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## **Press Release**

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# **Boonsboro Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference, 1<sup>st</sup> in Washington County**

**College Park, MD (September 16, 2014)** –The **Town of Boonsboro** was one of ten Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League’s annual Fall Conference held in Annapolis on Friday, September 12.

## **The Town of Boonsboro is the first Sustainable Maryland Certified municipality in Washington County.**

As a small rural community nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, the Town of Boonsboro has both an intimate connection to the natural world, and a keen understanding of the importance of community service. The Boonsboro Green Fest, featuring more than 150 vendors, is a prime example of the volunteerism that pervades the Town’s sustainability initiatives. More than 150 volunteers staff this annual event, and monetary and in-kind donations from local businesses ensure its success. Annual stream clean-ups in Shafer Park draw dozens of volunteers, and a recent stream buffer project planted several hundred native trees, helping to improve water quality. The Boonsboro Green Team has also been very successful in recruiting local businesses to participate in the Maryland Green Registry program, which certifies businesses that strive to conserve natural resources and protect the environment as part of their daily practices. The Town has also been proactive with respect to its carbon footprint, recently completing energy audits of its Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Community Center, and Maintenance Building, which will provide a roadmap for improvements that will save energy and money in the long run.

“The Town of Boonsboro is honored to achieve Sustainable Maryland certification for its efforts of best management practices in environmental stewardship, waste reduction, public education, and economic development,” **said Megan Clark, Boonsboro Town Manager.** “Sustainable Maryland is an outstanding program that has provided technical assistance to the Town, as well as an outlet to concentrate and recognize the Town’s efforts toward sustainable actions. And as the first municipality

to be Sustainable Maryland Certified in Washington County, we look forward to serving as a model for neighboring communities.”

To achieve Sustainable Maryland Certified status, 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 10 municipalities to achieve Sustainable Maryland Certified status this year include:**

**Town of Bel Air** (first municipality certified in Harford County)

**Town of Berwyn Heights** (Prince George’s County)

**Town of Boonsboro** (first municipality certified in Washington County)

**Town of Chesapeake Beach** (first municipality certified in Calvert County)

**Town of Cheverly** (Prince George’s County)

**City of Greenbelt** (Prince George’s County)

**Town of Snow Hill** (Worcester County)

**City of Takoma Park** (Montgomery County)

**Town of Riverdale Park** (Prince George’s County)

**Town of University Park** (Prince George’s County)

According to **Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland**, “These awards are a testament to the passion and dedication of volunteers, municipal staff and elected officials to lighten our collective imprint on the Earth, restore the natural world, and plan together to create a better tomorrow for our children and their children.”

**Joanne Throwe, Director of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland at College Park**, congratulated the certified towns: “These newly certified Sustainable Maryland municipalities have demonstrated, each in their own unique ways, their commitment to strengthening the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainability in their towns and cities. I commend their elected officials, municipal staff, and of course the passionate volunteers of their Green Teams for their efforts to shine a guiding light on the path forward for all of Maryland’s communities to a brighter, more sustainable future.”

**The attached photo shows Boonsboro attendees Council Member Barbara Wetzel, Council Member Brigitte Schmidt, and Town Manager Megan Clark with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference.**

**Also attached is the Boonsboro Sustainable Maryland Certified logo.**

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**Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2014 (3rd full year of the program):**

- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: 22 (14% of Maryland’s municipalities)

- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: 45 (29% 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](http://www.sustainablemaryland.com)

**For information about the Town of Boonsboro's sustainability initiatives**, please contact Megan Clark, Town Manager, at 301-432-5690 or [town.planner@myactv.net](mailto:town.planner@myactv.net)



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