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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 19, 2024

TO: Josh Hamlin, Director
Budget and Policy Analysis Division

THRU: Stanley A. Earley, Director *SAE*
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Andrea L. Crooms, Director
Department of the Environment

RE: End-of-FY 2024 Operating/Programmatic Responses

In an effort to facilitate an efficient and effective budget review and reporting process, we are submitting a separate request for operational and programmatic information. Please respond to the questions and complete any tables with the applicable data. In some cases, we have populated the tables with available known data. In instances where the tables need to be re-sized or modified to accommodate additional information, please feel free to do so. Please note, some of these questions were previously embedded in the overall first round budget question document. We are working to streamline that process and highlight the agency's operations outside of the routine budget process.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

GOAL 2 – To provide residential waste recovery

Objective 2.1 – Increase the residential recycling rate

1. The Department recently negotiated new contracts with the waste haulers in exchange for the haulers providing enhanced services to residents at the curbside. Please explain what measures the Department put in place in FY 2024 that ensured haulers were not transferring waste from other jurisdictions to the Brown Station Landfill?

The new contract started on July 1, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2025). The Department of the Environment's (DoE's) Resource Recovery Division (RRD) performs observations and inspections of loads coming into facilities periodically, to ensure loads are not coming from other sources and or jurisdictions. Additionally, drivers are required to state their Service Areas where their loads are originating from, and weights are tracked to identify anomalies in expected volume.

2. Please summarize progress of the Clear the Curb enhanced curbside services started at the beginning of the fiscal year up until the end of FY 2024.

- Has this program, within FY 2024, met the goals and objectives the Department expected to achieve by its implementation?

Yes, the Clear the Curb program has been extremely successful since its start in calendar year 2022. Residents have responded positively to the additional services, including the additional bulky items and new special collections.

- Does the Department believe that increasing the bulky trash to four items per pick-up simply encourages residents to dispose of items instead of encouraging increased recycling, as the County should be doing? Please explain either way.

No, and typically old furniture is not recycled within the region. RRD also continues to educate residents on the benefits of recycling and reducing the amount of waste going into the Landfill through various initiatives, i.e. the composting program. Additionally, with bulky pickup increasing to four items, the Division believes that this reduces illegal dumping throughout the County.

- Please summarize the challenges and successes of curbside scrap metal and electronics recycling within the timeframe of FY 2024- are most of these items *actually recycled*? Is this facilitated through third-party vendors, or does the Department sort the recyclable items onsite (landfill) and then send them to recycling facilities? Also, please provide any advances in secondary markets for these products, as well as mattresses, box springs, and white goods, that the County is taking advantage of. An explanation and full summary of this process would be very helpful.

Curbside scrap metal recycling and curbside electronic recycling went into effect on July 1, 2024; and was not available during FY 2024. Prior to the start of FY 2025, residents had to bring their scrap metal and electronics directly to the Landfill and or Brown Station Road Convenience Center, to be recycled accordingly.

The material is collected curbside by the curbside haulers; and it is placed accordingly at the appropriate Landfill Lot, where it is then picked by the associated vendor.

White goods and scrap metal are a part of revenue sources for the Division. Additionally, the Division is analyzing metal separation through mattress and box spring shredding.

- What is the cost/benefit element of the above service- do we recover the additional cost picking up scrap and electronics through recycling, or was this an added expense in further servicing residents with curbside pick-up for the FY 2024 cycle?

Curbside scrap metal and electronic recycling went into effect on July 1, 2024; revenues will be analyzed after a full year of collection. The program was a new service added to the new Curbside Collections Contract and thus resulted in a negligible increase in costs.

3. Much of bulky trash is collected on the curb without an appointment. Please specify what items still require appointments for bulky trash pick-up in FY 2024.

Bulky trash appointments are required for residents that are not a part of the County's curbside collection program (primarily South County residents and gated communities). Additionally, the County requires appointments for the collection of white goods, appliances, and scrap tires. Construction waste is not a bulky item and must be disposed of appropriately by the contractor or homeowner. Please see RRD website for details on acceptable items.

4. Overall, curbside single-stream recycling within the County was still below 50% capture rate in FY 2024. Please identify the factors that limited our recycling rates, and what strategies has the Department developed to increase this rate? Did the Department consider initiating legislation in FY 2024 to reinstate mandatory recycling within Prince George's County? If not, why not?

The Recycling Section works to educate residents through in-person events, mailers, social media, targeted educational events in specific neighborhoods, etc. The residential curbside recycling tonnages and associate recycling rate have increased over the fiscal years. Most residents are participating in the Recycling program, as evidenced during collections. DoE believes residential participation in the compost curbside collection service will further increase the recycling rate. Diverting food scraps from the trash into the compost program is the most significant type of material that will have a positive impact to the overall recycling rate.

5. Related to the above question, waste that went into the County's landfill consisted of about 30% organic matter and food scraps. This is a concern both in greenhouse gas production (methane, if uncaptured), and lost revenue from utilizing this valuable resource to be converted into Leafgro compost material.

- Please update us on the curbside composting program for the entirety of FY 2024, it's challenges and successes.

There have been small incremental increases in participation. For example, each quarter since random sorts have been conducted starting in March of 2023, there has been an 1% increase per quarter in food scraps being collected curbside. There was one quarter that was upwards of a 12% increase, which is indicative of certain service areas that have embraced the compost program. Some challenges of the curbside composting program are the education campaign, changing individuals' mindset/habits, and relating the program to personal and environmental benefit. Making the food scraps diversion from trash to compost collection mandatory may be advantageous in making greater strides in participation, thus increasing the overall recycling rate within the County while reducing landfill methane gases.

- Please include any data you have developed in FY 2024, pertaining to the beginning of the program to June 30th, 2024.

After full distribution of approximately 181,000 carts, only 2,400 or 1.3% of carts have been removed due to residential refusal.

- As in the single-stream recycling program, have you had any requests and/or have you considered, in FY 2024, developing partnerships with our many municipal town and cities within the County to expand the program and further enhance our overall sustainable practices in recycling? If yes, what were your plans in implementing these partnerships?

The Recycling Section has assisted municipalities and provided advice and guidance on how to start their own curbside compost programs. Some municipalities have already begun collection programs such as Laurel, Bowie, University Park, Berwyn Heights, and the City of Hyattsville. The Recycling Section has attended events targeting municipal awareness and guidance on composting programs. The composting facility hosts tours for municipal employees and council members to encourage creation of curbside compost programs.

- As an update to the UMD report released in 2018 (Journal of Geophysical Research p. 5,6) please provide the latest data on methane release from the Brown Station Road landfill for the FY 2024 timeframe. Were there any changes in emissions since that report? Please explain.

The University of Maryland (UMD) report released in 2018 has data from the 2017 calendar year report. For the proposed 2024 report, DoE is using data from the 2023 calendar year Annual Emissions Certification and GHG Summary Report (from eGGRT), for comparing changes in methane emissions. An update to methane release from the landfill, based on data from these reports for the calendar year 2017 and 2023, is shown below.

**Methane Emissions (tons per year)
Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill (BSRSL)**

Report	Form/Subpart	2017	2023	% increase
Annual Emissions Certification Report	Form 6 (Methane)	6,459.00	5,790.00	-10.36%
GHG Summary Report	Subpart C	1.40	0.00	
	Subpart HH	2,001.42	1,666.68	
	Total	2,002.82	1,666.68	-16.78%

Note: Negative increase indicates that methane releases decreased in 2023.

Above results show that from 2017 to 2023, the landfill methane emissions decreased by more than 10%. The Phase V landfill gas collection system was expanded in 2020, which resulted in higher methane collection and lower fugitive methane from the landfill, resulting in a decrease in methane emissions from the landfill.

6. The County's aluminum can capture rate, at last reporting in FY 2024, was about 37%, below the national average. Empirical evidence throughout our jurisdiction indicates the Department needed a separate campaign or public message(s) to improve overall aluminum can recycling. Please provide the reason the County's recycling rate for the valuable commodity was so low?

DoE requests clarification on how the referenced “aluminum can capture rate” was measured or determined.

7. Please provide any updates within the FY 2024 timeframe regarding the following amenities of the County's landfill. Please provide details of the project, including its progress, and how completion will extend (or not) the overall life of the landfill.

- Area C:

The existing landfill is expected to reach its permitted capacity by the beginning of calendar year 2025. To meet its Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) needs from 2025 and beyond, the County has put in motion a plan to infill the airspace between the existing disposal areas, deemed the Area C Infill Project. The proposed Area C Infill project will span across approximately 217 acres within the existing site boundaries: about 164 acres of this area will overlay onto the existing landfill cells. This will add approximately 32 million cubic yards of airspace and extend the life of the landfill for more than 50 years beyond 2025. The proposed Area C project is consisting of 12 waste filling cells to be constructed at the landfill over a period of several years. Construction activities for the first cell, Cell C1, began during FY 2024 after many years of planning and design work.

- Scale house Upgrades:

The Scale house is equipped with incoming and outgoing weight scales to calculate waste quantities for commercial haulers. The Scale house is being renovated to improve traffic flow and daily operations. Improvements include modernization and expansion of the building, installation of new inbound and outbound scales, and expansion of the Scale house access roads. The scales will be fitted with state-of-the-art radio frequency identification (RFID) reader technology. These improvements will enable the customers with the ability to remain in their vehicles when performing transactions at the scales. This will also increase efficiency and improved landfill access. To expedite the permitting process for the Scale house, permitting was phased into two scopes, building interior and site work permits. Construction activities of the interior (building work) is ongoing and is expected to be completed in spring of 2025.

The site work is currently in permitting and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2025. When completed, this renovation project will extend the building's usable life cycle and will serve the landfill's operations for another 50 years.

- Lot Relocations:

The existing landfill lots (lot 2 and lot 3) had to be relocated to make way for construction of the Area C, Cell C1 footprint. The County decommissioned and relocated the existing household hazardous waste (HHW) at lot 2 and the lot 3 previously used to house white goods and yard waste. The HHW has been moved to existing lot 5/5A until a new lot can be established. Signage is also being updated. The above-ground storage tank (AST) is expected to be delivered in January 2025 which will serve the HHW lot upon its opening in the spring of 2025.

Design and permitting work for a new lot to be located on the opposite side of Brown Station Road is in progress with construction planned for summer of 2025.

- Other Projects Identified:

Leachate Pre-Treatment Facility Upgrades:

The existing Leachate Pre-Treatment Facility was constructed and began operating in the early 1990s. The pre-treatment facility uses sequencing batch reactors (SBRs) to biologically treat collected leachate from the existing landfill. The pretreated leachate is then discharged to WSSC Water owned infrastructure under Discharge Authorization Permit No. 07588. The pre-treatment renovation project will improve the existing facility's ability to efficiently treat and discharge leachate, adapt to changes in leachate quality and constituent loadings, meet future discharge permit limits, and extend the life of the pretreatment facility with considerations for the landfill life expectancy for Area C. Improvements include upgrades to aged system components such as pumps, blowers, heat exchangers, chemical addition equipment, storage tanks, piping, valving, instrumentation, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, and the SBRs. Design activities initiated in November 2022 and are currently at 95 percent completion. The project's substantial completion date is scheduled for June 2026.

Leachate Collection System Improvements Project:

The existing leachate infrastructure is being upgraded under this project to improve and ensure seamless leachate collection, handling, and monitoring capabilities at the existing landfill and Area C infill. Improvements will include construction of a new north and south leg pump station, force main and gravity conveyance piping, power distribution and backup systems, and pump station SCADA system upgrades.

8. Were there any unanticipated operational or fiscal impacts that arose out of the Maryland General Assembly session that were not reported for FY 2024?

No.

9. Please provide the final numeric value for FY 2024 of the ongoing long-term imbalances between expenditures and revenues within the solid waste fund.

The unrestricted net position of the Solid Waste Fund as of June 30, 2024 will not be available until the Office of Finance releases the next annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR). As of June 30, 2023, the unrestricted net position of the Solid Waste Fund was negative \$34,597,353.

GOAL 3 – To enhance the quality of life in the natural environment

Objective 3.1 – Reduce the amount of litter in the County

10. Litter and Illegal Dumping Taskforce – Did this Task Force meet in FY 2024? If not, did the Department met with the PGPD to continue progress on this important matter? Please highlight any achievements between the two departments in fiscal year 2024. Can the Department provide data that highlights any successes within the past fiscal year?

The Litter and Illegal Dumping Taskforce did not meet in FY 2024.

The Environmental Crimes Unit which includes Dpie, DPWT, PGPD, SA, OOL met monthly during FY 2024. During FY 2024, DoE administered a DOJ grant that provided covert surveillance cameras used to surveil illegal dumping sites across the County. During this time, 11 dumping/crime related occurrences were caught on camera. All relevant information was provided to PGPD and resulted in five successful prosecutions of illegal dumping. In addition, the County supported the state on two ongoing prosecutions through the Attorney General's Office.

11. Currently, there are approximately 80 solar trash/recycling stations that have either been installed, or are planned to be installed within the County. Please provide available data of the tonnage of trash and recyclables that were captured by these receptacles, for FY 2024. Additionally, please describe any challenges the Department has had with this program.

A total of 256,746 lbs. of trash and 206,817 lbs. of recycling were collected in 60 active stations installed across Prince George's County. The permitting and citing of the stations has been a challenge, however a closer working relationship between the State Highway Administration (SHA), DPWT, and DOE has helped to accelerate the permitting process. The current contract for removal of trash does not include cleaning the stations or the area immediately around them. DoE will work with DPWT to improve the scope of work (SOW) for the next performance period.

12. In FY 2024, did the Department applied for or receive any new grants for covert and mobile cameras with the Community Fund Grant Program? In addition, has the department encountered any challenges or successes from the surveillance cameras for this timeframe, and has this program led to violators that have been prosecuted?

In FY 2024, additional grants were not available for covert surveillance. See response to Question 10 for information regarding prosecution of violators.

13. Please provide an update on the County's Beautification Initiative for FY 2024. Data displayed on the program's webpage indicate litter from illegal dumping and litter from the Anacostia Watershed were significantly down in 2022 (the last year shown for data). Please explain this anomaly, and provide any more recent data, as well as steps the Department took to incorporate to increase community involvement and volunteerism in litter clean-ups.

The reduction of litter in the Anacostia River Watershed can be attributed to three Bandalong Litter Traps and additional roadside litter removal. Updates to the Beautification website will resume in January 2025.

14. Please provide an update, and in particular the successes and challenges that the Department had in overview, inspections, and enforcement of the Better Bag Bill (CB-032-2023) for FY 2024. In the Department's opinion, does the current law as it stands needs to be amended, revised, or even redacted due to its ineffectiveness or lack of efficacy? Please explain.

- **Successes:**
 - Enforcement of the Better Bag Bill is moving in a progressive manner; and it is one of RRD's highest priorities when investigating properties throughout the County.
- **Challenges:**
 - Drive-through windows and the restaurant leftover exemption has created some issues for customers.
 - Another issue that the Division is adjusting to is the type of bags that are considered an acceptable reusable bag.
 - Additionally, residents were confronted with two key challenges – remembering to bring their own reusable bag when shopping and estimating the number of bags needed for purchased items. To assist residents and understanding that reusable bags support litter reduction and promote sustainability, DoE's Sustainability Division (SD) and Resource Recovery Division (RRD) partnered to purchase reusable bags for dissemination to County residents to help them to adapt to bringing their own reusable bags when shopping.

Objective 3.2 – Increase tree planting in schools and communities

15. Please summarize any and all expenditures of the Wood Conservation Fund for FY 2024.

Reporting for FY 2024 expenditures and revenue for the Woodland Conservation Report are still in process for FY 2024 which are being quantified for an annual report to the State of Maryland as submitted by M-NCPPC Planning. Utilizing this funding in FY 2024, DoE's Prince George's County Urban Tree Program installed 1,677 native shade trees within public spaces and rights-of-way of the following municipalities and residential communities:

- Wingate Community (HOA): 165 trees.
- Barnaby Run Estates (HOA): 37 trees.
- Fairmount Heights: 159 trees.
- Town of Forest Heights: 1,316 trees.

Additional expenditures included geolocation, mapping, and inspection of all installed trees via the DoE Tree App for long-term tracking of tree health/growth.

16. Legislative Bills CB-020, CB-021, and CB-022 (2024) were recently passed in FY 2024 to adhere to the State mandate of increasing tree canopy within the County (and State). How did the Department prepare to comply with the updated Tree Ordinance? Specifically, what was the Department's strategy in FY 2024 to get additional trees planted on private properties in meeting future mandates for tree canopy requirements the State has imposed on jurisdictions?

Legislative bills CB-020, CB-021, and CB-022 (2024) do not impact the Department's tree planting initiatives for voluntary tree plantings within public spaces. The referenced bills are intended for compliance and compensation of tree removals from land development activities. However, DoE staff did provide internal agency legislative comments and feedback for CB-020, CB-021, and CB-022 (2024) to the agency's legislative liaison.

17. Related to the above question, the Planning Department released its Tree Canopy Assessment in November 2023, which shows a large disparity of tree canopy within sub-watersheds. What strategies and actions did the Department take to mitigate the difference of tree canopy percentages within these watersheds existing in the County?

In FY 2024, DoE completed a Countywide Tree Equity Mapping Tool that can quantify the existing tree canopy of a community by sub-watershed, drainage, area, or project area. The tool can be used to also estimate the number of trees to meet certain tree canopy percentages based on a project area or the 12-digit sub-watershed level. As a strategy, DoE tree programs prioritize tree planting projects based on their locations within or relation to environmental justice (EJ) designated communities, 12-digit sub-watersheds with tree cover less than 35%, as well as other relevant equity considerations. Lack of tree cover in tandem with known flooding and urban heat island impacts are the highest criteria for prioritizing tree planting projects at a sub-watershed scale.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

GOAL 1 - To restore the health of County waters and address flooding issues

Objective 1.1 – Increase the total percentage of impervious areas retrofitted with stormwater control

1. Please provide an update on progress for the end of FY 2024 on completion of the 6,105 impervious surface acres, in addition to other performance metrics in meeting the NPDES/MS-4 permits and WIP III mandates.

DoE has completed/exceeded the requirements of the consent decree and anticipates its closure on December 31, 2024. Restoration of impervious surfaces not previously treated with stormwater management measures is one of the most important goals for meeting the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) mandates. The County was required to retrofit 20% of untreated impervious surfaces by December 31, 2024. To the maximum extent practical (MEP), the County's production through FY 2024 was 6,305 acres.

On December 2, 2022, the County received its 5th Generation (5th Gen) NPDES/MS4 Permit that includes a mandate to treat 2,137 acres of impervious surface by December 2027. Factors affecting this performance measure include difficulties in filling existing vacancies, unanticipated delays with securing engineering contract awards, the availability of private property opportunities, and unanticipated delays in procurement, permitting, land acquisition/easements, construction, and annual funding commitments.

2. Please provide a summary on data for the Rain Check Rebate Program for the FY 2024 timeframe. Please provide any available data on the number of projects accomplished, and financial resources expended either for private property project reimbursements or public projects.

The Rain Check Rebate Program provides incentive rebates for private property owners to offset costs associated with installing stormwater pollution prevention practices on their property. DoE partners with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) with the administration of this program.

Approved Rebates and Impervious Area Treated (Since Inception – 9/17/2012 to 6/30/2024)							
BMP Type	Number of Applications Approved	Actual Number BMPs Installed	Impervious Area Treated (square feet)	Impervious Area Treated (acres)	Amount of Approved Rebate	Factor	Cost per Acre
Cisterns	28	43	29,603	0.68	\$35,653	1.47	\$52,462
Pavement Removal	225	227	99,219	2.28	\$340,314	0.44	\$149,408
Permeable Pavement	184	188	76,813	1.76	\$521,594	0.57	\$295,792
Rain Barrels	605	1,186	352,856	8.10	\$111,874	0.12	\$13,811
Rain Garden	131	163	138,793	3.19	\$292,953	0.31	\$91,943
Urban Tree Canopy	195	1,360	225,329	5.17	\$173,766	0.19	\$33,592
Green Roofs	0	0	0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0
Totals	1,368	3,167	922,613	21.18	\$1,476,154	0.05	\$69,695

DoE recognized significant gains in the Rain Check Rebate Program performance in FY 2024 (7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024): 154 approved applications, 375 BMPs installed, \$217,784 in rebates awarded resulting in 2.04 acres of impervious area restoration. The Rain Check Rebate Program will continue into FY 2025.

3. Please summarize the Department's success in FY 2024 for obtaining funds and resources from the Federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to expand water quality programs and projects within the County.

In FY 2024, the Department successfully obtained a federal earmark under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The earmark is for the *Lower Beaverdam Creek (LBDC)* project, which supports the joint CERCLA Anacostia Toxics case. Details are shown below:

Project Name: Lower Beaverdam Creek: Watershed Characterization and Field Surveys, Phase I

Location: Lower Beaverdam Creek

Scope: Watershed Characterization, determine Stormwater Management controls, Stream and Watershed conditions assessments, field surveys, identify industrial activities, and water quality concerns and monitoring.

Schedule: Completion by November 2025

Project Cost: \$500,000

Grant Amount: \$500,000

County Match: 20%

Status: Project work has begun while the County is in the process of securing earmark funds.

- Given the above, did the Department in FY 2024 specifically target applying for funding provided for Historically Underserved Communities to find equity in the portfolio of projects for water quality, and was there any impact for that timeframe?

In FY 2024, DoE applied for funding from the State FY 2026/Federal FY 2024 Water Quality State Revolving Fund, also known as the “SRF.” Most of the projects included in the application are in historically underserved communities, as identified by a final EJ score percentile of 75 or greater using MDE’s Environmental Justice Tracking Tool. On October 7, 2024, the County was notified it received approval for a \$28,028,954 loan with \$3,500,000 in principal forgiveness.

- Was there any new progress within FY 2024 in developing or strengthening partners/partnerships to meet the goals and vision of water quality?

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP), a long-term (30-year) Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3) between the County and Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, is the nation’s first environmental CBP3 and is the most successful and sustainable program that designs, builds, operates, maintains, and finances stormwater infrastructure. The CWP has a strong, intentional, and concentrated focus on solving community environmental issues while simultaneously providing significant socioeconomic uplift to the County’s communities and residents.

In FY 2024, the CWP continued its highly successful programs which resulted in 82% of all FY 2024 expenditures (\$39,503,881 of \$48,356,786) going to local-based small and minority firms, 61% of all work hours done by County residents (74,870 hours of 122,956 hours), 50 firms that have graduated from the Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) receiving substantial water quality work, and 11 new firms enrolling in the FY 2024 MPP Cohort.

The Department continues to implement additional participation and incentive opportunities to engage the private sector participation with our restoration programs. These programs provide incentives to property owners and non-profit organizations to participate with the County’s Clean Water Program and meet NPDES/MS4 restoration goals.

- Rain Check Rebate Program:** DoE partners with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) with the administration of this program. It provides incentive rebates for private property owners to offset costs associated with installing stormwater pollution prevention practices on their property.

- **Stormwater Stewardship Grants:** DoE partners with the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) on the administration of this program. It provides grant opportunities to non-profit organizations for construction of water quality restoration projects and water quality-related public education and outreach campaigns. The Department has awarded \$2,215,946 in grants to eighteen (18) recipients in FY 2024 with this program. DoE will continue the Stormwater Stewardship Grant program in FY 2025.
- **M-NCPPC Agreement:** DoE continues to administer and operate this agreement with the Commission to assist Water Quality Restoration CIP projects on Commission property in support of the NPDES/MS4 Permit Impervious Area Restoration mandates. The original agreement was signed in December 2014 and was amended in October 2019. The agreement term expires on June 30, 2025, and DoE will coordinate with M-NCPPC for an agreement extension through December 2029. Project inventories are mutually reviewed and updated annually. Based upon the final FY 2024 update, a total of 131 water quality site opportunities have been identified and evaluated to date. These projects are in various phases of design, under construction, or completion.
- In August 2021, DoE signed a design agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Anacostia Stream Restoration project. This project includes stream and water quality restoration efforts in which the County is participating with USACE. A project partnership agreement (PPA) was executed between the County and its federal partner on December 15, 2022 for the construction phase and required real estate interests for the stream restoration sites. The restoration design efforts are underway, and construction of portions of the restoration is planned for FY 2025. This multi-year restoration project will be ongoing through FY 2028. The project sites are being evaluated for impervious acres restoration credits towards the NPDES/MS4 permit.
- **Interagency Coordination:** DoE and DPWT are collaborating under the NPDES permit and flood control. These joint efforts include the following projects: Salt Management Plan and Chlorine Monitoring Plan Coordination. The two agencies are coordinating to implement the Stream Restoration of Henson Creek SR 5 Tributary and the downstream SWM Pond Rehabilitation by utilizing the same contractor. This action will reduce County costs and produce a comprehensive restoration approach to this impaired watershed. Likewise, DoE and DPWT are coordinating on the Bladensburg Flood Mitigation project and the Fort Washington Flood Risk Mitigation project to address and improve stormwater conveyance affecting multiple residential properties and roadways.

6. Please provide the final numerical amount on the long-term imbalances between expenditures and revenues within the stormwater fund (end of FY 2024 total).

The unrestricted net position of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund as of June 30, 2024 will not be available until the Office of Finance releases the next ACFR. As of June 30, 2023, the unrestricted net position of the Stormwater Enterprise Fund was negative \$100,309,256.

Objective 1.2 – To decrease the percentage of structures identified at risk of flooding

7. Referring to the M-NCPPC Agreement, please summarize any progress made by the Commission with water quality restoration and CIP projects on Commission property for the end of FY 2024.

Please refer to the M-NCPPC Agreement portion of the response to Question 5 above.

8. Is there any update or progress on the USACOE August 2021 Design Agreement that took place by the end of FY 2024? Was the Project Partnering Agreement (PPA) executed during this timeframe, and if so, please summarize this.

Please refer to the USACE design agreement portion of the response to Question 5 above.

9. Did the Department, in FY 2024, established a Real Estate resource person (County employee or consultant) to facilitate securing and negotiating easements and land acquisitions? If not, why not?

No, FY 2024 funding was not available due to limited funding and competing priorities.

10. Please update us on the participation levels in the tree planting projects and volunteer clean-ups the Department facilitated for FY 2024. Have these numbers increased to near pre-COVID levels (prior to March 2020)? If not, what did the Department fail to do to reinstate these levels?

Tree Planting Participation Levels

Participation levels in tree planting projects have met or exceeded pre-COVID levels (prior to March 2020). This increase is largely due to implementation of the Urban Tree Program and addition of a new Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program track for promotion of community-wide installations of green infrastructure practices for stormwater management.

For FY 2020, DoE tree programs (e.g. Arbor Day Every Day, Tree ReLeaf, Rain Check Rebate, Stormwater Stewardship Grant, etc.) yielded approximately 400 trees installed on residential lots, HOA property, school yards, etc. DoE/Sustainability Division (SD) staffed engaged an approximate total of 25 HOAs, schools, and municipalities in the tree planting effort.

In FY 2024, DoE's SD planted 1,677 trees through its Urban Tree Program within the following communities: the Town of Forest Heights, the Town of Fairmont Heights, Barnaby Run Estates (HOA), and Wingate Community (HOA). Additionally, the program purchased and delivered 15 large native trees for installation by volunteers at the Brentwood/North Brentwood Windom Road Historic Barrier Park. Through the Rain Check Rebate Program, the Urban Tree Program offered an additional \$150 match to the Rain Check Rebate \$150 per tree to incentivize residents within designated tree equity areas to plant larger (2-2 ½ inch caliber) native trees. As of June 30th, 2024, 40 larger shade and ornamental native trees have been planted on residential properties through the Urban Tree Program's incentive match. Staff successfully planted more trees in FY 2024 compared to FY 2020 by strategically identifying areas with the most potential and need for high-volume tree installations.

Volunteer Cleanups Participation Levels

Participation levels in volunteer cleanups have exceeded pre-COVID levels (prior to March 2020). This increase is largely due to more individuals and groups conducting independent cleanups and reporting their events and litter collections in PGC Litter TRAK. DoE staff supports volunteer cleanups by providing equipment, supplies, staff support, etc.

For FY 2020, DoE supported approximately 15 volunteer cleanups (including cleanups tracked in PGC Litter TRAK, annual Potomac River and AWS Cleanups, Cleanup Greenup, etc.). These cleanups yielded approximately seven tons of litter removal from communities.

For FY 2024, DoE supported approximately 70 volunteer cleanups (including cleanups tracked in PGC Litter TRAK, annual Potomac River and AWS Cleanups, Cleanup Greenup, etc.). These cleanups yielded approximately 35 tons of litter removal from communities.

13. The Department's Director sent the Climate Action Plan Implementation Strategies Report to the County Executive earlier this year. Please provide a summary of what actions, for FY 2024, have been taken to move the County forward, both towards Climate Resiliency and Sustainability, with implementation of the twelve strategies the Report outlines. What challenges and successes have occurred thus far?

The Climate Action Task Force approved 12 implementation strategies as identified in the Climate Action Implementation Strategy Plan (CAISP). Actions taken in FY 2024 to move the County forward on climate resiliency and sustainability are summarized below. Given the CAISP was transmitted in April 2024, the CEX Office is currently reviewing the strategies and finalizing the appropriate action plan for this important initiative.

ID	Climate Action Area	Implementation Strategy Title	Action
LIS-1	Internal Capacity	Build internal capacity to plan and implement climate action plan	Finalized formal requests to fill two climate-related positions – Special Assistant to Director and Climate Officer. As of November 6, 2024, the former position has been filled.
LIS-3	Community Engagement	Transparency, equitable engagement, and climate information	The Climate Dashboard has been released and available for view at PGC Climate Dashboard.pdf (princegeorgescountymd.gov) .
MIS-6	Telework	Adopt internal policies to enhance resilience and reduce VMTs of County employees	The County continues to make telework available to eligible employees and to meetings accessible via teleconference, video streaming, and other electronic media formats to reduce carbon impacts of employee travel.
AIS-4	Dam Levees	Evaluate and address climate risk to dams and levees	In-progress watershed level flood hazard studies incorporate climate projections in hydrologic models to assess future flow rates and conveyance and capacity demand on existing infrastructure. The models and study results may be downscaled to assess impacts to individual dams and levees.
AIS-10	Food	Promote a climate resilient food system supported by low-carbon, climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming practices	DoE onboarded the Climate Smart Commodities Program Manager who will facilitate and lead collaboration with the grant partners to pilot, evaluate, and build a Climate-Smart Local Producers Program to address marketing products

		<p>grown using a variety of climate-centric practices. This manager will also engage with local producers to encourage entry into the marketplace.</p> <p>DoE funded a Community Garden Mini Grant (administered by Chesapeake Bay Trust) to support stormwater management and climate resilience through promoting sustainable food production.</p>
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GENERAL AND GRANT FUNDED

GOAL 4 - To provide animal management and adoption services to ensure the safety and welfare of animals.

Objective 4.1 – Increase the placement of animals as a percentage of intakes into forever homes and other facilities

1. Please provide us with an update on the number of vacancies for animal caretaker positions for the end of FY 2024?

a. Assuming there were staff shortages, how did the Department handle this challenge?

Even when ASD is fully staffed, with a running tally of 300+ animals in our care on any given day, ASD is constantly adjusting staffing resources to improve operational efficiencies in order to best serve the animal in our care.

b. What was the total amount of overtime in this Division for FY 2024, as compared to the fiscal year prior to that?

FY 2024: \$213,579.77

FY 2023: \$169,799.36

c. Please provide any updates on your volunteer program in ASD for FY 2024. Did the Department consider allowing youth (under 18) to expand their opportunities and responsibilities, as some other jurisdictions and organizations have, through partnering with a willing parent, guardian, or other consenting adult to alleviate the staffing shortage that chronically existed in this past fiscal year?

We have continued to explore the use of youth in our volunteer program, while continuing to look at overall safety. We do allow volunteers who are at least 14 years old to work within the facility, but we hope to build a more robust program over the next year or two. This will also function as a possible source of future ASD employees.

2. Please provide any updates on the FY 2024 program of the adoptions and redemptions appointment system.

a. Please discuss if the longer-term use of this system has led to an increase in placement of animals?

We have moved away from an appointment system. All our adoption and redemption services are offered on a first come, first served basis in person. During FY 2024, the following changes were implemented:

- **Brought back in-person viewings of all adoptable dogs. This had not happened since COVID.**
- **Rearranged the flow of the facility so all adoptable dogs are now in one room, “placement.”**
- **Allowed each person to interact with up to two animals per visit. It had been one animal since COVID.**

Redemptions are now pushed to come into the facility to initiate the process as soon as possible. Staff are instructed to take into consideration real life issues that brought the animal here but is not the fault of the owner or animal such as evictions, arrests, death of a family member, mental health crisis, and financial realities. Our goal is to keep animals that are well-loved in the homes they already have if they can meet our standards of care.

These changes have made a significant impact on our ability to place animals back into their homes and with adopters.

	7/1/23 - 9/31/23	10/1/23 - 12/31/23	1/1/24 - 3/31/24	4/1/24 - 6/30/24
Total Adoption Applications	308	446	430	581
Save Rate Dog	57.08	53.02	55.21	79.16
Save Rate Cat	61.16	51.60	60.00	73.46

3. Recent public outreach indicates new adoption fees for canines, which include higher fees for larger dogs. Please explain the rationale behind this, and if this type of policy will inhibit specific potential dog owners (seniors, disabled, small apartment residents) from adopting a dog due to the higher fees?

We continue to look at pricing as a tool to use to get animals out the facility. In none of the scenarios in FY 2024 did we increase fees for larger dogs. To the opposite, at the end of FY 2024 we adjusted to a weight-based system of cost that puts those who are 81 lbs. or more into the 100% discount line. We are incentivizing taking larger dogs if that fits the capacity of the adopter.

4. FY 2024 public outreach noted the Animal Services & Adoption Facility is Full (Over Capacity). Is it fair to target post-Pandemic pet owner behavior as the cause of this concern, or is it more an issue of under-staffing, multiple Zoonotic outbreaks, and other challenges the Division faces; or possibly a combination of all of these issues (and more). Please outline the short and long-term strategies and solutions the Department utilized in FY 2024 in moving forward with providing better care for pets in transition, reducing over-capacity concerns, and increasing the Live Release Rates within the County's adoption facility.

There are a variety of reasons that the facility was, and has been, at and over capacity. Pet owner issues, socioeconomic realities, and the stigma associated with animals at the shelter are the biggest reasons. Pet owners find animals challenging and when they are overwhelmed with an animal they bring it to us. We have breeders who have continued to breed their animals while the market to sell them has stagnated. People who are housing insecure lose their animals through eviction, where the Sheriff's Department calls ASD on-site to take the animals or they must move and can't bring their animals to their new location. Lastly, there is prestige attached to getting a dog from a breeder and a stigma attached from adopting from a public shelter. Despite the fact they can save a lot of money by adopting through public shelters they choose not to pursue this option.

There were many points of progress made in FY 2024 with the care of the animals. Below are three highlights.

- **Reorganization of the rooms within the facility to best serve the health and needs of the animals and allow the public to see more animals. Our critters specifically had been in the back of the building where the public did not see them regularly. Moving them up front has increased their adoption rate and decreased length of stay.**
- **Institution of strict lockdown protocols. After having our first outbreak of Strep Zoo in January, we instituted a new lockdown protocol to shut down the facility should there be an illness. This had a dramatic outcome in being closed for 5 weeks during the first illness in January and then 10 days in April, with a reduction of animal deaths due to illness of 70% between the first illness and second illness.**
- **ASD instituted capacity for care into our entire operations. Capacity for care is used in animal services to figure out what is the maximum number of animals you can care for within the facility in a humane manner. We can find more space for animals, but in doing so we increase the chance of an illness spreading and bring down the quality of life of those in our care. Capacity for care also speaks to the human element of compassion fatigue and making sure our people are a part of our care thought process, which should increase staff retention.**

5. Related to the above questions, please describe any new partnerships within FY 2024 to facilitate spay and neuter services, vaccinations, foster and adoption of animals, and relocation of illegal Pit Bulls?

We are always looking for new partnerships. We are looking to deepen our relationship with many existing veterinary services, PGSPCA, and Last Chance Animal Rescue who runs the "Spay Spot" within ASD. New rescue partnerships to get animals out of our facility have been processed making sure we add partners and do our due diligence.

a. Was there any further movement on removing adoption and foster services of animals from the County's operations (i.e., finding non-profits and/or partners to take on these challenging tasks). If so, please explain; if not, why not, and does the County realistically believe it is the best institution to continue with animal adoption and foster services?

We have not taken any movement on moving adoption and foster services out of County operations. Some years ago, these operations were taken back under County direct supervision. We believe that the County should operate these critical services as the integration of these services into the overall ecosystem of the County is critical for their success. DC is currently bringing at least a large portion of the animal services back under the government's wing and most counties in Maryland have government-run shelters.

6. Please summarize any progress the Department has made in FY 2024 with OHRM in facilitating more expedient hiring of staff positions where there have been chronic shortages.

Since FY 2024 Countywide hiring freeze concluded, OHRM has helped expedite the process by getting us lists in a timely manner and processing recommendations relatively quickly. The policy change from allowing direct hiring for Animal Care Attendants has significantly slowed the filling of vacancies for that classification. This action has resulted in critical operational challenges for ASD.

7. Please share and summarize any ASD data from your call center, from January 2024 to the end of FY 2024. Please list the three most common concerns that came through these calls.

The ASD communications team receives calls from various streams and sources from County and non-County residents to the Police, Fire, other government agencies, and non-government entities. The data below was not being captured prior to October 2023, after which the phone tree change was made throughout ASD to allow this information to be available.

	7/1/23 - 9/31/23	10/1/23 - 12/31/23	1/1/24 - 3/31/24	4/1/24 - 6/30/24
% Answered Calls	N/A	77%	88%	88%
Avg Ring Time	N/A	30 sec.	15 sec.	13 sec.
Avg Hold Time	N/A	2.10 min.	1.55 min.	1.31 min.

During the above timeframe the communications team logged in 24,343 calls. The three most common calls are as follows:

- Strays – 3,315
- Investigation – 1,964
- Wildlife – 1,103

8. Please update us on the Animal Control Officers being able to acquire their required continual education credits for FY 2024, given the lack of staff and other challenges the Division faces.

We do not have an issue with Animal Control Officers (ACOs) getting continuing education units (CEUs). Continuing education is not limited to items specifically focused on ACO activities. Officer Tanya Roberts, their supervisor who is an ACO IV, makes sure they all find time to complete required CEUs.

9. Did the State provide any new or enhanced assistance to the Division, either fiscally or administratively in FY 2024? Given the turnover of Administrations in early 2023, did Department staff meet with the State regarding issues such as being more pro-active in handling wildlife concerns within our jurisdiction? Please elaborate on this.

We have not had any additional assistance from the state in FY 2024. We have been in touch with some state representatives regarding wildlife issues within the County and they continue to have the same issues with insufficient staffing to provide services.

10. Please describe any progress the Department made in tracking data on some of the new definitions set forth in the revised Animal Control Ordinance, such as “unlawful restraint of dogs” in FY 2024. If so, please provide that data.

We have not tracked these definitions specifically. We have implemented them into our calls, which would be labeled as investigations. These new definitions have allowed us to expand our response to animal issues in the field.

Fiscal Year 2024 Calls That Were Completed by ACOs	
ABANDONED	376
ACCIMPOUND	19
AT LARGE	2,177
BITEANIMAL	327
BITEPERSON	24
BTEFLLWUP	78
CONFINEMEN	1,298
CRUELTY	369
DEAD	2,220
EVALUATE	2,422
EVICTION	153
HOLDING	1,253
INJURED	584
ON PROP	811
RECHECKCRU	404
SICK	109
SURRENDER	40
TESTING	190
TRAP	61
TRAPPED	16
VET	216
VIOUS	397
<i>Total Calls:</i>	13,544

11. Please provide an update on FY 2024 investigations, enforcement, and citations of “animal fighting” given the revised Animal Control Ordinance?

We have not seen any significant amount of fighting cases in our cruelty workload. The predominant issues with cruelty have to do with care, housing, and/or breeding. No complaints on fighting have been investigated by ASD in FY 2024.

12. Please provide an update on the Department’s inspections of “animal holding facilities” for the last day of FY 2024.

We continue to keep animal holding facilities on rotation for inspections.

13. Please provide any progress made in FY 2024 on the review of administrative regulations, standard operating procedures, and forms regarding licensing and permitting of exotic animals, and revisions to be made therein.

We continue to review the licensing and permitting of exotic animals through the code. No changes were made in FY 2024.