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Press Release

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Town of Kensington Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

College Park, MD (October 18, 2023) – The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the **Town of Kensington** was one of 16 Maryland municipalities honored at the **Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony** at the Maryland Municipal League’s annual Fall Conference this week. **This is the Town’s first certification in the Sustainable Maryland program. The Town was certified at the Bronze level.**

Highlights of Kensington’s accomplishments include:

- Starting in 2017, the Town of Kensington began a public art program. In the time since then, they have created eleven murals and eight wood carvings around town.
- In April 2023, the town launched a new program to provide free resident and business access to organic waste composting through a Community Composting Station in the parking lot of Town Hall. The site is maintained by Compost Crew*

"A year ago we decided to form Sustainable Kensington as a Town committee to pursue Sustainable Maryland designation," said **Mayor Tracey Furman**. "I'm extremely proud of how hard the handful of Town residents comprising Sustainable Kensington worked in this short time to achieve bronze level certification. The Town Council and I are very excited to implement our action plan over the next few years, which we fully expect will position us for achieving silver status."

According to **Mike Hunninghake, Director of the Sustainable Maryland program**, "This year’s class of Sustainable Maryland Certified awardees represents a broad cross-section of the state, from rural to urban, small towns to large cities, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore. These municipalities are united in their mutual commitment to put sustainability at the forefront of their municipal agendas. We’re pleased to highlight their achievements and look forward to supporting their future efforts."

The attached photo shows (from left) Sustainable Kensington member Carolyn Morrissey, Mayor Tracey Furman, Councilmember Ann Lichter, and Councilmember/Sustainable Kensington member Nate Engle with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference.

Also attached is Kensington's Sustainable Maryland Certified logo.

For detailed information about Kensington's sustainability initiatives, please contact Alex Marini, Assistant Town Manager, Alex.Marini@tok.md.gov, 301-949-2424

Sustainable Maryland Certification: To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials; complete a variety sustainability-related Actions worth **a total of at least 150 points for Bronze level certification, or 400 points for Silver level certification,** and submit the appropriate documentation as evidence that the Sustainable Maryland Certified requirements have been satisfied. The Sustainable Maryland Action Menu can be seen here: <https://sustainablemaryland.com/certification/actions>

The complete list of 2023 newly certified (denoted by *) and re-certified communities includes:

Bel Air (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

Berwyn Heights (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

Boonsboro (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

***Charlestown** (*NEW*)

Chesapeake Beach (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

Chestertown (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

Frostburg (*first certified in 2017, re-certified in 2020, and 2023*)

Greenbelt (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

***Keedysville** (*NEW*)

***Kensington** (*NEW*)

Landover Hills (*first certified in 2020, re-certified in 2023*)

Mount Airy (*first certified in 2017, re-certified in 2020 and 2023*)

Riverdale Park (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

***Sykesville** (*NEW*)



University Park (*first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020, and 2023*)

***Washington Grove** (*NEW*)

Our 2023 Sustainability Champion: This year's Sustainability Champion is **the City of Greenbelt** which amassed an impressive 905 points on their application, more than any other community in 2023.

A full report on each certified community's Actions can be viewed here:
<https://sustainablemaryland.com/certification/participating-communities>

Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2023 (12th year of the program):

- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: **46 (29% of Maryland's municipalities)**
- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: **89 (57% of Maryland's municipalities)**

About Sustainable Maryland: Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the **Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland** that is designed to support Maryland's 157 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect their natural assets and revitalize their communities. Using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food, and economy, a municipality can earn points toward sustainability certification. **Sustainable Maryland** offers a customizable menu of concrete actions, allowing communities to select initiatives that best fit their specific needs. This free and voluntary program, with the support of the **Maryland Municipal League and the US Environmental Protection Agency** helps communities choose a direction for their greening efforts; complete their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, expert guidance, and other resources; and be recognized statewide for their accomplishments. For more information about Sustainable Maryland: www.sustainablemaryland.com

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