



The Sustainable Poolesville Committee submits the following recommendations to the Poolesville Planning Board to be included in their Comprehensive Plan Review:

1. The Town has proven the use of pervious pavement as an effective stormwater management tool. To the maximum extent possible, the Town should expand pervious pavement by re-paving all public parking areas as well as parking lots at Town parks and other town-owned properties. The Town should also encourage future builders/developers to consider pervious pavement for new streets and driveways.

The Town has looked for opportunities to work with the developers to implement pervious concrete, such as the sidewalk in the Westerly Grove Subdivision and the parking lot at the new tot lot at W. Willard.

2. The current LED streetlight replacement program should be continued so that all streetlights are upgraded by 2025. This will help reduce electricity use and lead to lower energy costs for the town. Further, the Town should make every effort to more systematically track electricity consumption by facility which could help the town identify further opportunities for energy savings.

This program has been completed, and all town-owned Streetlights are now LED.

3. As town-owned vehicles and other equipment near their end of useful life, the Town should evaluate the use of electric or hybrid models as replacements where practical, or, as a minimum, seek the most fuel-efficient models available. In addition, the town should undertake a means to accurately track fuel usage and annual mileage by vehicle for the current fleet in order to identify less-fuel-efficient units for earlier replacement. Looking toward the possibility of more town-owned electric vehicles in the future, the town should also consider installing EV charging stations at the Public Works facility.

Town Staff is continually looking at what the best and most fuel-efficient vehicles are for the town's fleet. The current generation of EVs does not fit the use cases for the town (Ford only makes Electric and Hybrid F-150s; the town primarily uses F-250s and F-350s). However, the Town has worked to replace some of our fuel-based tools and equipment and will continue to do so as equipment becomes available.

4. In an effort to ensure any further new growth in Poolesville is as sustainable as possible, the Town should consider requiring that builders offer home buyers sustainable options such as low-flow water fixtures, Energy Star appliances, high performance windows and doors, and efficient (LED) lighting. The Town should also encourage builders/developers to consider net-zero designs for residential buildings. A net-zero energy design means the total amount of energy used yearly

by a building is equal to or less than the amount of energy created onsite. Net-zero energy buildings are made possible through the use of innovative technologies and renewable (solar) power generation.

The County currently encourages the use of these types of energy-efficient products through tax incentives and other programs.

5. With Poolesville embarking on a downtown revitalization sometime in the future through the Fisher Avenue Streetscape design program, the Town should ensure the design includes features that would increase bicycle and pedestrian safety. Additional pedestrian-controlled crosswalks should be installed at high-foot traffic points along Fisher Avenue, especially near Poolesville Elementary School.

The Town has implemented some of these features, such as new Flashing light crosswalk signs at Wootton and Fisher, and the plan currently includes marked bike lanes and raised crosswalks.

6. The Town should ensure protection of pollinators by modeling pollinator-friendly practices. Where possible pollinator habitat should be restored and/or enhanced by designating areas to preserve as green space, and by planting local, native wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Large unused turf grass areas, such as in Dillingham Park and at the Town water pumping stations, should be considered for pollinator habitat or rain gardens.

The Town is working with a Boy Scout to add a pollinator patch at Stevens park, and the town has let other areas return to their natural state and will continue to look at opportunities to do so in town parks.

7. Climate change is a reality the Town will face in the near future, and everything possible must be done to mitigate the consequences. Therefore, to the maximum extent possible, the Town should take positive steps to adapt those portions of the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan having the greatest future impact on Poolesville residents and businesses.