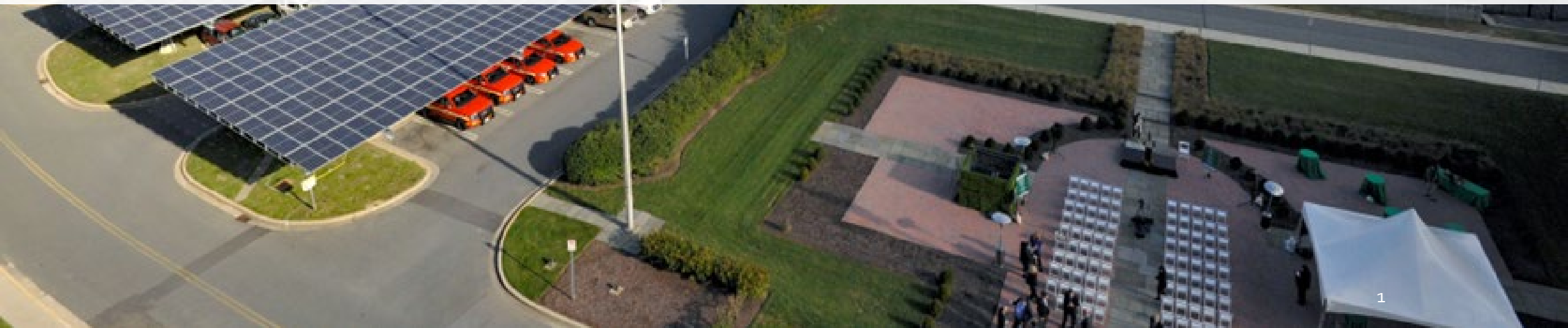


An aerial photograph of a suburban town with numerous houses and trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A solid blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

September 23, 2026



AGENDA

- I. Introduction
- II. Climate Action in Montgomery County Overview
- III. Climate Action Plan Implementation Highlights (for 2019-2026, Elrich Administration, and for FY25)
- IV. Questions



Electric Bus



CLIMATE ACTION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

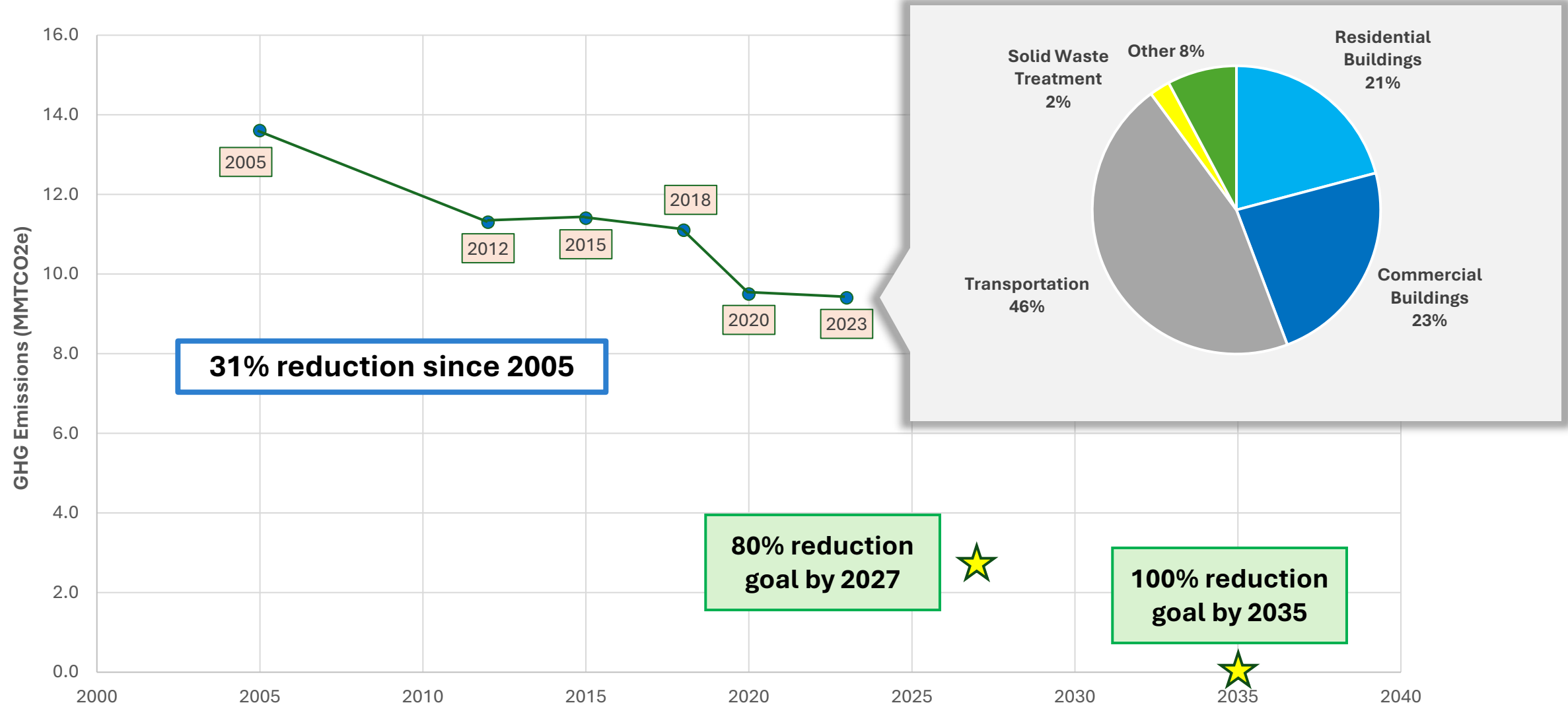


MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S GOAL TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE:

Reduce Countywide greenhouse gas emissions, climate change pollution, by 80% by 2027 and reaching 100% elimination by 2035.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S CLIMATE GOALS



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) 2023 Montgomery County GHG Inventory

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Building a Healthy, Equitable, Resilient Community

JUNE 2021



Climate Action Plan Overview

-  • **Clean Energy:** Montgomery County uses and invests in clean, reliable, affordable energy.
-  • **Buildings:** Montgomery County is home to resilient and efficient buildings.
-  • **Transportation:** Montgomery County safely, affordably, and sustainably moves people and connects places.
-  • **Carbon Sequestration:** Montgomery County has conserved and enhanced its nature-based solutions including forest, meadow, and wetland ecosystems, greenspaces and trees, while reversing carbon dioxide emissions.
-  • **Climate Adaptation:** Montgomery County is equipped with the resources and infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change.
-  • **Climate Governance:** Montgomery County is institutionalizing an organizational culture and structure that fosters creativity, cross-department collaboration and innovation to implement systemic climate solutions.
-  • **Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education:** Montgomery County's community members are empowered, engaged, and motivated to take action on climate change, while striving for equity among all members of the community.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



- Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report on Climate Action Plan: the County has started 80 of the 84 actions in the Climate Action Plan and made significant progress on, or completed, 63 actions.



- **Budget:** Since the release of Climate Action Plan in 2021, the County has added **\$153.5 million** in investments in climate action programs and initiatives to the budget.

CAP Year in Review Highlights

The Montgomery County Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the roadmap to cutting County wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 while becoming resilient to a changing climate.

BEPS

The County collaborated with the Maryland General Assembly to pass House Bill 49 to enhance the County's enforcement authority on the County Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) program.

In February 2025, the County Council approved Executive Regulation #17-23AM which established seven BEPS program parameters.

NET ZERO

Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) began construction of its first Net Zero Energy school.

12

Schools earned the 2025 Maryland Green Schools designation.

113

Schools are certified Green Schools.

CAP Project Progress Report

	Completed	Significant Progress	Initial Steps Taken	Not started
	17% (14/84)	58% (49/84)	20% (17/84)	5% (4/84)
Difference from last year	+7 (+8.7%)	+1 (+1%)	-5 (-6%)	-3 (-3%)

Carbon Sequestration

5065 trees were planted in the County:

2861
Planning



1675
DEP
529
Parks

Tree Montgomery celebrated its 10th year and has planted over 18,400 trees with 93% survival rate.

Mesonet stations

The County installed three Mesonet stations (advanced weather stations) as part of the Maryland State Mesonet Program.

Clean Energy

Solar was installed on 315 households through the Switch Together Program.

The Montgomery County Green Bank added 19.5 MW of clean energy, avoiding 11,193 metric tons of CO₂e emissions.

Transportation

A Zero Fare Policy

for all Ride On, Ride On extRa, Ride On Flex, and Flash buses was implemented.

The County and MCPS added more EVs to their fleets:

- 1 hybrid pick-up truck
- 75 new electric cars
- 7 electric cargo vans
- 44 used electric cars
- 4 plug-in hybrid vehicles
- 1 battery electric loader

Climate Funding

A total of over \$58 million climate-related grants in FY25 were awarded to County departments.

CLEAN ENERGY HIGHLIGHTS



EMTOC Bus Depot

2019-2026:

- **County Solar:** The percentage of County Government buildings' electricity use from on-site solar power increased from 0.6% in FY16 to 20.8% in FY26.
- **Residential Solar:** More than 1,000 households in Montgomery County have gone solar through the Switch Together group-buying program.

FY25:

- **Residential Solar:** The Green Bank launched a residential pilot with OneEthos/Climate First Bank, offering discounted financing for residential solar battery storage and roof replacements. Funds were deployed to 1,673 low- to moderate-income households, 37% in Equity Emphasis Areas.
- **County Solar:** Completed construction of the County's first police station microgrid at the 6th District Police Station, a net-zero building.
- **Schools:** Montgomery County Public Schools added new school sites with solar power purchase agreements that came online in FY25, bringing the total number of schools hosting rooftop solar to 24.

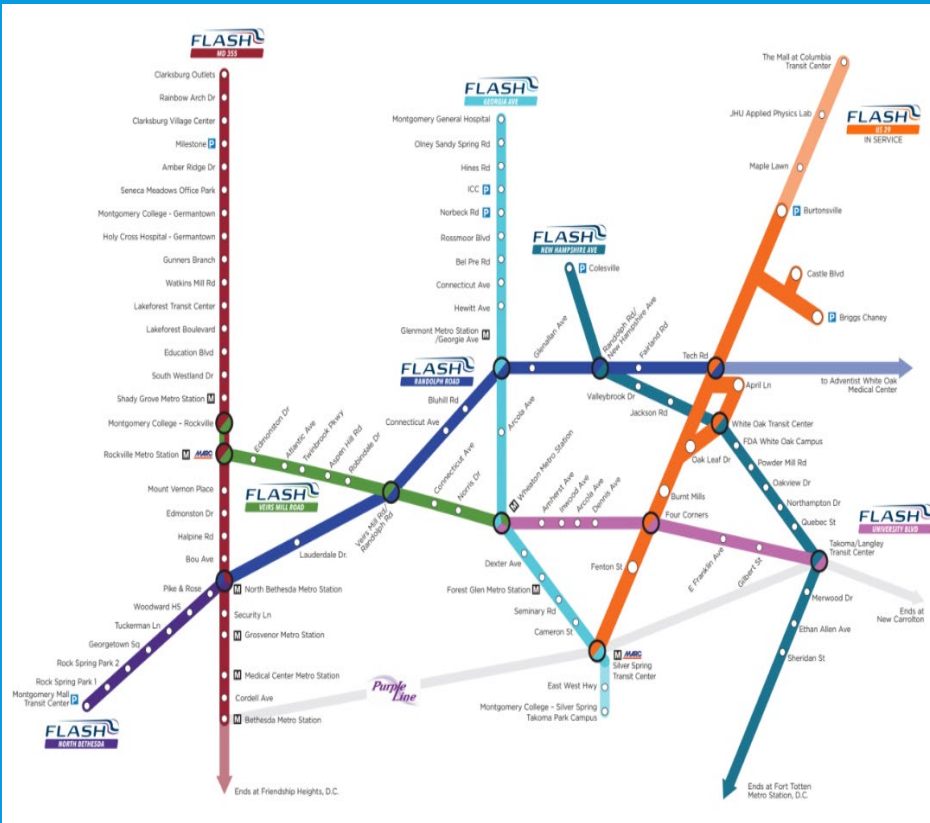
BUILDINGS HIGHLIGHTS (2019-2026)



Montgomery County Energy Summit

- **Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS):** requires 1900 buildings, encompassing over 236 million gross square feet of built area, to benchmark and report their energy use each year and meet building energy efficiency standards.
- Since 2019, 97% of these buildings have benchmarked consistently each year.
- **Building Code:** Adopted building codes for new construction that include electrification-ready language and new energy modeling methodology that sets Montgomery County on an aggressive but achievable path to Net-Zero over the next three code cycles.
- **Healthy, Efficient, Electrified, Climate-Adapted Pilot (HEECAP) Homes Grants Program:** to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, provide gap funding for health and safety repairs, and offer climate adaptations for low- and moderate-income homes in Montgomery County. In Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), DEP provided \$1.5 million to four competitively selected community partners to pilot various strategies to fix problems and improve the indoor environment.

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS (2019-2026)



- **Vehicle Registration:** The number of electric vehicles registered in the County grew from 9,374 in July 2020 to 49,097 as of July 2026.
- **Charging Ports:** The number of publicly accessible EV charging ports in Montgomery County has risen from 160 in 2019 to 967 in 2026.
- **Clean Buses:** 104 electric RideOn buses in service by 2026, reducing pollution in our communities. By the end of FY27, more than 35% of the RideOn bus fleet will be zero emission buses.
- Added five new bus routes, planned BRT network, Flash, currently operating on US 29.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION HIGHLIGHTS



2019-2026:

- **Tree planting:** 20,190 new shade trees on 4,200 properties planted by Tree Montgomery.

FY25:

- **Soil Conservation:** In FY25, County farmers practiced conservation tillage on 17,839 acres and cover cropping on 13,868 acres, reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 12,430 MTCO₂e through the use of these and other BMPs.
- **Planting plants:** In FY25, Parks staff and its volunteers planted 1,225 herbaceous plants, converted 30 acres of cropped agricultural field to a wildflower meadow, and planted 529 trees as part of its forest enhancement and meadow restoration projects.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

2019 – 2026:

- **Alert Montgomery:** subscribers increased from 80,220 to 266,639 between January 1, 2019 and August 1, 2026, an increase of 233%.
- **Flood modeling:** has been completed in three watersheds totaling nearly 29,000 acres. Modeling is on-going in another two watersheds totaling over 21,000 acres.

FY25 weather monitoring:

- The Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) installed five additional flood sensors in 2025, bringing the total number of flood sensors to 40 in the County.
- Five planned mesonet stations to provide advance local climate data and weather monitoring.

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE HIGHLIGHT: INSTITUTIONALIZING CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE AND EQUITY



- Established **Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice**.
- Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee (CEAQAC) and Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee (RESJAC) of **appointed community members** to advise the County.
- Incorporate both racial equity and climate change considerations into County annual **budgeting process**.
- All County Council **proposed legislation** is accompanied by both racial equity and social justice impact statements, economic impact statements, and assessments of the legislation's effect on the County's contribution to addressing climate change.
- **Climate Change Officer and Chief Equity Officer** included in budget and policy decision-making.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS AND EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS FY₂₅

- **Nature Centers** had a total of 26,858 program participants in FY₂₅.
- 12 additional schools earning the prestigious **2025 Maryland Green Schools designation**, bringing the district's total to 113 certified Green Schools. 53% of all MCPS schools have now attained this recognition, surpassing the 50% target set by Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan.
- **The RainScapes program** offered a first-ever Spanish language native planting workshop and worked with 40 residents to teach about watershed health, how our native plants support healthy environments, such as reducing the need for extra water and mowing.
- 25 leaders from across County Government participated in a learning series on "**Equitable Community Engagement and Climate Justice**," gaining knowledge and tools to foster more inclusive, just, and effective community engagement practices.



QUESTIONS

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