

COE agenda 12-2-15

Creative Financing for Sustainability Projects

-The day-long training event that I attended on November 18th was informative. There were a number of people from Sustainable Maryland-certified communities. They showed the projects that they had completed as well as projects in the pipeline. Some interesting projects included strategically placed rain gardens to prevent flooding in the streets as well as simple beautification projects involving native plants. The event also explained some key strategies to consider while writing grants to allocate funds/resources for projects. There was even another representative from St. Mary's (Land Use and Growth Management to be specific) present that was seeking information regarding the pursuit of charging stations for electric cars. We have been in correspondence since regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan for the St. Mary's-Calvert Metropolitan Planning Organization. It was my recommendation to consider park-n-ride lots placed in strategic places to cut down on Base traffic. I recommended Calloway, California/Hollywood, and Solomons as possible sites, and further recommended the Base shuttle buses from these lots onto Base as I have previously discussed. We thought it would be neat if our ideas were combined and the park-n-ride lots had solar panels to cover cars and charge electric vehicles as well as power lights in the parking lots. Mike Hunninghake was present, and I had the opportunity to speak to him about coming down and presenting at the college. He is on board, so I have contacted Barry Muchnick, the professor in charge of the new Environmental Studies major at St. Mary's, and we will try to determine a date early next semester to host Mr. Hunninghake. Also, Paul had mentioned in an email that he had two ideas for non-profits, and hopefully he will share those with us at the meeting, and as requested, here is a link to some of the resources they have posted: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/grants-resources/>

Composting

-I have continued to communicate with the student researching composting facilities, and the research seems to be going well. I asked her to come up with the processing capabilities of various facilities that she has researched and determine the square acreage of each facility. With this, we can determine what size and type of facility would be necessary for the amount of compostable material we produce in our county. She met with Nick Zurkan, the county's Recycling Coordinator, to determine the amount of compostable material we produce. This way, we can determine the necessary size for a pilot project, but also the necessary size if we wanted to expand the program to include as much as we produce overall, including commercial and residential. Gordon sent out a link to a NYC Master Composter program, and we actually have a Master Composter program in Maryland, so this is certainly an avenue to be considered.

COE website

-I contacted Sue with regards to posting online agendas. She has not finished the training, but will seek the remainder when she returns to the office on Thursday. Once our website is updated, I will pursue publishing an article in local news outlets as we discussed at the last meeting. This could be crucial to raising public support, which is very important in the eyes of our Commissioners.

Earth Day

-Earth Day will undoubtedly sneak up on us again this year, so I think we should start discussing some ideas for our stand. I would like to bring back some of the resources from last year and add to them. New ideas that we have discussed include composting, possibly handing out bins at a reduced price to residents. Let's see if we can think of some more or expand upon the old displays.