

**Kensington Green Team Meeting
November 21, 2022
Town Hall – Town Council Room
Notes**

Introductions of participants

- Nate Engle, Ann Lichter, Ben Levy, Karen Fadely Craig, Shae McCloskey, Olwen Logan, Daphne Wegner, Carolyn Morrissey, Katherine Wood, Kate DeWitt, Tracey Furman, Mike Hunninghake (invited speaker)

1. Sustainable MD Training and Inventory Review with Mike Hunninghake

- Provided overview of Sustainable Maryland and administered the first Kensington Green Team training.
- Program Benefits:
 - Technical Assistance (connections with state agencies, nonprofits)
 - UMD student/faculty resources
 - Grants portal
 - Peer to peer leadership network
 - Community modeling - sharing examples
 - Statewide recognition
- All certification reports are on the website and searchable
- Campus-Community Connection at UMD – connect class projects with municipalities (Andy Fellows is the coordinator)
- 2/8 priority actions and actions in 4 of 10 categories for Bronze - 150 points; 4/8 priority actions and actions in 6 of 10 categories for Silver - 400 points.
- FAQs on actions:
 - Any action must have some connection to the municipality
 - Events should be within 12 months of application (want to embed it into the ongoing operations of the municipality)
 - Planning documents should be less than 6 years old, or updated within that time
 - No timeline for certification
 - Towns must reapply for re-certification every 3 years
 - Website application – deadline June 30 each year
 - Each action is documented with a text box (300 words max) and uploaded documents (up to 6).
- Green Team formation: Think about diversity in membership. Schools, businesses, public health officials, congregations. Monthly meetings, sub-committees for specific actions, etc. Develop an Action Plan. Trainings – Green Teams and Local Elected Officials.
- Certification strategy:
 - Assess actions we have already completed – inventory [already done and discussed later in the evening].
 - Identify actions we wish to undertake

- Rank actions difficulties and duration
- Identify potential funding sources
- Recruit volunteers, assign projects
- Track progress, update Green Team regularly
- Get the word out – publicize our efforts
- Apply June 30th; July/Aug/first half of Sept reviewing applications
- Every application gets 2 reviews; post comments, then we read and revise, then goes to external reviewers at UMD/other nonprofits, etc. to provide comments, a week or so to fine tune and finalize.
- Walked through the inventory spreadsheet a subset of our Green Team put together over the past few weeks in preparation for the meeting/training with Mike. Some we thought were already achieved are likely not applicable (e.g., historic ordinances), while others not necessarily flagged were identified by Mike as likely completed and/or identified during the discussion. Likely already have at least 170 points (150 points needed for Bronze certification) – just missing two priority actions.
- Discussed other potential actions we should consider. Mike insisted that we apply to MD Smart Energy Community Program – easiest access to money for support. We will undoubtedly get funded because ToK has never applied. Could proceed as follows:
 - Baseline year municipal carbon footprint - provide UMD students with all the bills and the data, they will put together report
 - Must apply for the MD Smart Energy Community Program, funds:
 - Renewable energy - solar for Town Hall, etc.
 - Energy efficiency - lights/furnace/HVAC
 - Transportation fuel reduction (pass resolution pledging to lower fuel)
 - Energy audits
- Advice for process moving forward:
 - No rush, but we can aim for bronze certification now and also move towards silver at the same time. Action plan can incorporate goal setting for silver certification too.
 - Survey could be done to know what the priority actions are from the community. To inform the Action Plan. And poll people for the big priorities – actions that would move us toward silver. Survey is required for the Action Plan.
 - GHG inventory and other ordinances, etc. may take longer, but can be important.

2. Next steps

- Ran out of time to discuss next steps, but agreed to discuss at our next meeting. Proposed meeting is **Thursday, January 12th, Town Hall**. To discuss the survey, Action Plan process, and firming up the inventory.
- Nate and Ann to share meeting notes, PPT from Mike, and excel shared file of the initial actions' inventory.
- We will upload documentation from the training as part of our certification application.