



**HELPING COMMUNITIES INVEST TODAY FOR A MORE LIVABLE TOMORROW**

## Press Release

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**Contact:** Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager, Sustainable Maryland, 301-405-7956, [mikeh75@umd.edu](mailto:mikeh75@umd.edu)

# Town of Brunswick Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

**College Park, MD (October 14, 2021)** – The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that **the Town of Brunswick** was one of twelve Maryland municipalities honored at the **Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony** at the Maryland Municipal League’s annual Fall Conference on Tuesday. **This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sustainable Maryland program.**

**A detailed summary of Brunswick’s sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.**

### **Highlights of Brunswick’s accomplishments include:**

- The Town’s Conservation District ordinance was developed to protect Brunswick’s historic properties from demolition and modifications that would detract from their historic character. The ordinance has been in effect since December 2020, and provides design guidelines for property owners to follow if and when they maintain or modify affected buildings.
- In the process of implementing electric vehicle charging stations in town to support citizens and visitors with electric vehicles.
- Cultivated a 100% volunteer run Food Forest to provide fresh, local, and affordable food for the community.
- Hosted a Brunswick Clean-Up day in 2020 and collected over 52 bags of litter, 17 oversized garden bags of weeds, and 250 cigarette butts.

“I am ecstatic to hear that the City of Brunswick will once again be Sustainable Maryland Certified,” said **Mayor Nathan Brown**. “One of the first steps I took coming into office was bringing on our intern Maya Zambrano-Lee to help review the City’s sustainability efforts and the Sustainable Maryland actions. Achieving and maintaining the Sustainable Maryland Certification sends strong messaging that, as a community, we care about the environment and are committed to doing our part.”

According to **Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland**, “During the first 10 years of the Sustainable Maryland program, if we have learned anything, it’s that reducing our footprint on where we live, be it a town, a county, a state or the planet, is vital to our continuation as a species. The work being done at the local level forms a foundation, by example and by action, for upward pressure on governments at all levels to take action to make our communities greener, cleaner and more resilient.”

**The attached photo shows (from left) Green Team member Violet Williams and Councilman Andy St. John with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference.**

**Also attached is Brunswick’s Sustainable Maryland Certified logo.**

**For detailed information about Brunswick’s sustainability initiatives**, please contact Carrie Myers, City Clerk, [assistant@brunswickmd.gov](mailto:assistant@brunswickmd.gov), 301-834-750

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**Sustainable Maryland Certification:** To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials; complete a variety sustainability-related Actions worth **a total of at least 150 points** (including two mandatory actions and two of six priority actions), and submit the appropriate documentation as evidence that the Sustainable Maryland Certified requirements have been satisfied. The Sustainable Maryland Action Menu can be seen here: <https://sustainablemaryland.com/certification/actions>

**The complete list of 2021 newly certified (denoted by \*) and re-certified communities includes:**

**Berlin** (*first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015 and 2018*)

**Brunswick** (*first certified in 2015*)

**Cheverly** (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017*)

**Cottage City** (*first certified in 2018*)

**Emmitsburg** (*first certified in 2015; re-certified 2018*)

**\*Glen Echo** (*NEW!*)

**\*La Plata** (*NEW!*)

**Laurel** (*first certified 2015; re-certified 2018*)

**Mount Rainier** (*first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015 and 2018*)

**North Beach** (*first certified in 2017*)

**Poolesville** (*first certified in 2015, re-certified in 2018*)

**Rockville** (*2020 Sustainability Champion - highest point total; first certified 2012, re-certified in 2015 and 2018*)

**Our 2021 Sustainability Champion:** This year’s Sustainability Champion is **the City of Rockville** which amassed an impressive 600 points on their application, more than any other community in 2021.

**A full report on each certified community's Actions can be viewed here:**  
<https://sustainablemaryland.com/certification/participating-communities>

**Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2021 (10th year of the program):**

- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: **40 (26% of Maryland's municipalities)**
- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: **85 (54% of Maryland's municipalities)**

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**About Sustainable Maryland:** Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the **Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland** that is designed to support Maryland's 157 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect their natural assets and revitalize their communities. Using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food, and economy, a municipality can earn points toward sustainability certification. **Sustainable Maryland** offers a customizable menu of concrete actions, allowing communities to select initiatives that best fit their specific needs. This free and voluntary program, with the support of the **Maryland Municipal League and the US Environmental Protection Agency** helps communities choose a direction for their greening efforts; complete their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, expert guidance, and other resources; and be recognized statewide for their accomplishments. For more information about Sustainable Maryland: [www.sustainablemaryland.com](http://www.sustainablemaryland.com)

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