUSING:** Enable a mix of quality housing types and affordability options to accommodate all who want to live in Maryland.
- 4. ECONOMY:** Allow for adaptive reuse, mixed-use, and context appropriate new development that responds to changing markets and innovations.
- 5. EQUITY:** Engage all sectors of the community in plan development to ensure diverse voices are heard and the needs of underserved populations are prioritized.
- 6. RESILIENCE:** Integrate resiliency measures that will minimize the impacts of rapid and unexpected natural- and human-caused threats on communities.
- 7. PLACE:** Provide public spaces that encourage social interaction and value cultural, historical, and natural resources.
- 8. ECOLOGY:** Protect and restore sensitive ecological systems.

Once meeting the baseline criteria for addressing the Principles, the nominations will be further evaluated based on:

Nominations accepted November 1 -December 20, 2024



Impact: Provide metrics that quantifiably demonstrate measurable outcomes.

Replicability: Describe how the nomination could be duplicated by others.

Collaboration: Provide letters of support, or documentation of partnerships, public engagement or other methods that provide evidence of a collaborative, inclusive approach.

Innovation: Describe how the nomination is a new approach that demonstrates ingenuity or introduces best practices or policies for others to model.

Endurance: Provide narrative about how the nomination will last over time for ongoing benefit.



The on-line awards nomination form provides more detail on the specific information required and word limits. The SGSC reserves the right to reject any or all submissions that are deemed to not meet the intent of the awards.

Previous Sustainable Growth Awardees can be found at this [link](#).

Photographs

Images are used when reviewing nominations and to highlight projects during the awards ceremony.

Submit at least five (max. 25) images of the property, activity, or other appropriate subject in support of the nomination. Photos are optional for policy, but highly encouraged. Images should help to illustrate the project and further its understanding.

Submit digital images that are:

At least 300 dpi resolution with minimum dimensions of 1920 x 1080.

File types must be .tif or .jpg.

Name each photo file individually with a descriptive name or attach a photo key that describes each image. Ex. "Garden Pic 1"

Photo montages, PowerPoint, formatted presentations, or images imbedded in documents will not be accepted

Additional Documents - Applicants may also submit plans, brochures, website links, letters of support, or other documentation that illustrates conditions before and after implementation.

Policy nominations must submit a copy of or link to the policy.

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