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**Town council meetings are the second  
Wednesday of every month, with no council  
meeting occurring in August.**

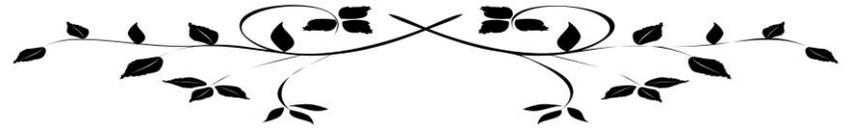
**Green Team meetings are the third Wednesday of  
every month, with no council meeting occurring  
in August.**

**Join our Green Team to learn more about  
our green initiatives!**

**More Information Available at: [www.edmonstonmd.gov](http://www.edmonstonmd.gov)**

# THE EDMONSTON GREEN AGENDA

"GREEN" IS NOT JUST OUR TOWN COLOR. IT'S A WAY OF LIFE!



## The Edmonston Green Street Plan

Edmonston Green Streets are environmentally-responsible public spaces, from the tree canopy overhead to the storm water system underground. Edmonston's first Green Street, Decatur Street, was constructed and dedicated to national attention in 2009. Edmonston is currently planning an expansion of our Green Street network to include Lafayette Place, Ingraham Street, and 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

As a result of our location on the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River and having experienced years of devastating flooding from uncontrolled stormwater runoff, our community decided to take full responsibility for our impact on our environment. Because of the town's commitment to smart green infrastructure, the people of the town will enjoy savings on energy and infrastructure costs, mitigation of flood damage, and a beautiful asset that will last for generations.

The Decatur Green Street project was recognized by the Obama White House, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and others. If our little working-class town can accomplish a project like this, other communities - of any size - can too. We all have the power to be great stewards of our environment.

Since Decatur Street's dedication in 2010, numerous other organizations and communities have launched green street programs, including many along the Anacostia River.



**Native tree canopy:** Species of large trees that once flourished in this area, including oaks, maples and sycamores, have been restored as much as possible. A large canopy will increase the natural filtration of airborne pollutants, attract more watershed birds to diversify our local ecosystem and keep insects under control. The canopy also provides more shade to decrease the 'urban heat island' effect. Smaller plantings, including shrubs and flowers native to Maryland, are prevalent.

## What things can you do to be green at your house?

- Turn down the temperature on your hot water tank, until you can shower using only hot.
- Turn down the house temperature by 2 degrees in the winter and up 2 degrees in the summer. Try to keep it below 68 in the winter, and above 78 in the summer.
- Open windows on cool summer nights. Close windows in the morning before it gets hot out.
- Turn off lights when you are not in the room.
- Keep ceiling fans turned on only when you are in the room.
- Turn off vents in rooms that are not being used and close the door.
- Use cold water to wash clothes, not hot.
- Use a clothesline to dry your clothes.
- Flush your hot water heater and vacuum your refrigerator coils once a year.
- Remove dryer lint after each load to make your clothes dryer more efficient.
- Change your light bulbs to energy efficient bulbs.
- Install a rain barrel to collect rain water and reuse the water to wash your car or water your lawn.
- Plant a rain garden using native plants.
- Walk or bike along the streets and trails throughout town.
- Buy your energy power from a clean power company such as Clean Currents.
- Schedule an energy audit to learn about other money saving energy efficient measures you can do in your home.
- Consider a white roof and/or a solar hot water system.

**Rain Barrels** have been installed at the Town Hall to help capture stormwater runoff from the roof. This rainwater is stored and used to water the surrounding plants during dry spells.



**Green Educational Center:**

Interactive Green Informational Kiosk at the Town Hall introduces energy saving programs and eco-friendly ideas to visitors and schools.

**Other Green Features in the Town:**

- **Bio-retention Ponds** have been installed throughout the Town. The Anacostia River is one of more than 150 rivers that drain into the Chesapeake Bay, drawing its water from a densely populated and extremely polluted watershed. The pollution comes from a variety of sources, including storm water that runs off roads and other impermeable surfaces. In the Town of Edmonston, the storm water has caused flooding that has damaged homes and forced residents to evacuate.

- Students at the University of Maryland have worked with local officials to create a bio-retention facility aimed at improving the environmental health and water quality of the Anacostia River. Bio-retention facilities direct storm water into a basin and allow it to slowly soak into the ground where layers of soil and water-loving plants naturally filter and remove pollutants. Bio-retention facilities, such as this one at the Edmonston Recreation Center, help lead to a cleaner and healthier Anacostia River.



- Edmonston has milled and repaved feeder streets to create additional bike lanes to join the Anacostia River Bike Trail System.
- Edmonston participates in a municipal collaboration with neighboring towns to provide energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits to low-income residents.
- All energy purchased by the Town is 100% clean wind energy.

**Efficient Street Lighting powered by clean energy:**

New high-efficiency LED streetlights use 70% less energy than traditional streetlights, resulting in substantial saving. Also, the Town purchases wind energy rather than dirty and unhealthy power from coal burning.



**Walking, Running and Biking:**

The streets and sidewalks are accommodating to walkers, runners and bikers. Decatur Street connects to the Anacostia Hiker/Biker Trail which in turn connects to the National Arboretum, the National Mall and the C&O Canal Trail. The more we use legs, feet and pedals to get around, the greener (and healthier) we are.

**Stormwater Bio-retention and Filtration:**

This is the most critical part of the green street. Virtually all of the pollution that is killing our waterways comes from stormwater, or rain runoff, which washes trash and pollutants from parking lots, streets and farms into storm drains, rivers, and finally into the Bay, killing crabs, oysters, wildlife, and jobs. Therefore, the street is designed to divert stormwater away from storm drains and the sewer system to specially landscaped areas along the street.



These bio-retention cells, or rain gardens, look like regular roadside green spaces, with trees and plants, but serve a very important function in the ecosystem by allowing the water to be filtered naturally through the ground. Permeable pavement in certain areas also allows water to flow into the ground. Overall, the street will capture the first 1.33 inches of rainfall during a storm, which means about 90% of all rain showers in a typical year are

completely filtered. The rain gardens treat 62% of the street, and the permeable pavement of the bike lanes treats an additional 28%. These innovations make the Anacostia River (as well as the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay) a little bit cleaner. The upcoming green streets projects are in an industrial part of town, so bio-retention and filtration are especially important.

**Stormwater Management:**

**Rain gardens** have been planted along streets throughout town, as well as at the Town Hall. A properly designed and installed rain garden captures stormwater and allows it to slowly soak into the ground. Layers of soil and water-loving plants naturally filter and remove pollutants.



A rain garden can absorb several times more rainwater than a lawn. Rain gardens are easy to maintain, and after the plants are well-established rarely require watering. In a well-designed rain garden, the water soaks into the soil within 24 hours, too quickly for mosquitoes to hatch and grow. The more rain gardens in your yard, the less lawn you have to weed, feed, and mow. Rain gardens also attract and create a habitat for hummingbirds and butterflies.

**“Don’t Dump” Storm Drain Marking:**

Storm drains throughout town have been clearly labeled to encourage residents not to dump refuse since the storm drain system discharges directly into the Anacostia, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay.



**Community Garden:**

Buying locally grown produce – or even better, growing your own – is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and be more environmentally conscious. Edmonston has a community garden on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue that provides residents with space to grow their own fruits and vegetables. Space in the garden rotates and is awarded by lottery. Edmonston also has a fruit forest.



**Street Furniture:**

The green street features eco-friendly trash and recycling receptacles and benches; all are made of recycled materials.



**Solar-Powered Trash and Recycling Compactors:**

Along with the aforementioned trash and recycling receptacles, Edmonston has also installed solar-powered trash and recycling compactors.

**Green Street Walking Tour:**

Decatur Street also includes a "walking tour" of interpretative signs that describe the environmental features of the street to educate residents, students, and the public. The engineering plans and design concepts are shared as an "open source", available online, so others can utilize, replicate and improve upon the ideas in our project. Our hope is that green streets soon become commonplace.

**Town Hall Energy Audit:**

An energy audit was completed for the Town Hall and Police Station and the following recommendations were implemented:

- All fluorescent light bulbs have been upgraded to energy-saving models that are more efficient.
- All exterior building and parking lot lighting changed to LED lighting.
- An Eco-Star energy-saving white roof was installed. A white roof absorbs less heat than a dark roof, meaning lower air conditioning bills.
- Solar panels were installed on the Town Hall, providing sustainable energy to the building.



### **Green Fleet:**

- Electric police and code enforcement vehicles were purchased to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.
- An electric car was purchased for maintenance and planning workers to use around town.



### **Pet Waste Stations:**

The Town of Edmonston and the Prince George's County Department of the Environment collaborated to install numerous pet waste stations around town. Each station comes with bags, a disposal box, and instructions for use.

### **Residential Solar Panels:**

The Town has partnered with Solar United Neighbors of Maryland (MD SUN) and the Prince George's County Department of the Environment to provide the residents of Edmonston the opportunity to join a co-op for the purchase of solar energy. Several residents have also chosen to have their own solar panels installed.



### **Weatherization**

A weatherization grant with the Prince George's Community Collaborative offers weatherization grants to eligible homeowners in the Port Towns. Edmonston has had a number of residents take advantage of a free energy audit, free appliance upgrade and overall improvements in the weatherization of homes.

### **Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL)**

The Town of Edmonston is part of the Healthy Eating, Active Living Cities & Towns Campaign. The campaign's goal is to promote healthy eating and active living in Maryland and

Virginia's cities and towns by providing free technical assistance to local government leaders to create environments that encourage these behaviors.

The HEAL campaign envisions a community where residents have access to affordable, healthy foods and where active lifestyles are encouraged and supported. In this way we can work to halt, and ultimately reverse, the growing trend of overweightness and obesity, and the related rise in preventable diseases like diabetes and heart disease.

**Green Activity Booklet:**

The Town has developed a bilingual activity booklet that will educate residents about the impacts of stormwater runoff and the connection between their communities and natural resources.



**Welcome Bags:**

Edmonston has created welcome bags for new residents of the Town. Each bag includes the green activity booklet, information from America in Bloom, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Pepco, the Prince George's County government, and Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA). Each bag also includes information about pollinator gardens, purchasing solar, and the Edmonston town government, as well as a reusable bag to encourage residents to reduce their use of disposable plastic bags.

**Sustainable Maryland**

In 2013 and again in 2016, the Town of Edmonston was certified by Sustainable Maryland as a bronze-level community. In addition to other green actions mentioned in this booklet, Edmonston got points for its Little Free Libraries program, local purchasing preference policy, and recognition of local businesses who put forth extra effort to improve or give back to the community.

