

EPS Reduction

Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council
August 13, 2018

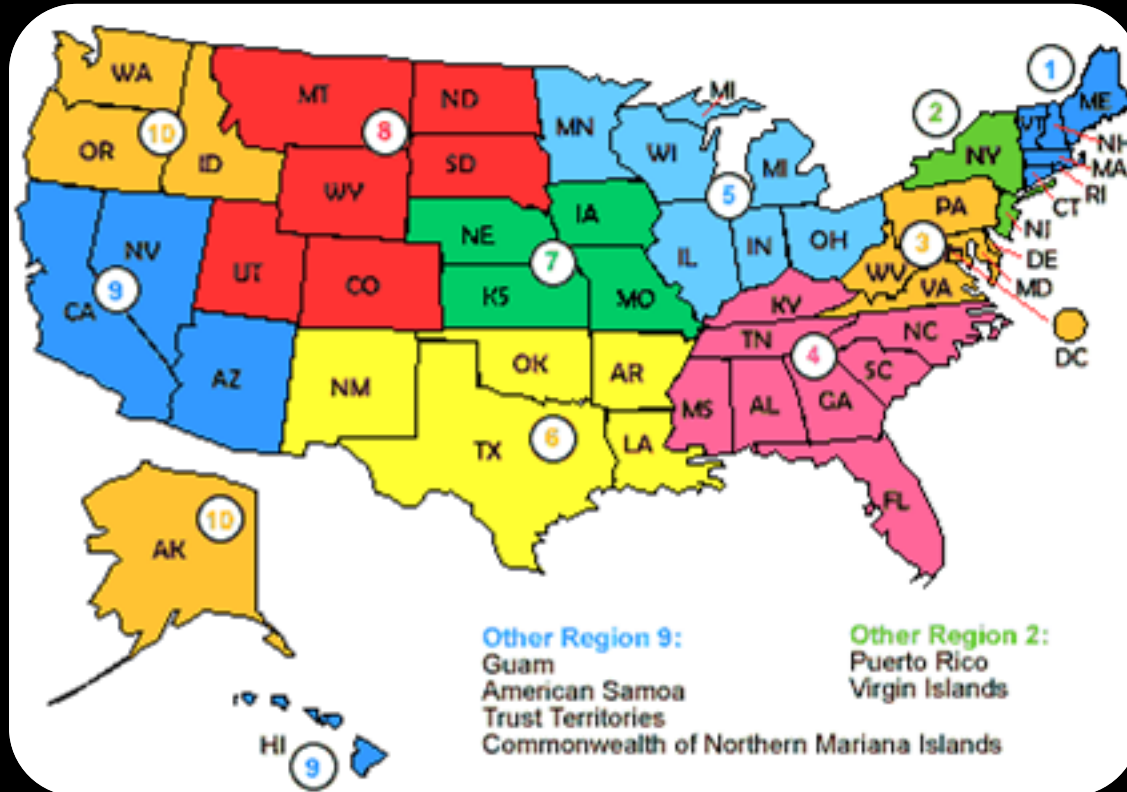
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The EFC Partnership



Apply a financing lens across environmental sectors . . .

- Sustainability
- Climate & Energy
- Stormwater / Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Resiliency

Sustainable Maryland Program

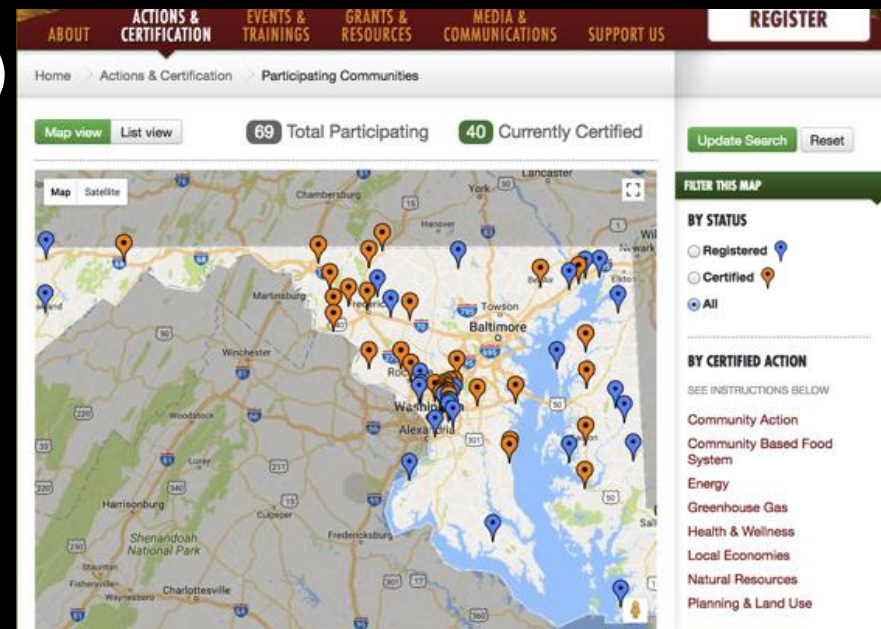
Launched in 2011

Municipal sustainability certification program

71 communities registered
(45% of 157 MD municipalities)

39 communities certified to date

4 new communities plus 9 re-certifications in 2017



Increased Public Awareness

- History of Recycling
- Straws, Microplastics, Ocean Plastic Patches
- Food service foam vs packing foam
- Engaging the public – local Green Teams

Laws vs. Recycling – or Both?

- **Foam Free Laws:** requires retailers to use alternate/compostable materials for food service foam containers and materials, but generally do not address packing foam
- **Recycling:** requires installation of drop-off centers and densification facilities, and public education campaign, but economic feasibility remains uncertain, as is whether it is environmentally effective

Foam Free Laws

- Takoma Park (2015)
- Washington, DC (2016)
- Montgomery County (2016)
- Prince George's County (2016)
- Gaithersburg (2017)
- New York City (2017)
- Baltimore (2018)
- More than 100 cities and counties across US



Recycling

- Howard County: recycling drop-off at landfill
- Cecil County: drop-off at landfill
- Sussex County, NJ: drop-off at landfill
- SM staff have received strong interest from a dozen Prince George's County towns for recycling



Questions

- Many Maryland local governments wish to address this issue, but are unsure how?
- Important distinction between food service foam (“dirty”) and packing foam (“clean”) – do local leaders and residents understand the difference?
- How can policies drive behavior change amongst residents?
- Local governments are already familiar with recycling, but for EPS, how to do it and who to partner with? And is it actually effective?
- What are the metrics for assessing effectiveness?
- Thus far in MD, laws appear have a greater positive impact than recycling efforts.

The Bigger Picture

- What policies/incentives are needed to effect real behavioral change and encourage people to live in a less “throw-away” manner - \$\$ incentives for customers who bring reusable food and beverage containers; options to purchase reusable containers when taking food away either as a meal or leftovers; having deposits on returnable containers; having a centralized container return location that all food and drink vendors can access?
- What about instituting a packaging return policy - imagine if Amazon accepted all the packaging polystyrene back for reuse?
- Henry Ford specified the design of the packaging of the parts he purchased so that the packaging itself could be used in the cars he made....imagine that!

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