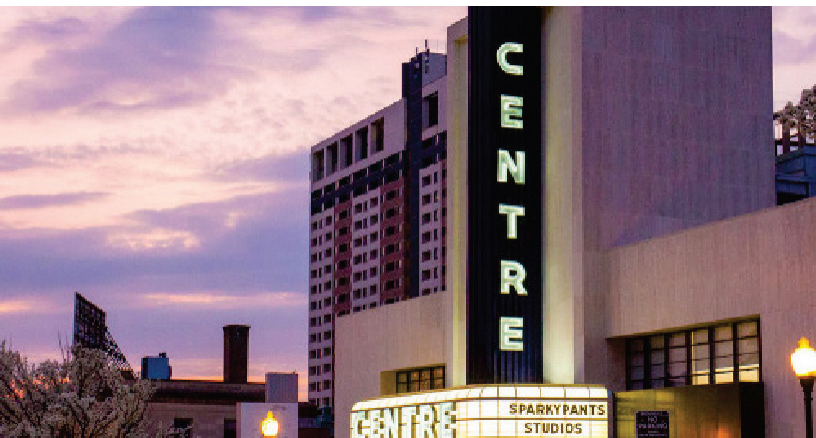




2020

Report of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission



On the cover:

Downtown Silver Spring, Montgomery County (upper left)

Fair Hill Farms, Kent County (upper right)

Town of Friendsville, Garrett County (lower left)

Centre Theater, Baltimore City (lower right)

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Established by the Maryland General Assembly, the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission (Commission) makes recommendations on growth and development issues and celebrates smart growth achievements throughout the state. Commission members, who represent state and local government, business, and nonprofit organizations, consider how to continue and improve on Maryland's implementation of laws and regulations concerning growth and development. Commission members also promote planning coordination and interjurisdictional cooperation.

Due to the pandemic, the Growth Commission curtailed its meeting schedule and held two virtual meetings in 2020. Additionally, the bulk of the Commission's detailed studies are handled by its standing workgroups: Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO); Education; Reinvest Maryland; and Rural Economies. The activities of the workgroups will be transitioned to existing groups and the Growth Awards will continue through the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) as the Commission sunsets at the end of 2020.

A Better Maryland



Following up on the Commission's 2019 endorsement of the new state development plan, *A Better Maryland*, pursuant to Governor Hogan's Executive Order to advise the Planning on the plan, the

Commission continued to engage with Planning to facilitate implementation of *A Better Maryland*. In FY20, the Commission reviewed and provided comments on Planning's new two new online tools: Housing Element Models & Guidelines and Solar Facility Siting Guidance. Preparation of the state development plan is the first of many significant milestones in the state planning process where local governments and other stakeholders will work collaboratively with state agencies to focus growth in our communities with available infrastructure and to preserve our agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.

Models & Guidelines: The Housing Element

Introduction

The Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) is the primary state agency responsible for reviewing comprehensive plans, providing technical assistance to complete them, and creating Models and Guidelines (M&G) to implement them. In response to Senate Bill (SB) 55 (2019), Planning is the central repository for all comprehensive plans and amendments and they are compiled on our Comprehensive Plans webpage. In this role, Planning collaborates with other state agencies and local staff at every step of the process — from community outreach efforts to plan implementation. As planning statutes change in Maryland, we seek to respond with expertise, resources, and guidance for communities.



St. Mary's County

Solar Facility Siting Guidance

Introduction

Note: Planning's Solar Facility Siting Guidance webpage currently focuses mainly on utility-scale solar facility siting issues. Future updates will include information on community-scale and residential-scale solar facility siting issues.

From a local government perspective, utility-scale solar facilities (those that are larger than two megawatts) are a relatively new land use. Solar facilities help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, but also have the potential to consume significant amounts of farmland and forest land. The Governor's Task Force on Renewable Energy Development and Siting Interim Report (December 2019) estimates that 29,276 acres, including 26,348 acres of farmland, could be consumed between 2020 and 2030 by utility-scale solar facilities.



2020 Sustainable Growth Awards¹

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards celebrate significant achievement by individuals, businesses, organizations, and local governments. The awards promote exemplary work that represents or inspires collaboration, innovation, conservation, community impact, and quality of life.

On October 5, 2020, the Commission held its eighth annual Sustainable Growth Awards ceremony. Due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually with more than 50 people attending online. Commission Vice-Chair Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti served as the master of ceremonies and featured Planning Secretary Robert McCord and Housing Assistant Secretary Carol Gilbert. The Commission recognized six individuals, organizations, and projects that contributed to sustainability and smart growth in Maryland. Secretary McCord remarked that the recipients characterize the resourcefulness, imagination, and originality that makes Maryland a leader in cultural preservation, community and economic development, and environmental stewardship.

The Commission recognized the following for their 2020 awards:

Jacquelyn Cornish - For more than 45 years, Cornish has been a leader in making Baltimore's neighborhoods more sustainable. A founding member of the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation and currently the Chair of the Board of Directors' Executive Committee, she helped West Baltimore residents achieve their dreams in owning a home and led many other community development initiatives.

Regina Hammond - As ReBuild Johnston Square's president, Hammond worked with residents of the Johnston Square neighborhood to clean up and rejuvenate Henrietta Lacks Park and promote a resurgence in the Johnston Square neighborhood, attracting investment to new and rehabbed homes and revitalizing green spaces.

The Town of Betterton has been involved in several projects during the past two years to make the town a more sustainable place to live and to visit. The town worked diligently to significantly reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in the Chesapeake Bay, while upgrading the town's infrastructure, beautifying the community, and developing an action plan for its future.



Metro Heights at Mondawmin - Constructed by Enterprise Homes (now Enterprise Community Development), Metro Heights is a LEED Gold building at the highly visible intersection of Liberty Heights Avenue and Reisterstown Road, a landmark project that speaks to the positive future of the city and the neighborhood by making a transformative impact in the Mondawmin community.

The Sudlersville Community Laundromat - This project brought together Sudlersville, Queen Anne's County, and public school officials and civic leaders to address a serious issue in their community - the lack of adequate public laundromat facilities. Creating a public laundromat also created a place for children to learn and be mentored.

Mallows-Bay Potomac River - National Marine Sanctuary - This sanctuary was designated as one of 18 such sanctuaries in the United States through a multi-year, collaborative and community-based process, led by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with state, local, and community partners. A largely undeveloped landscape and waterscape, Mallows Bay is considered one of the most ecologically valuable areas in Maryland.



Videos detailing each award-winning project may be viewed on Planning's website at:
<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/YourPart/773/MSGC-Awards-2020.aspx>

2020 Sustainable Growth Challenge

Winners

The Commission held its sixth Sustainable Growth Challenge in FY20 to engage college students from across the state in planning, sustainability, and reinvestment initiatives. The competition enables students to conduct community planning exercises, analyze economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable growth, and develop creative community solutions. In February 2020, all student teams presented their submitted projects to the Commission's Education Workgroup, which considered the strength of the submissions and presentations before deciding on the winners. The three winners of this year's competition then presented their projects at the Commission's May meeting. The FY20 Challenge winners are:

Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Towns - University of Maryland, College Park

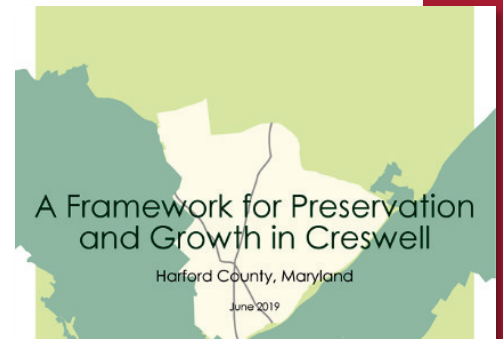
In the 2019 fall semester, University of Maryland's (UMD) Historic Preservation Studio class worked with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Prince George's County to create a heritage trail and comprehensive guide linking the communities of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven in the southern part of the county. The students' proposed trail will teach its users about Maryland's past contributions to the tobacco economy, its rural communities during reconstruction, and the need for more recreational opportunities for African Americans during segregation. The completed product provides a cohesive and navigable narrative of life and culture in the area and promotes economic growth through heritage tourism in each of the three communities.



CHANGING LANDSCAPES
FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND · STUDIO 2019

A Framework for Preservation and Growth in Creswell - University of Maryland, College Park

This project was the product of a graduate planning course at the University of Maryland in spring 2019. Seven graduate planning students worked in collaboration with Harford County to develop, model, and analyze alternative futures for Creswell, a rural community adjacent to Harford County's Development Envelope and the I-95 corridor.



Long Life for Long Branch: Tools to Preserve Independent Retailers- University of Maryland, College Park

Through a collaboration with the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability at the National Center for Smart Growth, the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department commissioned this report from students in the Master of Community Planning program at the University of Maryland. Long Life for Long Branch: Tools to Preserve Independent Retailers is a toolkit that proposes a series of tactics to promote social equity and ensure that existing independent businesses in Long Branch, many of them minority-owned, can thrive along with new Metro Purple Line Transit-Oriented Development. Building upon previous studies and ongoing community and county-led efforts, the course focused on an inclusive economic development strategy that would make use of zoning, financing, technical support, and real estate development to support the sustainability of Long Branch businesses into the future.



a long life for long branch
tools to preserve independent retailers

Carrie Anderson-Watters, Arma Brinley, Will Duggan, Ellen Kortesoja, Lily Mumen, Kari Nye
Supervised by: Bobby Boono, AICP, LEED AP

Information about the 2020 Sustainable Challenge Winners can be viewed on Planning's website at:

<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/YourPart/773/sgchallenge-2020.aspx>





Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission
Susan Summers, Chair
Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti, Vice Chair

301 W.Preston St., 11th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
Planning.Maryland.gov • (410) 767-4500 • (877) 767-6272
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FOR THE BETTER

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Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Maryland
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