



City of Takoma Park Maryland

Gina Mathias

Sustainability Manager

Forever Maryland Conference

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City Characteristics

- Two square miles
- In Montgomery County, bordering DC and Prince George's County
- 17,000 residents
 - 43% White; 34% Black; 14% Hispanic or Latino; 4% Asian; 5% other
- 7,000 housing units
- Older homes, large historic district
- Regional investor owned utilities



Best Practices & Trends

- Make climate & equity central in all Plans
- City Council adopt measurable goals
- All departments should be working on sustainability goals
- Cities, states, and counties moving towards mandatory energy efficiency standards, electrification
- Mapping and data to inform plans and resource distribution
- Competition motivates
- Rebates get stale, limited time enhancements and deadlines can invigorate
- Harness the co-benefits of health, indoor air quality, comfort, cost savings
- Process & advice coach impactful

Takoma Park's Efforts



- Climate Action Planning
 - Goal “net zero” by 2035 city wide
 - Environmental & racial equity consideration for all City Council actions
 - Climate Emergency Declaration & Response Framework
 - Climate and Sustainability Action Plan
 - Climate Resiliency and Adaptation Plan
- Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation
 - Tree protection & canopy management
 - Stormwater management
 - Safe Grow law

Takoma Park's Efforts



- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
 - Buildings HVAC & lighting upgrades
 - LED Streetlight conversion
 - Energy coaching, education, solar co-ops
 - Incentive & assistance programs
 - Curbside food waste collection, waste diversion
- Polystyrene, Straw, and Bag bans

A Community of Change Makers



- Two farmers markets
- Zero waste plastic-free shop
- Reusable take-out container system
- Country's first gas station to convert to an all EV charging station
- Community fridges with free meals
- Plus many activist groups



Zero Waste Take-Out

www.paradigm2go.com

All-out Outreach Key to Success

- Canvassing, community ambassadors, and contractor relationships essential to connecting with hard to reach residents
- Festivals, workshops, and unique pop-up events
- Neighborhood meetings in people's homes for meaningful engagement
- Traditional Media – mailings, CityTV episodes, newsletter articles, “viral” videos, tabling, radio, local news, social
- Regional partners – County, municipalities, MWCOG, informal collaboration groups, USDN, MEA, US DOE



Contact Information

Gina Mathias

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301-891-7623

ginam@takomaparkmd.gov

