

## Low Impact & Sustainable Development Initiatives

No	Initiative	County Priority
1	Make use of Green Streets, such as those already in place in Portland and Seattle and make Green Streets a Design requirement in development districts. Green streets are characterized as having vegetated swales capable of handling, channeling, and filtering runoff, narrow roadways, landscaping, and pervious roadway materials.	6.9
14	Require all new development or re-development projects to have storm water and runoff characteristics equivalent to forested land.	7.7
9	Encourage re-development of existing structures for new businesses or industries versus clearing land and building new.	7.7
3	Establish tax credits (or impact fee credits) to residential and commercial building owners and tenants of eligible buildings and tenant spaces which meet "green" standards. Green standards include but are not limited to those that increase energy efficiency, improve indoor air quality and reduce the environmental impact of commercial and residential buildings in the county.	9.1
13	Enact legislation to permit use of recycled water from approved treatment plants for use in irrigation, lawn watering and car and airplane washing.	9.4
10	Increase Incentives for builders to plan and build environmentally friendly communities and create tax incentives for homebuyers that purchase these properties.	9.4
5	Require new home construction or additions larger than 300 sq. ft. to incorporate a certain number of "green" building practices (to be developed based on existing standards from LEED, NAHB, GREENGLOBE, etc.) in order to get a building permit. For remodeling or additions less than 300 sq. ft., offer guidance and encouragement.	10.3
2	Allow higher density of development when green methods are used (such as nationally recognized Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) methods/standards). Development at higher density with Green characteristics will reduce overall footprint.	10.9
16	Include safe bike path in any major road construction.	11.5
18	Ban open air burning.	11.5
8	Increase public education and make workshops available to increase use of green methods on a residential level.	11.7
17	Coordinate curbside pick-up of recyclables for the whole County.	11.9

11 Create Credits and/or Incentives for recycling programs for businesses.	12.0
27 Identify and contact coastal county residents in homes greater than 25 years old, and inform them of opportunity to reduce excess nitrogen in the waters by upgrading to best septic tank technology - via state grants and the Bay Restoration Fund.	12.3
23 Establish and fund a citizens committee to review those permitting processes of the county having environmental impacts and the citizens and county's interface with the Critical Area Commission (CAC) with a view towards evaluating fairness, ease of citizen interface, and environmental and property rights issues.	12.3
24 Encourage local nurseries to promote native species; similarly, encourage commercial and residential developers to plant with native species and include rain gardens.	12.4
12 Change plumbing code to require dual flush toilets.	12.6
20 Encourage the use of pervious concrete and pervious pavers towards credit for stormwater calculations.	12.6
15 Reinstate anonymous reporting of suspected zoning ordinance environmentally related violations. Keep a record of those making frivolous or nuisance reports.	12.7
6 Create/Facilitate partnerships with local building supplies companies to carry environmentally friendly home products and construction materials. Establish tax credits for those businesses that do carry environmentally friendly products and materials.	12.9
29 Implement best environmental management practices for mowed grass on County and school lands at optimum environmental heights to reduce rapid stormwater runoff. Encourage the state to do the same.	13.1
4 Set up a building design review committee (composition to be determined) to improve energy performance of buildings beyond minimum requirements whether included in retrofits to existing buildings or incorporated into new buildings. Provide design guidance at no cost.	13.2
7 Expand grant programs for people who want to "test the system" in their own homes by adding or creating green features. These people would be testing the county and state laws, regulations, and policies.	13.4
21 Follow the example of other MD communities by requiring all buildings over 10,000 square feet to achieve LEED "Silver" Certification.	13.4
28 Encourage the implementation of best environmental management practices for woodlots 5 acres or more, especially larger tracts, using the Maryland Tree Farm Program as a base and with the consequential tax benefits of the tree farm program.	13.5
26 Develop/provide collection point for disposing of expired/un-needed medical drugs.	13.6
22 Encourage local officials, agencies & staff to join the following organizations: US Green Building Council: <a href="http://www.usgbc.org/">http://www.usgbc.org/</a> ; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability: <a href="http://www.iclei.org/">http://www.iclei.org/</a> ; and, Local Government Commission: <a href="http://www.lgc.org/about/index.html">http://www.lgc.org/about/index.html</a> .	13.8
19 Develop a local inter-agency work group to develop procedures for implementing municipal wastewater reclamation.	14.0

- 30 Encourage the best environmental management practices for mowed grass on private lands by providing guidelines that stress optimum environmental heights for private and commercial property lawns. 14.0
- 25 Provide "dog doo" collection bags at county parks and public recreation areas; post signs to require dog owners to collect pet waste. 14.6