



# Sustainable Maryland Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Maryland Certification Report of Middletown (Frederick), a Sustainable Maryland certified applicant.

Middletown (Frederick) was certified on October 05, 2016 with 220 points. Listed below is information regarding Middletown (Frederick)'s Sustainable Maryland efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

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## Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Maryland contact for Middletown (Frederick) is:

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|------------------------|---|
| <b>Name:</b>           | Cindy Unangst                                     |
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# Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Middletown (Frederick) was approved for in 2016 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

## Community Action

### Innovative Demonstration Projects

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

Middletown's first Green Expo was held April 23, 2016 in Middletown Memorial Park. Enthusiastic Green Team volunteers helped recruit vendors and organize activities. The town provided \$1500 for the Expo and donated a rainbarrel to be raffled. There was no charge to the more than twenty-two participating vendors. Despite a persistent cool drizzle, +/- 300 townspeople attended the event. Activities began with an opening dedication and a bird walk in nearby Cone Branch Park, followed by a native tree planting demonstration, a compost bin demonstration, and two costumed multigenerational bike rides of 1.5 and 3 miles through town. Riders were awarded prizes donated by generous local businesses. Goodwill Industries donations were accepted on site. The Monarch Alliance provided an educational Monarch butterfly display in which young children made nectar plant seed balls to take home. Paul Grabenstein provided music. Participants were eager to learn about and interact with two owls and a hawk from Maryland Park Services "Scales and Tales" program, as well as with Catocin Nature Center's live snake. Frederick Beekeepers brought an active beehive. Participants learned about native plants, native plant landscaping and sustainable farming practices from several vendors. A solar vendor educated about renewable energy. We hosted an Earthplanter, a unique self-watering planter, as well as an electric car. Many enjoyed an interactive green pledge activity created by a Middletown High School student. A variety of vendors provided environmental information on various topics. One gave away free tree seedlings. Free shredding was also offered. The event was seen as a success and a great beginning. We anticipate Middletown's Green Expo will become a tradition.

 [Green Expo documentation](#)

## Green Team

### Build SMC Resource Center

5 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Sustainable Resource Center was created in the Spring of 2016. Located in the Municipal Center, the SRC contains a bookshelf with education brochures and handouts on sustainable issues focused on Sustainable Maryland Certification (Farmer's market, recycling, waste management, storm water management, yard waste recycling, water conservation and park and fitness facilities). An online SRC is available on the town's website and is maintained by town staff. Information is also routinely updated on the town's Facebook page, its listserve and Middletown Quarterly Newsletter sent to all town water users.

 [Build SMC Resource Center Documentation](#)

## Complete a Green Team Action Plan

10 Points

Mandatory

### Program Summary:

The Middletown Green Team conducted a community survey to residents of Middletown during the summer of 2015. The survey was available on the town's website and was also sent out a few times via the town's e-mail list serve. The results of the survey showed that most residents were interested in attending the farmer's market, attending local food fairs, and attending a native plant sale. There was also interest in cleaning up the trash in town. Most residents use the yard waste service provided by the town and think there should be recycling containers in the parks. From this survey an Action Plan was put together outlining the next three years, although we hope to achieve certification after the first year. This action plan will include documenting the sustainability efforts that the Town already has in place.

 [Middletown Mission Statement and Action Plan](#)

 [Green Team Survey results - Questions 4, 5 and 6](#)

 [Green Team Survey results - Questions 1, 2 and 3](#)

 [Green Team Survey results - Questions 7,8 and 9](#)

 [Green Team Survey results - Questions 10,11 and 12](#)

## Create Green Team

10 Points

Mandatory

### Program Summary:

A Green Team was established by the Town of Middletown to help facilitate the implementation and fulfillment of the Sustainable Maryland Program. The Green Team is a group of local residents, business owners and town staff that have offered their skills, expertise and ideas to lead the Town to gain certification approval. To achieve certification, the Green Team took direction from the responses citizens provided through the recent community survey, which was available on the Town's website and sent to residents via the

Town's list serve, and they identified projects that will meet the community's needs and interests, and will work towards implementing those projects. The Team will then document the necessary information to achieve certification status thru Sustainable Maryland.

 [Green Team Kick-off Meeting 4.28.15](#)

 [Green Team Meeting 7.15.15](#)

 [Green Team member list](#)

 [Green Team Meeting Schedule](#)

 [Green Team meeting agendas](#)

## Participate in SMC Green Team Training

5 Points

### Program Summary:

Members of the Middletown Green Team attended the SMC Green Team Training on October 21, 2015 at the Middletown Municipal Center. The training session, presented by Mike Hunninghake with SMC, provided us with an opportunity to learn more about the Sustainable Maryland Certification program. We were able to review our draft action plan with him, and he gave us some good feedback on our proposed goals, as well as providing us with some additional action items to think about. Mike suggested that we rank the difficulty of the action items as well as their duration, and to recruit volunteers to assign to projects. Six members of the Middletown Green Team attended the 1st Frederick County Green Team Summit in Frederick on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. Five members of the Middletown Green Team attended the 2nd Frederick County Green Team Summit in Frederick on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Multiple municipalities from Frederick County were represented and the municipalities provided updates on the progress of their sustainability initiatives.

 [Participate in SMC Green Team Training Documentation](#)

 [Middletown Green Team Training Attendance Sheet](#)

 [Green Team Training Powerpoint presentation](#)

## Community Based Food System

### Innovative Demonstration Projects

5 Points

### Program Summary:

The Middletown Food Bank is located in a municipal-owned building and is run by volunteers. It's mission is to provide the hungry in the Greater Middletown Valley area with a variety of nutritious food while treating its clients with dignity and respect. The food is always of the

highest of standards ensuring that the food given will provide augmentation to the monthly needs of the clients. Thousands of children and young people do not have ready or reliable access to the food they need to lead healthy, active lives and the Food Bank is there to help. The food bank is located on Main Street and is open from 1:00-3:00pm on Wednesdays, and from 9:00am - Noon on Saturdays. The Town of Middletown provides the building for the food bank and pays all the utility bills. The Town recently upgraded the utilities at the building following an energy audit of the building. The Food Bank is advertised on the Town's website, and leftover food from town-sponsored events is taken to the Food Bank.

 [Middletown Food Bank documentation](#)

## Local Food Consumption

### Establish Local Farmers Market

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

Middletown's rural location allows for many farmers to be involved in the town's farmer's market. The market features about a dozen vendors offering vegetables, fruit, eggs, meat, native perennials, cut flowers, doggie treats, fruit and vegetable garden transplants and herbs, local honey and beeswax candles, soaps, gluten free baked goods, and hand made jewelry. The market is advertised year round with signage (installed by the Town) within the town limits, and is located in the parking lot of the Christ Reformed United Church of Christ near the center of town. Every year, the market is scheduled to be open on Thursdays from 4:00-7:00pm from May through mid-October. This is the market's 15th year of operation. Market manager, appointed by the church, is Josh Lewis; his contact phone number is 301-524-1035; Mark Boettcher is the market's liaison to the church. The town provided the farmer's market with the signage in town and Annette Alberghini, our receptionist, promotes the farmer's market on the Town's website. The Town's maintenance staff hangs a large 3-foot by 24-foot banner advertising the market at the entrance to Town about 6-7 times a year. The market was voted one of the best farmer's markets (second place) by Frederick Magazine in 2015. The Middletown Farmers Market is an outreach program that falls under the Discipleship Board of the Middletown Christ Reformed Church of Christ, which is why the market is held in their parking lot. As an activity of the church, the market is covered under their insurance. Likewise, the market does not have its own bank account, and the church handles the market's finances. As such, the market is not organized as a non-profit organization. Generally, vendors are charged a fee of \$50 to participate for the entire season. There are less than 6 vendors who only come occasionally, or for a certain part of the season, that are permitted to pay a \$5 weekly rate. Those monies are then given to the church where they are deposited into the same account as all other Discipleship Board funds.

-  [Middletown Farmer's Market Documentation](#)
-  [Middletown Farmer's Market Signage](#)
-  [Farmers Market Financial and other Documentation](#)

## Local Food Production

### Community Gardens **15 Points** **Priority**

#### Program Summary:

A member of the Middletown Rec Council, Pam Dietrick, took the initiative to start a community garden and a children's pizza garden in the town's Wiles Branch Park seven years ago. Each season about nine gardeners plus children participate and generally it's about six families. The pizza garden usually has around 15-18 children, with 30 children the first year. For the children's pizza garden, the plants, ones that you would find on a pizza – tomatoes, peppers, oregano, basil and hot peppers) and tomato cages are supplied by the Middletown Rec Council; the children have to supply gloves and shovels. The adult gardener's supply everything they need. The children are also given a handmade booklet with a listing of the plants they are planting and information on how to care for them. The kids planting is very simple and easy so they will see growth and have fun. The kids also plant marigolds to the front of their garden and dwarf sunflowers for the birds to the back of the garden. They are told to pinch flowers off of the basil and oregano to keep the flavor of the herbs. Flyers are sent out to the schools to drum up interest. The community gardeners are usually people who live in apartments or from the Glenbrook subdivision; Glenbrook has an HOA and the homeowners cannot plant on their property. The gardeners are a diverse set and have planted in their countries, love planting in the garden, and use their own veggies or sell them at the farmer's market. They are very innovative and do a great job considering their limited resources. The town supplies the land area for the gardens, a rain barrel and publicity. The first year that the gardens were established, the Town Public Works Department did the work of preparing the land for the gardens.

-  [Community Gardens Documentation](#)
-  [Garden photos and pizza garden info Documentation](#)

## Energy

### Innovative Demonstration **25 Points** Projects

#### Program Summary:

The Town of Middletown has 3 innovative demonstration projects. 1. Solar Array -

Constructed in the fall of 2015 and commissioned on April 22, 2016, the Town of Middletown now has a live 836 kilowatt solar array on 6.4 acres of municipal land. This new photovoltaic solar installation is directly adjacent to the East Wastewater Treatment Plant and will deliver 1,143 MWh of electricity annually to fully power Middletown's water and wastewater facilities. 100% solar energy is now used to power Middletown's water and wastewater treatment facility, which provides 300,000 gallons of clean drinking water a day to Town residents. The solar project was financed using a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), a third-party contract that enables Middletown to generate low-cost electricity without "out-of-pocket" expense. Frederick, MD's Empower Energies and Reading, PA-based RER Energy Group were co-developers of this project with Sol Systems serving as financing partner. Middletown's solar strategy will keep costs low and predictable for the next twenty years and is expected to save the Town \$10,000 per year. In another part of the facility, 234,400 gallons of wastewater are treated each day. With pollutants removed, this treated water is then used to irrigate the nearby Richland Golf Course. Middletown's wastewater reuse supports the State of Maryland's "Zero Waste Maryland" initiative, which seeks to reduce, reuse, and recycle all waste generated in Maryland by 2040.

2. Upgrade to LED Lights in Municipal Center - Due to the Energy Audit suggestion, the Town upgraded 65 existing light fixtures in the Municipal Center to energy efficient ones (14 Watts LED light bulbs). The existing fluorescent light bulbs were recycled at the USA Light/Environmental Preservation Associates in Beltsville, MD.

3. Food Bank upgrades – Again due to the Energy Audit suggestions, the Town upgraded the entire heating and cooling system in the Food Bank building, along with upgrading the insulation and building envelope. The fuel oil furnace was replaced with a heat pump; the existing A/C unit was upgraded to a high efficiency air conditioning unit; all duct work was sealed; insulation was upgraded in the attic and crawlspace; a vapor barrier was installed in the crawlspace; the crawlspace and attic access panels were air-sealed; and generalized envelope sealing was implemented.

 [Solar array documentation](#)

 [Solar array photos](#)

 [Energy grant building upgrades Documentation](#)

## Municipal Energy Audits

15 Points Priority

### Program Summary:

The Town of Middletown hired a certified energy consultant in 2011 to perform a field audit showing preliminary energy savings and financial analysis of energy efficiency improvements for two buildings that are owned by the Town of Middletown - the building that houses the Food Bank and the Town's Municipal Center. The audit was done on behalf of the Maryland Energy Administration's EmPOWER Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

program. As part of the audit preparation, Middletown staff gathered historical fuel oil and electric utility bills for the buildings. In early 2011, the Town of Middletown was awarded a \$16,000 grant to make energy efficiency improvements to the two municipal buildings - weatherization at the Food Bank building and interior lighting replacement at the Municipal Center. The weatherization measures included insulation in the attic and crawl space, air sealing, and installing a vapor barrier. The interior lighting upgrades consisted of replacing 65 light fixtures to energy efficient ones (14 Watts LED light bulbs). In addition to the improvements made using the grant money, the Town also used the audit's findings and recommendations to replace the fuel oil furnace at the Food Bank building with an ENERGY STAR qualified heat pump, upgraded to an ENERGY STAR qualified air conditioning unit, and installed a digital programmable thermostat. Attached is an outline of the audit's findings and recommendations and documents representing the work that was completed. Since 2011 the Town has reduced its' electric consumption at the Municipal Center building as follows: June 2011-Used 8,480 KW of electric; June 2012-Used 6,720 KW of electric; June 2013-Used 6,480 KW of electric; June 2014-Used 5,360 KW of electric; and June 2015-Used 0 KW (due to new solar array). It is easy to see that the LED lighting improvements based on the recommendation of the audit have paid off. The Town of Middletown continues to enhance energy usage and is enjoying the immense benefits of the solar array that now eliminates electric bills to most of the town-owned buildings.

 [Municipal Energy Audit Report](#)

 [Summary of Next Steps for Implementing Recommendations](#)

 [Additional Municipal Energy Audits Documentation](#)

## Workplace Wellness

### Workplace Wellness Program

5 Points

#### Program Summary:

In recent years, the Town of Middletown has ramped up its wellness program for its employees to help reduce health care costs and keep employees healthier. In 2014, employees were given a \$75 gift card to a local convenience store/gas station once the employee went in for his/her annual physical health exam (eight employees received the gift cards). This past year, the Town held a three-month walking challenge that 10 employees participated in. Employees kept track of their daily steps for the challenge; during the first month of the challenge an incentive was given in which the lucky winner received a \$25 Subway gift card; the next month a luncheon was held for all participating employees. The overall male and female winners each received \$250 for having the greatest number of steps for the three month challenge. The overall female winner's steps totaled 987,678 which translates to about 400 miles; the overall male winner's steps totaled 987,654 which converts

to 400+ miles. The Town has also provided influenza vaccines for many years at the town office with 10-12 employees receiving the flu shot each year. Due to increased efforts to promote healthy lifestyle habits with Town employees, the Town has received significant rebates from the Town's self-funded insurance company. The past four years have seen rebate amounts of \$14,289, \$19,974, \$26,640 and \$27,526. A quarterly newsletter is created by the Town's receptionist and distributed to Town employees that includes information on health and wellness. In addition the Town is offering a gym membership to its employees at no cost to the employee. Currently, seven employees are taking advantage of the offer. Many staff members are involved with managing and supporting the various facets of the wellness programs including the office manager, the staff planner, the financial officer and the receptionist.

 [Workplace Wellness Program Documentation](#)

## Local Economies

### Innovative Demonstration Projects

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Main Street Approach is a 35-year program that was formulated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a preservation-based, economic revitalization strategy. Middletown became a designated Main Street community in 2009. Maryland follows the National Main Street 4-Point Approach that includes: organization, promotion, design, and economic revitalization and has adopted a 5th Point – Clean, Green, and Safe. Our Main Street organization is a 501c3 lead by a volunteer Board of Trustees consisting of Middletown business owners, homeowners, and interested stakeholders. The Main Street Board works closely with the Town Burgess and Commissioners. Promotions are advertising campaigns, social media campaigns, and special events to encourage people to come to Middletown. Design focuses on the visual appeal of our Main Street district and emphasizes the preservation of historic buildings. Economic Development focuses on business retention and business expansion. For Clean, Safe, and Green, we focus on keeping our Main Street organization and events green. For example, one of our promotions was producing Main Street Middletown reusable bags with Main Street business logos on the bag. These Shop Local bags were distributed to local businesses to use and to our Farmer's Market. Another recent and significant project is our Design Committee's publication, "Maintaining and Sustaining Our Architectural Heritage." This book provides an architectural history of our town and has a question-driven worksheet that allows the property owner to identify the character defining features of their property. The book follows the direction of the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties which directs property owners to maintain historic features before replacing them. In this context, we also discuss

the link between historic preservation and sustainability and that historic properties are inherently “green” as they were constructed before electricity and air-conditioning.

 [Middletown Main Street Community Documentation](#)

## Buy Local Campaign

### Establish Local Business Directory

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Town of Middletown has long recognized the symbiotic relationship between the Town and its citizens and the Local Business Community. The Town advertises all of these businesses on its web site ([http://www.middletown.md.us/index.asp?SEC=4C095045-ADFF-4A19-8815-3BADB353687B&Type=B\\_BASIC](http://www.middletown.md.us/index.asp?SEC=4C095045-ADFF-4A19-8815-3BADB353687B&Type=B_BASIC)) and in a Community Directory that is updated every few years. The Burgess and Commissioners have long promoted the businesses within our small Town and in recent years established Middletown as a Main Street Maryland community. Presently, the Town has 3 venues to reach out to the citizens who may support the local businesses: a Town Website; a Town Calendar and a Business Directory, all free to anyone who is interested. The Town maintains its own website and a redesign of the website took place in January 2016. An integral part of that site, and also the Community Directory, is a categorized listing of the Town's Businesses. The Community Directory has been published for more than 15 years as a resource to the Town's residents and regularly hands them out to visitors to the Municipal Center. Additionally, the Community Directory contains a history of the town, a list of nonprofits in the area, a listing of special events, a map of the town, information about the town government and staff, water and sewer information, and information about recycling, trash and town parks. The Business Directory is maintained and updated by our receptionist, Annette Alberghini, and Town Commissioner Jennifer Falcinelli. Jennifer is the Chairman of the Town's Public Information standing committee.

 [Middletown 2015 Community Directory](#)

## Natural Resources

### Innovative Demonstration Projects

25 Points

#### Program Summary:

Middletown has four innovative projects under this category. 1. Recycle Drop-off Location - The Town has a drop-off location for recycled materials at the community park located adjacent to the school complex. Although Frederick County provides recycling bins for all

residential properties, the drop-off location provides the opportunity for residents and businesses to drop off materials such as large cardboard boxes that otherwise would not fit into the residential recycling bins, and also a place where commercial businesses can drop off their recycling. The Town's maintenance staff monitors the recycling center to make sure the bins are emptied as needed and to make sure that no materials are being dropped off there that are unable to be recycled. The recycling center is advertised in the Community Directory and on the Town's website.

2. Yard waste program - Since 1991, Middletown has provided paper yard waste bags to its residents free of charge. It started with the town's public works men collecting yard waste - mainly grass clippings - and taking it to an organic farmer. The yard waste bags are picked up once a week from April thru December by the town's trash hauler. Acceptable yard waste includes yard and garden trimmings, grass clippings, leaves, brush and branches. The yard waste is taken to the Frederick County landfill where it is turned into mulch. Also, Christmas trees are collected on designated Saturdays in January. The Town also provides for two bulk trash pick-ups a year (usually one in the spring and one in the fall). The Town's maintenance staff bring the pallets of yard waste bags into the Municipal Center almost on a weekly basis during the mowing and leaf-raking seasons where the town residents come to pick them up.

3. Prescription Drug Drop Box - The Town of Middletown, in cooperation with the Frederick County Health Department, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, and the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency, participates in a prescription drug take back effort. To help provide safe disposal of unused medicine, the Town has installed a Prescription Drug Disposal Site at the Middletown Municipal Center. The drop-off container is located just inside the rear access door from the parking lot. During business hours (M-F, 8am-4pm) residents can safely dispose of their expired and/or unwanted household medicines and prescription drugs.

4. Improvements to West Green Street - West Green Street is getting a sustainable upgrade, and will have new sidewalk, curb, gutter and stormwater management. The stormwater management features include Filterra stormwater biofiltration systems. The lighting is also being replaced with new super-efficient LED lights. West Green Street is a primary route for children walking to school, and the \$2.2M project was initiated because of pedestrian safety and traffic calming needs. The project started on April 26, 2016 and progress updates are available on the Town's website as the project moves forward. The project is expected to take 9-12 months to complete.

-  [Yard waste program documentation](#)
-  [Prescription drug drop-off location documentation](#)
-  [Recycle Drop-off Location Documentation](#)
-  [West Green Street Improvements Documentation](#)
-  [West Green Street Construction](#)

## **Pet Waste**

## Develop a Pet Waste Program

5 Points

### Program Summary:

The Town of Middletown allows dogs in all of the town parks and walking trails. As far back as 2008, the Town implemented a pet waste program beginning with dog bag waste containers being placed in Wiles Branch Park. The program now consists of twenty-four dog bag waste stations that have been installed in all of the town parks and along all of the walking trails within the town. Six of the dog bag waste stations are located within the new dog parks which opened in January 2016. The intent of the dog park is to provide a clean, safe and secure off-leash area where well-behaved dogs can socialize, exercise and play. The small and large dog parks are located in Wiles Branch Park and are available thru a registration program. The membership year runs from July 1st of the current year thru June 30th of the next year for a fee of \$28 per resident household for up to 3 dogs and \$40 per non-resident for up to 3 dogs, with \$4 for each additional dog thereafter. All dog owners must provide proof of a valid Frederick County or out of district license and a current rabies tag, for each dog being registered in order to receive a Wiles Branch Dog Park access key card. The Town will plan to consider a pet waste ordinance later this year.

 [Develop a Pet Waste Program Documentation](#)

## Water Conservation

### Develop a Water Conservation Outreach Program

10 Points

### Program Summary:

During the 2002 drought that the entire State of Maryland experienced, residents and businesses were confused with the numerous types and locations of water bans throughout the area. The Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown created the Water Conservation Public Alert System to keep the public informed as to the current status of the Town's public drinking water system. Since that time, the Town uses the following to keep the public informed: water faucet signs are erected at the entrances to the town with a color coded water drop (a blue water drop represents Code Blue, a yellow water drop represents Code Yellow, and a red water drop represents Code Red); the code status is posted on the town website; and a code status change is announced in the local newspaper. The Town also established an ordinance that places restrictions on water use and includes penalties for violating water restrictions. One such restriction is that the watering of lawns or grassy areas of property is prohibited at any time between the hours of 9:00am and 6:00pm during the least restrictive periods of water use under the water conservation public alert system (Code

Blue). In 2003, the Town of Middletown put into place a Water Conservation Program Action Plan. Action Plan items included: water conservation information fact sheets to be included in the quarterly water bills, advertising in the local paper about the importance of water conservation, working with the local schools to schedule regular water conservation classes throughout the year, and setting up a section on the Town's website devoted to water conservation information.

 [Develop a Water Conservation Outreach Program Documentation](#)

## Watershed Stewardship

### Implement Watershed Stewardship / Pollution Prevention Outreach Program(s)

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

In order to promote water conservation and decrease runoff to the Chesapeake Bay, the Town of Middletown has partnered with the Scott Key Center to offer rain barrels for sale to town residents for \$40. The Scott Key Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide work for adults with developmental disabilities, produces rain barrels which provides meaningful wages for their employees who manufacture them. The rain barrels are offered each spring for sale to town residents for half of their normal price on a first come first served basis, with a limit of two per resident. The rain barrels are made from food-grade recycled terra cotta barrels that hold 55 gallons of rain water. The high quality barrels come with a lid for child safety and a screen to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. An overflow hose is also included. The rain barrel program is advertised on the Town's website, flyers go out with the quarterly town newsletter and e-mails about the program are sent to town residents on the Town's list-serve. It is managed by the Town's receptionist and has been a big success for many, many years.

 [Implement Watershed Stewardship / Pollution Prevention Outreach Program\(s\) Documentation](#)

### Provide Incentives for Watershed Stewardship on Private Lands

15 Points

#### Program Summary:

Rain Barrel program - In order to promote water conservation and decrease runoff to the Chesapeake Bay, the Town of Middletown previously partnered with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin to create the Rain Barrel Program. The Town now partners with the Scott Key Center to offer rain barrels for sale to town residents for \$40. The

Scott Key Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide work for adults with developmental disabilities, produces rain barrels which provides meaningful wages for their employees who manufacture them. The rain barrels are offered each spring for sale to town residents for half of their normal price on a first come first served basis, with a limit of two per resident. The rain barrels are made from food-grade recycled terra cotta barrels that hold 55 gallons of rain water. The high quality barrels come with a lid for child safety and a screen to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. An overflow hose is also included. The rain barrel program is advertised on the Town's website, sent in e-mails to the Town's list-serve, and flyers go out with the quarterly town newsletter. It is managed by the Town's receptionist and has been a big success for many, many years. A spreadsheet is attached that shows how many residents bought the rain barrels over a nine-year period.

 [Rain Barrel Program Documentation](#)

## Planning & Land Use

### Participation in DHCD Sustainable Communities

20 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Staff in Middletown's Municipal Center began working on the Sustainable Communities designation in September 2013 after the Burgess and Commissioners adopted Resolution 13-02 on September 9, 2013 to proceed with the application process in order for the Town of Middletown to be designated as a Sustainable Community. The application was gradually drafted with input from the Town Administrator, Staff Planner and Main Street Manager doing most of the work. Included in the Application was the newly created Action Plan that focuses on infrastructure improvements, revitalization initiatives and projects that will increase economic vitality, protect the environment and enhance the livability of the community. The Sustainability Area Map which includes properties along Main Street and contains the National Register Historic Districts, comprises 692 parcels out of the 1,857 parcels within the Town limits. The finished Plan was submitted on September 24, 2013, ahead of the early October 2013 deadline. In October 2013 and January 2014, the Town received notices asking for some further information that was required by DHCD in order to attain approval. Notice that the Town was officially designated a Sustainable Community was publically announced by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development on March 12, 2014.

 [Middletown Sustainable Communities Application Documentation](#)

 [DHCD Sustainable Communities approval letters and supporting documents](#)

 [SC Resolution 13-02 Documentation](#)