

Envision Frederick County's mission is "Advancing a sustainable, resilient community through civic engagement."

We believe "If we envision it, we can achieve it."

This report describes the forward progress we made in 2021 by implementing our mission-driven strategic plan (envisionfrederickcounty.org/mission-strategic-plan).

# **Envision promotes civic engagement and advocacy**

Envision Frederick County strives, through multi-faceted advocacy, to promote good planning and science when our communities look to their future growth, resiliency and sustainability. We achieve this by educating our community of more than 4,700 followers and sustainers about issues that need a voice and the best way to use that voice in public hearings, petitions, coalitions, and partnerships.

In 2021, we:

- cosponsored Drawdown Part II, a course in project-oriented climate action, along with Sierra Club and the Pachamama Alliance
- cosponsored and promoted webinars with MACS (Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards) about how to find, choose and use native landscapes



- led the cosponsorship with the League of Women Voters of a City Mayoral Forum to bring sustainability/growth issues to the forefront of a mainstream political event
- advocated with Friends of Rural Roads, Fort Detrick Area B advocates, Sugarloaf Alliance and other groups to amplify citizens' groups working on important Frederick County issues
- filed Public Information Act requests to obtain information on Non-Disclosure Agreements signed by local elected officials potentially pertaining to land-use projects
- testified with educational information about, or signed onto letters and petitions regarding a variety of issues, including: HB264 (Marylands Organics Diversion bill) ♣ Regulating Solar in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve ♣ Vaccine Access to All Communities ♣ HB332 (Removing Incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard) ♣ environmental asks of the Biden-Harris Administration ♣ the federal Growing Climate Solutions Act and Agriculture Resiliency Act ♣ Federal Renewal Energy Standard

Boom Mowing Ban Climate Consideration in Maryland
 Pension Investments The Federal Compost Act Sugarloaf

Treasured Landscape Management Plan \* Public Information Act and government transparency filings for potential Non Disclosure Agreements.

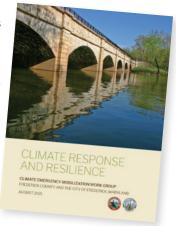
#### The Climate Emergency Mobilization

Workgroup is a prime City and County-wide example of civic engagement focused on important policy goals. Several Envision Board Members and friends served on the Workgroup and Envision will continue to partner with Mobilize Frederick and advocate for local legislation that helps achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Envision is an informational resource**

Envision Frederick County strives to be a top source on relevant and important topics through information gathering, independent reporting, informed opinions and civil discourse.

In 2021, we published **17 blog posts** by board and community members and our executive director; we published **six bi-monthly newsletters**; and more than **125 social media posts**.



## **Envision programs and education**

Envision Frederick County will develop and implement programs and educational opportunities, with a focus on environmental concerns, land use, smart growth and outdoor activities. Envision seeks to directly engage the county's diverse racial, ethnic and economic populations.

To achieve this in 2021, Envision facilitated and held a "Covidsensitive" **Envision Essentials series**, a deep dive with speakers and discussion into our four major focus areas of land use, government transparency, economic and social equity and environment.

We were gratified by the attendance at our four-part Essentials Series, despite the logistical challenges brought on by Covid-19.







Envision also held **webinars**, on our own and with partners, including an Envision Conversation on Local Food \* Drawdown Part II (workgroups) \* and Native Plants series.

Envision organized or cosponsored several **outdoor events** which included a walk conducted by the African American Resources and Cultural Heritage organization (AARCH) \* a Mushroom Walk with John Beutler \* a Streamwalk with Joe Richardson at Bar-T Mountainside \* and Sugarloaf through Aquatic Eyes, an educational event highlighting the need for a proposed conservation overlay to protect flora and fauna in the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan.

Envision partnered with The REED Center for An Afternoon in

the Country, so attendees could learn about the development of wholistic ecosystems on their farm.

AFTERNOON IN THE COUNTRY: THE REED CENTER





### **Envision's organizational sustainability**

It has been a year of celebration and expansion, as Envision
Frederick County kicked it off marking a ten-year anniversary
with a Virtual Birthday Party, complete with cake, party hats,
an inspiring keynote by former Delegate Heather Mizeur (who
announced her congressional candidacy shortly afterward!) and
announcements of a goodbye from longtime executive director Kai
Hagen and hello to new executive director Linda Norris-Waldt.

Envision has been so very fortunate to have the support of major donors, **Drs. Robert and Jane Ladner**. As we've grown our organization and its financial sustainability in the community, Bob and Jane have provided significant funding while we grow and build.



Besides the support from the Ladners, the organization was sustained with sponsorships and tickets for our birthday event, webinars, the Essentials series, as well as other programs and events throughout the year. We are very grateful to all our sponsors (logos on the next page) for their support.

Envision also was fortunate to receive a Frederick County **Bounceback Grant** for \$10,000, which helped us to put on the Essentials summer series (usually funded, in part, by our annual Fundraising Dinner, which had to be cancelled two years in a row due to Covid-19 precautions).

Envision was blessed with human resources this year, in the form of our very **active board**.

Our Finance and Fundraising Committee steered the

**OUR SPONSORS** 



organization through the financial uncertainty and re-launched our **Sustainers program**. Also during 2021, Envision planted the seeds of our **Preferred Business Partners** program, in which Dublin Roasters, Key City Compost and The Common Market became close and recommended sources of sustainable and local services and products.

The **Programs Committee** was active all year planning and implementing events, whether virtual or in person; and our **Board Development Committee** spent many hours working to update policies and to recruit community members for our new board term. We are also thankful for two critical **volunteers** who have served throughout the year — Leann Nizzardi and Erica Moore.

Community visibility is important to organizational sustainability, and even during a difficult year, we were quick to take advantage of opportunities to table at both the Common Market Loco Fair and downtown Frederick's In The Street event. In addition, our executive director spoke about Envision to the Frederick County Master Gardeners, the Frederick Business and Professional Women and The Frederick Rotary Club.

For 2022, we look forward to continuing our programs, bringing back Green Drinks sessions and our Annual Dinner in accordance with local Covid-19 considerations, a refreshed website and more work around local climate change initiatives. We can't wait to collaborate with our community for another year.

