



**HELPING COMMUNITIES INVEST TODAY FOR A MORE LIVABLE TOMORROW**

## **Press Release**

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# **Thurmont Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League**

**College Park, MD (October 17, 2016)** – The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that **The Town of Thurmont** was one of 14 Maryland municipalities honored at the **Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony** at the Maryland Municipal League’s annual Fall Conference on Friday in Solomons, Maryland.

**A detailed summary of Thurmont’s sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.**

### **Highlights of Thurmont’s accomplishments include:**

- Adopted a Sustainable Procurement Policy in 2016 that ensures that town staff considers sustainability when purchasing products and/or services to be utilized within the town's operations.
- Began an LED street light retrofit program in 2015, which has thus far installed 62 new downtown LED street lights and 30 new subdivision LED street lights.
- Hosted a Farmers Market since 2005.
- Promotes "Thurmont Business Bucks" as part of a “Buy Local” campaign. This program allows residents to purchase "coupons" that can be used at any participating business in town, keeping more money circulating locally..
- An average of 320 households made up of over 1,300 individuals receive food each month from the Thurmont Food Bank.
- Established a Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Ordinance, which details specific characteristics that must be met including building design, street alignments and design, and architectural details.

“I am very proud of the joint resident and municipal effort that has resulted in Thurmont being recognized as a Sustainable Maryland Certified municipality,” said **Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird**. “I specifically want to thank the Thurmont Green Team for their tireless investment of time, energy and leadership in this worthwhile endeavor. The projects and initiatives implemented by the

Thurmont Green Team has set our town on a course of environmental awareness, renewed our sense of community and most importantly will help insure a healthier and economically viable future for Thurmont's residents."

"Every year, the Environmental Finance Center is proud to welcome more municipalities to the Sustainable Maryland community," said **Dan Nees, director of the Environmental Finance Center**. "The incredible growth of this program demonstrates that so many communities across the state are dedicated to healthier, more sustainable futures. The shared commitment of local elected officials, municipal staff and Green Team volunteers in these diverse towns and cities are a testament to Maryland's vision of resilience."

**The attached photo shows (from left) Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick, Green Team Assistant Leader Cindy Poole, and Mayor John Kinnaird with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference this week.**

**Also attached is Thurmont's Sustainable Maryland Certified logo.**

**For detailed information about Thurmont's sustainability initiatives**, please contact Jim Humerick, Chief Administrative Officer, at 301-271-7313 ext. 204 or [JHumerick@thurmontstaff.com](mailto:JHumerick@thurmontstaff.com)

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**Sustainable Maryland Certification:** To achieve certification, 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 Sustainable Maryland Action Menu can be seen here: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/actions-certification/actions/>

**The complete list of 2016 newly certified and re-certified (denoted by \*) communities includes:**

\***City of Annapolis** (Anne Arundel County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

\***Town of Bladensburg** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

**Town of Colmar Manor** (Prince George's County)

\***City of Bowie** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

\***City of College Park** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

\***Town of Edmonston** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

\***City of Frederick** (Frederick County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

\***City of Gaithersburg** (Montgomery County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

**City of Havre de Grace** (Harford County)

\***City of Hyattsville** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016)

**Town of Middletown** (Frederick County)

**Town of Ocean City** (Worcester County)

**City of Salisbury** (the first municipality to be certified in Wicomico County)

**Town of Thurmont** (Frederick County)

According to **Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland**, “This year’s Sustainable Maryland Certified municipalities featured both large cities and small towns, from both urban and rural parts of the state. These communities, while differing in scale and demographics, all recognized the importance of addressing sustainability issues at the local level. We are especially pleased by the successful re-certification of all eight Sustainable Maryland Certified municipalities from 2013, which demonstrates the value communities place on our certification designation and the municipal Green Team/Action Plan framework.”

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**Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2016 (5th full year of the program):**

- Number of Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: **36 (23% of Maryland’s municipalities)**
- Number of Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: **66 (42% 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)



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