



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

Winchester Hall / 12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
CONTACT: Robin K. Santangelo
Public Information Officer
301-600-2590
TTY: Use Maryland Relay
rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 25, 2010

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECEIVE FIRST GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners yesterday received a report on a Frederick County [greenhouse gas inventory](#) conducted by the Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES).

The greenhouse gas inventory is an accounting of emissions attributed to human activities such as fossil fuel consumption, electricity use and waste disposal. For the government operations component of the inventory, OES reviewed emissions associated with buildings, facilities, vehicle fleet, solid waste and sources like employee commute. The community inventory includes emissions data by sector, focusing on residential, commercial, industrial, transportation and waste.

Board President Jan Gardner said, “Developing a greenhouse gas inventory is a critical step in understanding the impact our activities have on the environment. Coupled with the data on energy consumption compiled for the county’s Draft Comprehensive Energy Plan, we have a robust baseline for comparing future performance and tracking progress of energy conservation initiatives and emission reduction strategies.”

Highlights of the report include:

- Emissions associated with county government operations are about 2% of the total community emissions – lower than the regional average of 3-4%.
- Indirect emissions resulting from purchased electricity are the largest source of community emissions (55.6%); the non-residential sector consumes three times the electricity of the residential sector.
- The county’s geography and proximity to Baltimore and Washington contribute to the significant emissions attributed to vehicular travel, which represents 38% of total community emissions.

(more)

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The county used the 2007 calendar year as its initial baseline to complement the county's Draft Comprehensive Energy Plan and to be consistent with inventories across the state and region.

The office received funding to conduct the inventory from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program of the U.S. Department of Energy. The three-year grant award supports implementation of the board's fiscal year 2007-2011 Strategic Plan objective to reduce the use of non-renewable energy in county buildings, facilities and vehicle fleet by 50% or more by 2024, make measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and increase consumer awareness and adoption of energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy measures.

Locally, the Board of County Commissioners endorsed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement by Resolution No. 07-14 in 2007, committing to meet Kyoto Protocol targets through a variety of local actions.

Frederick County Government has taken aggressive steps to reduce energy consumption in buildings, conserve fuel, and capture solid-waste associated emissions, among other activities.

Later this week, the commissioners will receive the Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations, a report from the county's internal Sustainable Action Team. The report outlines action recommendations related to reducing energy and emissions and saving tax dollars. The team has provided employees an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and has improved internal communication regarding conservation measures and sustainability initiatives.

The commissioners established the Office of Environmental Sustainability in 2008 to integrate sustainable practices into county operations and provide committed environmental leadership to the community-at-large. The office's mission is to advance practical solutions for protecting the environment, conserving energy and living sustainably in Frederick County.

For more information about the inventory or the county's work in sustainability, contact Director Hilari Varnadore, Office of Environmental Sustainability, at 301-600-7414 or via e-mail at hvarnadore@frederickcountymd.gov or Project Manager Kelli Goetz, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project, at 301-600-6863 or via e-mail at kgoetz@frederickcountymd.gov.

To view the report and PowerPoint presented to the commissioners, visit www.frederickcountymd.gov/sustainability.

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