

## About CBE

**Budget:** Each year, the City provides CBE with a budget that can be used to fund its projects.

**Meetings:** The CBE usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public, and the CBE encourages citizen input and participation.

For information about meeting dates and locations, check the City's online [calendar](#). For any other information contact the City Clerk's office at 240-487-3501.

**Membership:** CBE membership is limited to a total of 25 individuals who are appointed by the Mayor and Council for renewable terms of three years. Members serve as volunteers and receive no pay.

The committee elects its own chair, and the City provides a staff liaison to work with members.

Residents interested in becoming a member of CBE should let their Council representative know. A list of Council can be found at <https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/27/Mayor-Council#meet>.

Residents who simply want to volunteer for various CBE or City sponsored projects are also needed.

Look for the CBE tip of the month in the City's monthly newsletter, the *Municipal Scene*.



## HISTORY AND MISSION

The Committee for a Better Environment (“CBE”) serves the City by addressing environmental concerns that affect the quality of life of its residents. The Committee was established in 1972 and its activities are chartered by the Mayor & Council with the goal of providing guidance and leadership to the municipal government, as well as service and outreach to the community.

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Examples of CBE’s activities and contributions include the following:

### **SMART Report (aka Zero Waste):**

With the goal of reducing municipal waste, CBE researched and developed a report on a usage-based fee system for trash, which incentivizes waste reduction. CBE requested that the City move from the current tax-funded system for trash collection to the usage-based system, commonly called Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) or SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash). At the Council’s directive, members of CBE and the City’s Department of Public Works formed a subcommittee in 2016 to discuss this system and how it could be applied. A completed SMART program report was provided to the Mayor and Council in July 2019 for the Council’s consideration. CBE is interested in working with the Mayor and Council on instituting the SMART program in College Park.

**Permaculture Garden:** CBE established and maintains a permaculture garden in College Park,

which is planted with edible plants and incorporates other elements of natural ecosystems. The garden was planned in 2014 in consultation with a professional garden designer and was conceived as a pilot program for the City. The first completed phase is located along the trolley trail in the City’s Berwyn neighborhood on Rhode Island Avenue between Tecumseh Street and Greenbelt Road. CBE members and volunteers maintain the site throughout the growing season.

**Rain Barrels:** CBE has offered workshops on the value of using rain barrels to capture stormwater and keep it out of the watershed, and has made rain barrels available to College Park residents. So far, over 195 rain barrels have been purchased.

**Community Outreach:** Environmental education is an important part of CBE’s mission. CBE has created a series of brochures covering topics such as recycling, energy efficiency, and composting, and has given out materials to support sustainable practices, such as food scrap containers and reusable produce bags. In addition, CBE has organized and hosted the following:

- Screenings and discussions of several environmentally relevant films, including: “Kilowatt Ours,” “Gasland,” “Bag It: Is Your Life too Plastic?” and “Before the Flood”
- Stream and roadside cleanups
- Sustainable landscaping projects at various locations, including Youth and Family Services, Attick Towers, and Paint Branch and Hollywood Elementary Schools

**Educational workshops:** CBE holds workshops on topics such as bayscapes gardening, rain barrels, rain gardens, native plants, wild edibles, shade gardening, community solar, green cleaning and energy efficiency.

### **Emissions Inventory and Reduction:**

CBE compiled information on municipal operations and greenhouse gas emissions and presented findings of the study to the Mayor and Council in 2009. CBE continues to prioritize emissions inventories and find ways to reduce emissions across the City.

**Green Awards:** Each year since 2006, the CBE publicly recognizes selected citizens, organizations, and/or businesses who have made important efforts to protect or enrich the local environment.

**Freshwater Stewardship:** In the 1990’s, CBE launched the Stream Team Project, conducting stream walks, leading clean-ups, and soliciting the help of numerous volunteers to plant trees and bulbs along the stream bank of Guilford Run, located on the City’s southern border. In 1997, CBE received the River Stewardship Award from American Rivers for its restoration work of Guilford Run, a tributary of the Anacostia River.

**Veterans’ Memorial:** In the early 1990s, CBE and the City’s Department of Public Works worked together to launch, fund, design, and landscape this small park at the corner of Greenbelt Road and Route 1.