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Press Release

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Havre de Grace Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

College Park, MD (October 18, 2016) – The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that **The City of Havre de Grace** was one of 14 Maryland municipalities honored at the **Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony** at the Maryland Municipal League’s annual Fall Conference last Friday in Solomons, Maryland.

A detailed summary of Havre de Grace’s sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of Havre de Grace’s accomplishments include:

- Entered into a Power Purchase Agreement where approximately 100% of municipal electricity demand is being supplied by solar power, saving the City more than \$175,000 annually.
- Purchased two neighborhood electric vehicles for its municipal fleet, helping to lower fuel costs and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provides free compost to residents through the recycling of biosolids generated at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Host to two Maryland Green Schools: Havre de Grace High School & Meadowvale Elementary School.
- Hosts a local Farmers Market from May-November, with more than ten vendors selling their produce rain or shine, thanks to a new 40-foot by 40-foot tent erected in Hutchins Park.
- Established a Community Garden Initiative in 2012 with one pilot garden, located at Market Street, and expanded to three more sites in 2013 at Market Street #2, Seneca Avenue, and the Old Reservoir, thereby providing convenient access to garden plots throughout the City.
- Designated a Tree City USA for the past 14 years, with the Tree Commission overseeing the community forestry program and annual Arbor Day celebration.
- Created a network of walking trails throughout the city, which are promoted through an online self-guided tour, that help to foster both increased fitness amongst residents as well as greater appreciation of the City’s natural and historic resources.

According to Mayor Bill Martin of Havre de Grace, "As a community, we recognize that sustainable practices protect human and ecological health, and our natural environment; all the while driving innovation without comprising our way of life. To run a city that is linked with these values, helps us to function more efficiently and just makes good business sense. It's the right thing to do. Through the work and commitment of our City Staff, Havre de Grace Green Team volunteers and Havre de Grace Citizens working together, we are honored to have earned our Sustainable Maryland Certified designation."

"Every year, the Environmental Finance Center is proud to welcome more municipalities to the Sustainable Maryland community," said **Dan Nees, director of the Environmental Finance Center.** "The incredible growth of this program demonstrates that so many communities across the state are dedicated to healthier, more sustainable futures. The shared commitment of local elected officials, municipal staff and Green Team volunteers in these diverse towns and cities are a testament to Maryland's vision of resilience."

The attached photo shows (from left) Councilman David Martin; Councilwoman Monica Worrell; Councilman Michael Hitchings; and Green Team Member Kirk Smith with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference last Friday.

Also attached is Havre de Grace's Sustainable Maryland Certified logo.

For detailed information about Havre de Grace's sustainability initiatives, please contact Patrick Sybolt, Director of Administration, at (410) 939-1800 X 1131 or patrick@havredegracemd.com

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** (including two mandatory actions and two of six priority actions), 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: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/actions-certification/actions/>

The complete list of 2016 newly certified and re-certified (denoted by *) communities includes:

***City of Annapolis** (Anne Arundel County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

***Town of Bladensburg** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

***City of Bowie** (2016 "**Sustainability Champion**" for highest point total award; Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

Town of Colmar Manor (Prince George's County)

***City of College Park** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

***Town of Edmonston** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

***City of Frederick** (Frederick County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

***City of Gaithersburg** (Montgomery County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

City of Havre de Grace (Harford County)

***City of Hyattsville** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

Town of Middletown (Frederick County)

Town of Ocean City (Worcester County)

City of Salisbury (the first municipality to be certified in Wicomico County)

Town of Thurmont (Frederick County)

According to **Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland**, “This year’s Sustainable Maryland Certified municipalities featured both large cities and small towns, from both urban and rural parts of the state. These communities, while differing in scale and demographics, all recognized the importance of addressing sustainability issues at the local level. We are especially pleased by the successful re-certification of all eight Sustainable Maryland Certified municipalities from 2013, which demonstrates the value communities place on our certification designation and the municipal Green Team/Action Plan framework.”

Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2016 (5th full year of the program):

- Number of Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: **36 (23% of Maryland’s municipalities)**
- Number of Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: **66 (42% 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, US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Town Creek Foundation**, 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



