

Chevy Chase Village Environment and Energy Committee
Annual Report, April 2022

The Environment and Energy (E&E) Committee is pleased to present this annual report to the Board on its activities over the last year. The Committee is comprised of 11 members and is chaired by myself, Marea Hatzios. Gary Crocket is our Board Contact and Ellen Sands is our liaison with Village Management. I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge my Co-Chair of 10 years, Dr. Marilyn Bracken, who recently stepped down as Co-Chair. Marilyn has been, and continues to be, a terrific asset to the Committee and the Village. As a chemist/toxicologist, she has been the yin to my yang in ecology and biodiversity. Together we made a dynamic duo! Thankfully, Marilyn continues to serve on the Committee, lending her expertise in pesticides and toxic chemicals to help keep us on top of these issues.

The objective of the E&E Committee is **to help make the Village a truly green community** in which residents enjoy the **benefits of a healthy environment in balance with nature**. We do this in three principal ways, through:

- **Education** and outreach to residents on relevant topics and good environmental practices. We publish articles in the *Crier* and *Village Blast*, hold demonstrations and host a Sustainable Living Lecture Series at the Village Hall or via Zoom.
- **Pro-active advice to the Board** on salient issues and opportunities related to environmental quality in the Village and the wider community at large, including climate change, energy conservation and biodiversity
- **Liaising with neighboring communities** to discuss common concerns, share information on good practice, benchmark our performance, and encourage broad uptake of sustainable practices beyond the Village. We collaborate regularly with our counterparts in Somerset, the Town of Chevy Chase and in DC through zoom meetings, joint demonstrations and brainstorming sessions.

The E&E Committee's **main achievements** in the last year are as follows:

1. A successful entry into force of the **ban on Gas-powered Leaf Blowers**, January 1, 2022. The Village's lead as the first municipality in Montgomery County to enact a ban on GLBs is now the basis for similar bills pending at the County and State levels in Maryland.
2. A successful campaign to opt in to Montgomery County's **ban on non-essential lawn pesticides** (so-called "cosmetic pesticides")
3. **Awareness raising** among residents **on how to recycle responsibly**, including a successful used bike collection campaign organized by Village youth, for refurbishing and distribution of bikes to communities in need. The Committee also issued updated guidance on Recycling in the Village to reduce contamination and increase cost-effectiveness of Village recycling. A special focus was on reducing waste at the outset and eliminating single use plastic bags and film from the recycling stream. Updated guidance was based on a site visit of E&E Committee members to the Goode Processing Facility, where new equipment and a change in markets for recycled materials has necessitated changes in consumer behavior.

Going forward, the Committee plans to focus on the following issues:

1. Working with residents and neighboring communities to address **Climate Change** in line with the County's new Climate Change Action Agenda. This includes energy conservation, promoting green energy sources for electricity and heat for residents and Village operations, e .g., through **community solar and wind power**; promoting use of **electric vehicles**, walking and **public transportation**
2. Encouraging the planting of **native species** and **pollinator gardens** by residents
3. **Expanding the uptake of food composting** in the Village
4. Encouraging broader awareness and **participation of Village youth** in the Committee's activities
5. Resumption of the Committee's **Sustainable Living Lecture Series** at the Village Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Marea E. Hatzios, PhD
Chair, Environment and Energy Committee