



Town of Chevy Chase

Environmental Survey Results

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Question 1

Question 1 Comments

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 4 Comments

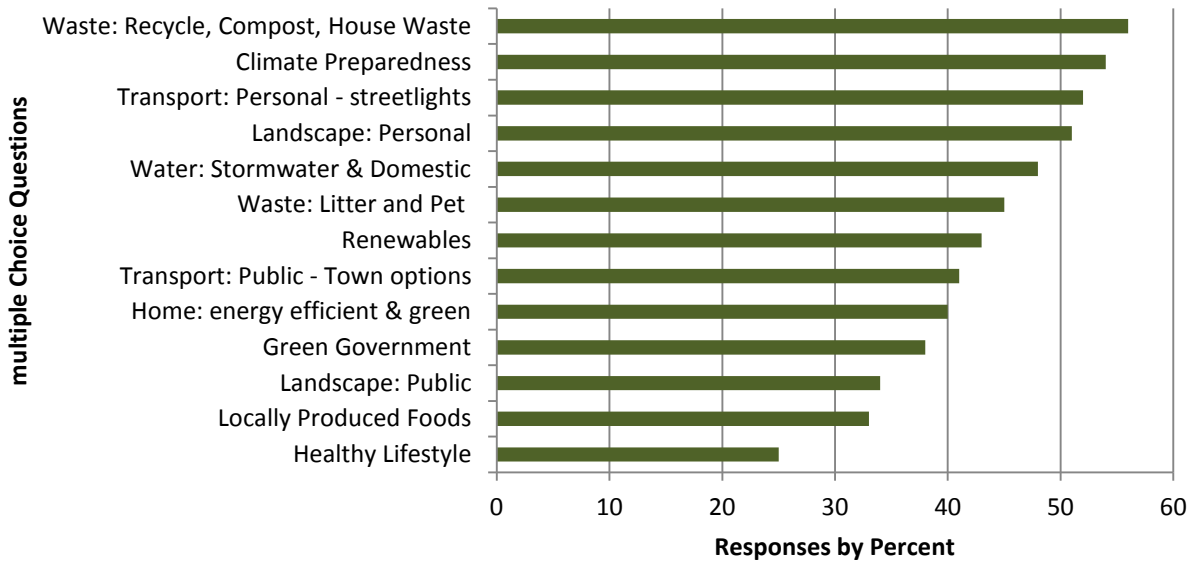
Question 5

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

Selected Very Important to Items in Question 1-- Responses Organized by Category



1. How important do you believe it is for the Town to address each of the following issues?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	I don't know
Increasing public open space	34% 44/133	40% 53/131	23% 30/131	3% 4/131
Supporting locally produced foods. This could include encouraging farmers markets, establishing a community garden plot, or sponsoring a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group (where locally grown produce is delivered weekly to your neighborhood).	33% 44/133	40% 53/133	24% 32/133	3% 4/133
Promoting healthy lifestyles. This could include sponsoring exercise classes or nutrition and healthy eating classes.	25% 34/135	41% 55/135	34% 46/135	0% 0/135

Encouraging sustainable landscape practices. These could include using a reel mower, planting native plants, decreased use of pesticides or fertilizers on lawns, or reducing non-native invasive plants (kudzu, English ivy, etc.)	51% 69/135	36% 48/135	11% 15/135	2% 3/135
Reducing waste. This could include adjustments to trash collection or improved recycling and composting of household kitchen waste- either by curbside collection or backyard composting.	56% 76/135	30% 40/135	11% 15/135	3% 4/135
Reducing litter and pet waste in public areas.	45% 59/132	42% 56/132	11% 15/132	2% 2/132
Increasing the Town's use of fuel efficient or alternative fuel vehicles (hybrids, electric, biodiesel, compressed natural gas, etc.) in our municipal and contractor's fleets.	38% 50/133	40% 53/133	21% 28/133	2% 2/133
Increasing the use of renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal). This could include at individual homes, CCES, 4H Headquarters, or the Lawton Center. It could also include investing in a solar electric vehicle charging station.	43% 58/136	37% 50/136	18% 25/136	2% 3/136
Greener building practices. This could include improving home energy efficiency, green building materials and practices, renewable energy and other green measures.	40% 53/133	41% 54/133	18% 24/133	2% 2/133
Increasing greener transportation options. This could include car-sharing or shuttles, bike lanes, trails or bike-sharing.	41% 55/134	34% 46/134	24% 32/134	1% 1/134
Improve stormwater management. This could include better water	48% 65/135	41% 55/135	10% 14/135	1% 1/135

conservation in the home or yard, watershed stewardship (stream cleanups, monitoring, and pollution prevention) or reduction of roadsalt or sand application during winter months.				
Better preparedness for climate related emergencies (heat waves, power outages, flooding, extreme weather conditions).	54% 73/135	35% 47/135	10% 14/135	1% 1/135
Better street and sidewalk lighting. This could include energy efficient LED streetlights or better placement of street lights for pedestrians.	52% 70/135	36% 49/135	10% 13/135	2% 3/135

Feel free to provide comments on the topics above or suggestions for additional environmental issues you feel the Town might address. 64 respondents provided comments.

Many of these topics are appropriate concerns for the county or the district (larger governments) who could for example facilitate better commuter bike trails through Bethesda. Relative to other communities with which I'm familiar (e.g., the city of Toronto) our recycling efforts are extremely limited and primitive. I think that our money would be better invested in expanding our individual recycling efforts before spending money on alternate fuel vehicles (cutting back on the Town's 'fleet' of vehicles might also be considered if necessary). Finally, although I am not a tree expert, I'm told by friends who are developers that the trees planted by the town are relatively cheap (frequent choices of developers for landscaping) and are more vulnerable to toppling over - perhaps stronger new trees also could be considered if such trees exist.

Consider the noise pollution of leaf blowers.

I feel strongly that our Town should NOT be in the business of attending to any of the above mentioned items other than the two so marked. The Climate and Environment Committee report in the newsletter offering suggestions to residents is enough, sometimes rather annoying. I am disappointed in the resolution authorizing the Town's participation in this SMC program.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to weigh in. I support all measures towards energy efficiency, cleaner water, and fewer toxic chemicals. In my experience, the water in Chevy Chase homes is not good for drinking or washing unless filtered.

I am against for reducing trash collection, as having trash sitting in the trash can for more days actually harm the environment. With regard to gardening practices, I would like the Town to adhere to 'encouraging' some of the practices, but not go beyond and infringe on individual preferences on what they would like plant, how they would manage the pests, and so on.

I would like to see recycling made easier. Can't we have collection at the side of our house like trash collection?

It is pretty absurd to have taxpayers subsidize energy saving programs for owners of mega mansions that have just doubled and tripled physical and environmental footprints.

To make the town as safe and walkable as possible, the Town needs to do a better job of enforcing requirements that sidewalks not be blocked or obstructed by overgrown plantings, trees, etc. We also should look for ways to incorporate sidewalks where none exist, or dedicated bike/walk lanes in the street if necessary in those places.

I would be in favor of these progressive steps AS LONG AS they didn't become a matter of law - i.e., everybody HAD to compost every single scrap of old lettuce, or everybody HAD to install solar panels, everybody HAD to use a reel mower, or whatever. Many of these steps would be expensive and a problem for certain households. The only way to enforce these measures would be to levy fines for non-compliance. It would be far better to offer rewards for households which did demonstrate these practices. For one thing, historic homes (so designated) are not currently allowed to switch out old windows for new insulated ones, or place solar panels on the roof or undertake other environmentally sensitive steps. Better to change those rules so that even historic homes could take part.

Finish sidewalks in the town to encourage walking! Town needs to cut back all shrubbery that intrudes on sidewalks. Erosion is taking place where pedestrians leave the sidewalk to avoid low tree branches and shrubs. This is very important to me.

My responses reflect my view that there are readily available alternatives to Town involvement for some of the activities listed above. For example, there are many readily available providers of locally produced foods and healthy life-styles. I believe the Town should focus on areas where it has special expertise and Town issues, like open space, Town lighting, and so on.

A great list of worthy objectives!

Most of the initiatives above are beyond the scope of the Town's responsibilities, and need to be implemented, if at all, on a national, state, or, at the very least, county-wide level. Some that are simply not proper functions of the Town include lifestyle, locally-produced foods, and transportation issues. I believe strongly in exercise, but anyone who hasn't gotten that message isn't going to change because of anything the Town does. Exceptions (things the Town might do) include the few items marked above that fall within the Town's purview (e.g., use of salt on the roads in winter, street lights). I foresee a wasteful, bureaucratic process, and see this as another example of excess tax receipts 'burning a hole in the town's pocket,' so to speak. No harm in encouraging the use of native plants and fertilizer reduction in the Town newsletter and on its website, however. That shouldn't cost anything. There is, however, one specific thing the Town can do if it has the authority, and that is to stop the employees of the Lawton Center gym from setting the thermostat in the high 70s all winter, and very low in the summer. The place is stiflingly hot in winter, and the furnace never quits. By the same token, the place is a meat locker in the summer, and the waste of energy year-round is quite unnecessary.

In general, I think it is very important for the Town government to examine its own practices and make sure they are as environmentally sensitive as possible, but it is not at all important -- and may be quite harmful -- for the Town government to try to control the environmental impact of what individual residents do. People don't always agree on what course of action is more environmentally friendly, e.g., CFL bulbs with mercury versus incandescent bulbs that use more energy. Nor are residents similarly situated in all relevant respects, e.g., some may be more cost-conscious than others. Green up the Town's activities, but leave individuals alone.

It would be great if we could have town composting of biodegradable food products.

current recycling containers are not practical when it is raining/snowing/windy. could there be a system similar to household trash collection?
Some of these issues were difficult to answer since it was unclear how they would play out. Hence, my 'I don't know' answers to some of them. The issue of trash collection and recycling was very unclear.
education regarding pesticide use would be top priority, I would love for this town to be a leader in this area! The Ladybug initiative was on the right track.
My preference is for doing things that the Town has a control of through participation (farmers markets, garden plots) and Town guidelines/ordinances. I do not favor increasing the use of alternative fueled or in subsidizing electric vehicles (through solar recharging stations or otherwise) unless they are life cycle cost effective .
encourage people to care for their trees by providing a guideline for the frequency of pruning for types and sizes of trees. i think there should be some reasonable fee paid to a consulting arborist to receive recommendations on what action is required to keep the tree healthy and safe.
I think the town's role should be educational / informational. That is already taking place in the environmental area and I support it and encourage its continuation.
Although most of these things are important, I don't think all of them are things that the Town should be involved in. Some should be County or State initiatives and the Town should be lobbying.
I wish the TOCC would concentrate on assuring citizens that the future of the Capital Crescent Trail is assured, that the tunnel to Bethesda stays open, and that Wisconsin Avenue is safe to cross. This is an unsophisticated survey -- who wouldn't favor 'Better preparedness for climate related emergencies, better street and sidewalk lighting, etc. etc.
The Town is rich in greenery and leaves collected in the fall should be turned into compost and given back to the community either free or at a discounted rate.
I think the town has done a good job informing residents of green options, and educating us on many of the above mentioned topics.
I firmly believe that at some point in the not too distant future the town will experience a very damaging climate event - so I think we should prioritize energy reducing activities and also prepare for that eventuality. I think all of the questions above are important but the priority should be addressing the big picture of what our future is facing.
Better use of water; better transportation options

<p>Making sure the town trees are maintained in a way that will preserve them but allow for removal of unhealthy ones that pose a risk of falling during storms and other similar events.</p>
<p>Would love to see a solar EV charging station in the town.</p>
<p>Town could provide or get others to provide a receptacle for used clothing at parking lot.</p>
<p>Tree maintenance, most especially large trees on private lots that are uncared for...</p>
<p>If we are not yet prepared to invest in energy-efficient street lighting, we should not install it. As the costs (and color options) for LED lighting improve, we should install it. One of the greatest threats to our community is maintaining overhead wiring. The Town should begin to bury it, especially along with any road/sidewalk work that is being done.</p>
<p>Use the Town's buying power to set an example with greener purchases of what the Town already buys. Collect before and after information, and share with residents so they can tell which practices make the most difference in places they can recognize as similar to their own. Make results and high-performing produce samples easily accessible -- 4th of July picnic, annual meeting, etc.</p>
<p>all are important. it is hard to say which are more urgent</p>
<p>On the issue of green building practices, the Town could help educate residents and perhaps waive permit fees or something to incentive their use, but I would not support a heavy regulatory approach that would add to construction costs. I am a big supporter of promoting healthy lifestyles and a member of CSAs, but I don't think this should be a priority for Town resources as there are lots of existing options for residents.</p>
<p>I think encouraging composting would be a great idea, as well as incentivizing energy audits and perhaps incentivizing minimizing of trash (perhaps charging a fee for a second trash can pickup.)</p>
<p>The TOCC government should practice what it is considering preaching and focus only on the BIG, meaningful initiatives. Forget the litter, bike sharing, healthy lifestyle initiatives, and less complex, less impactful trinkets - let a local volunteer group tackle. Global warming emissions and water runoff are the real culprits. Focus on reducing the town's public buildings, utility, and transportation energy consumption and emissions. Encourage residents to do the same with tax credit or other incentives. Encourage residents to refrain from having lawn crews manure every blade of grass or errant leaf every Friday afternoon as they violate noise ordinances with three simultaneously running leaf blowers. Update the TOCC recycling programs - its ancient and based on a 1980's model. We're the last community to have to drag a box of soggy papers to the curb every Wednesday. Update to one, large, lid can that sits next to the garbage can for single stream recycling. I'm inclined to stop recycling until the town updates is back-breaking practice.</p>

lets not go overboard on these issues.

You may encourage people to be aware of environmental issues, but I would be totally against the Town requiring people to do things.

I think that the questionnaire has too many questions so I stopped filling it out.

PS: I have lived in the Town over forty years.

Answers were somewhat dependent on age group, activity level, degree of personal yard work, etc. Also habit!

One way to support public open space would be to oppose the purple line.

Ban the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and yard trimmers. Enforce regulations against noise and dust from construction sites. Ban the use of emergency electricity generators. Enforce regulations against free-roaming cats--they kill a lot of birds. Ban outdoor car washing--the run-off goes to the storm sewers and eventually, the Bay. Ban the use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides. Enforce pet waste regulations in public areas--to cut down on the rat infestation. More enforcement of speeding and stop sign rules--to cut down on cross-town commuter traffic. Later start hours for construction and lawn maintenance on the weekends.

Still feels like trees are cut down too often for mansionization. We cannot replace these 50+ year old trees overnight. The canopy is dwindling and fewer trees appears to increase the vulnerability of the remaining trees to storm damage.

maintenance of healthy tree canopy -- better systems for identifying trees that need to come down and fast replacement

set up carbon balance program where we invest in carbon abatement elsewhere to compensate for carbon emissions here

envirnoment education.... films, speakers, kids programs

recycled art contest

Voluntary programs are fine for everyone involved. I do not want to see the Town passing more regulations about people's individual choices. Also, I do not want to pay for financially well-off neighbors to put on solar panels, etc. Bravo if they want to make that choice, but it should be a personal one and not supported by other tax payers.

While I support the goals I do not believe that all goals can be accomplished solely by the Town and that we have to balance costs with the goals.

encourage urban farming initiatives and CSA's, reduce amount of impervious area in the town
Public open space: Increase of crime, maintenance costs? Support local foods: What does it have to do with the town environment? Promote Healthy Lifestyles: Town population is already healthy and active, not a big concern Increase Green transport options: Would anyone use this enough to make the investment worth it?
For storm water management, procedures are already in place to retain water for those who are building additions or new homes. However, there are no penalties for a homeowner (who is not doing an addition, or who did one before the regulations were in place) who decides to dump their water onto or near another property -- although they might be referred to the County which seems both unfair and unacceptable.
It's unclear why we don't have single stream recycling yet except for the fact that I've heard it said that the larger wheeled cans are hard to manage for some.
Overall, I worry about new actions that all are expected to make....
Survey was set up such that it's hard to really reflect relative priorities - almost everything on the list could be of interest, worthwhile, and in some cases low cost. Relative value of outlay vs. return should be considered.
All of these are good.
Please focus on things that only the Town can provide. If companies or non profits are already doing things well - like CSAs - it doesn't make sense for the Town to duplicate their efforts.
Reduce trash pickup to once a week. Encourage recycling and composting. Charge for trash pickup.
many ideas and initiatives above are important, but are not suited for the town to take on - individuals chosen lifestyles and diets etc are up to them. and shuttles and bike lanes within the town seems a bit unnecessary for a town of our size.
This survey suggests tells me that its authors are caught up in what's now fashionable in elite suburbia, rather than on actions that might actually improve peoples' lives. Locally grown food sometimes tastes better, which is why I sometimes buy it. But it doesn't save energy, on net, and thus does nothing to reduce carbon emissions. Whether household recycling has any effect on net energy consumption (except for aluminum) depends on the circumstances: the more driving around is required to pick up the stuff, the less savings are possible. I doubt that expanding CC's recycling program would do much good, and in any case would use resources that should be used for other purposes.

I deemed certain items not important just because I think the town or town residents already have the area under control.

The above options and the following questions seem to be heavy on social engineering and not so much town responsibilities. Alternatively, it seems to be an effort to make social engineering a town responsibility. As I will be one of the subjects of this attempt at social engineering, I would feel offended.

Further, many of the options discussed above imply additional Town costs for the consequences on the Town office of environmental events. I am not concerned about the Town office, rather the people in the town.

The town should reduce the amount of de-icing chemicals it uses on streets during winter!

While i would be happy with a leaf blower ban, i dont think the town will go there, so I would like to see the town educate/encourage minimizing the use of these leaf blowers. Let folks know that the noise, in my opinion, really makes Chevy chase an unpleasant place to spend a beautiful weekend day. Get people to ask themselves whether blowing every (how about any?) blade of grass off their walkways is really that important; is your walkway really marred by a few leaves or grass clippings?

I marked increasing greener transportation options as not important only because it seems the Town is already friendly to many of these, especially as we are so close to Bethesda, have a good network of sidewalks, public transportation and the Crescent Trail. In addition, this is an affluent community, and I would think people can afford their own bicycles. Having said that, if a survey shows real demand for, say, a shuttle to Bethesda for elderly residents, or bike-sharing then, yes, I'm all for it. Another comment: is there anything more we can do to reduce the epidemic of leaf blowers and revert to rakes? Even for landscape companies, is it really more efficient for workers to use blowers rather than rakes, except on very large properties?

A community garden (or two) would be lovely! With so many trees in town, many residents cannot grow a garden on their properties. Community gardens bring people together in a very nice setting and helps build community.

We must improve our recycling program, which is currently less effective than in the rest of Montgomery County. We need the big, rolling bins that accomodate more paper and cardboard. And it would be great if the town wanted to support compost collection

I think the Town should have open space that invites people to gather and helps the community coalesce. The playground was such a place when my children were younger. A dog park would be a good option.

There is alot more than can be done to reduce household waste and increase recycling options. Stormwater is a big issue, in both managing the flow between neighbors and improving the quality that goes into the Chesapeake Bay.

Reducing the incorrect and over-use of pesticides and fertilizer should be a priority.

Improving options for bikers and a shuttle to the metro so we can more easily take public transit would be important. If you so introduce a shuttle to downtown Bethesda please have it operate between 7 and 8 am, and then from 6 to 8 pm for those I us who commute to work each day.

2. In your opinion, what is the most important issue that the Town should address in order to improve the environment and long-term livability of this community? 91 respondents provided comments.

Controlling / slowing / reducing cut-through vehicle traffic.

stop planting so many trees particularly right under the power lines. The tree project is way out of bounds

as above - recycling if properly managed our trash bags could be reduced to a third their current size with an expanded mandate for which materials can be recycled.

Rethinking zoning to consider higher density. Some of town is in very walkable area but we have very low density considering how 'urban' we are.

Reducing waste and increasing the use of renewable energy.

Not the business of the Town to do so. Please keep our government small and for the people's safety, etc.

energy efficiency and less chemicals in our drinking water. Perhaps town filtering? Is that possible?

Transportation to downtown Bethesda.

Increase recycling by making it more convenient.

Recycling. our waste can be much better broken down than we currently do. Wast cycling can be a source of alternative energy.

Dog waste is a health hazard and a nuisance

Increase greenspace, manage runoff and promote environmentally responsible building.

Better preparedness for weather related emergencies, and keeping household sprinklers from 'watering' the sidewalks as they currently do, also getting rid of lawn pesticides.

Noise pollution!

Also, improve walkability. This includes enforcing regulations about dogs off leash and dog deposits left behind by dog owners.

Sustainable landscape practices.
Increased green spaces.
I think both increasing homeowners' use of alternative energy (solar, wind, maybe even fuel-cells?) and then tying in to better preparedness for climate-related emergencies would be very valuable.
I don't think it can or should do much in re the environment (see above). Continued attention to development surrounding the Town (Bethesda, Chevy Chase Lake, Purple Line) is the most important thing it can do to maintain the Town's liveability. I think the efforts it makes to encourage social interaction among residents is commendable, and hope it makes many people feel that the Town is a friendlier, and more 'liveable' place as a result.
Eliminate the Urban Forest nonsense so that the tree canopy can maintain and regenerate itself naturally over time, without loss of lives and property in severe weather.
Lifestyle choices that focus on consumption rather than on sustainability.
Fewer chemically treated lawns, more trees, more lighting.
I must say I have not followed in details the plans for the trees in the town. But the current number of tall trees that may fall seems high given the number of violent storms that seems to be coming our way. More generally, the supply of electricity (and potentially other utilities) should be reviewed so that we do not get protracted outages.
Curb side composting for the entire town.
Parks and green space.
Encouraging sustainable landscapes.
Make it easier for walkers to commute. There are several places in town where the sidewalks are inadequate (Oakridge and Thornapple). It would be nice to be able to walk through Elm St park without worrying about safety.
Increase public green space, sustainable landscape and water practices, and reducing waste.

the trees in the ROW are increasingly unattractive after PEPCO has pruned them away from the lines. the Town should earmark budget to prune them further so that the overall shape is close to natural instead of the flat top or uneven shape left by PEPCO.
Curbing the use of lawn companies' use of power equipment, which causes both air and noise pollution.
Facilitate residents walking and biking more. Widen sidewalks, clear sight lines, patch rough/broken areas, widen cuts for stroller/bike access, clear obstructing vegetation. Enforce automobile rules of the road - especially speeding and improper stopping at stop signs.
Energy use, including by the town and by its residents.
Maintain or reduce density caps in the areas immediately surrounding the Town. We could also slightly increase density caps within the Town, since large per person square footage isn't environmentally sound. But the increased density of people, businesses and traffic at our borders is going to overwhelm anything we do within Town borders.
Assuring the long-term survival of the Capital Crescent Trail.
Promoting walking for transportation and health.
Traffic law enforcement, including stop signs and speed.
Pollution control and encouraging energy efficiency/ alternate energy use.
Make sure the streets are lit and clear enough for rescue squad to get into. Some streets require parking on one side only and the town has not addressed this issue. I think the town does a great job with environmental issue..
Tree canopy, access to transportation alternatives.
greener building
See above
Stormwater management; preventing the further pollution of the watershed. Much less use of salts in snowstorms! The salts have a terrible impact on the watershed.
Traffic congestion surrounding the town, including impact of exhaust on residents' health

The most important aspect that makes the town vital and low impact is the close walkable location of critical services like food stores and public transportation. We are lucky to have Trader Joe's the post office and a drug store as well as many restaurants in walking distance. The town should advocate for services that benefit town residents rather than taking positions opposing growth and density in surrounding communities.
Maintain the tree canopy
A dog park would be terrific.
Maintain current levels of trash pick-up, yard recycling, street and park maintenance, tree planting. Improve street lighting.
Lot coverage relative to house size
Getting people out of their cars
I'm sorry that protecting the tree canopy was not on this list. Assuming that our tree ordinance is working effectively is a mistake. There should be more commitment to keeping trees, and more knowledge of trees on the Tree Board. The Town should pay for second opinions when there is any question regarding the health of a tree. Too many healthy old trees have come down of late.
Much stricter building codes against tear downs and mansionization and development. Strong activism to protect the Crescent Trail. Stopping the development of the CC shopping center on Conn ave. (I'm forgetting the name now). It will have a terrible impact on congestion and the environment. Enough! We have enough!
Keep a limit on teardowns and house size -- replacing smaller houses with much larger ones promotes un-green practices, results in removal of trees, and stresses Town and local power, sewer, and stormwater capacity.
water control, storm control ann street lighting
Continued focus on maintaining our tree canopy and watershed management.
Prohibiting pesticides and lawn chemicals.
Protect the tree canopy.

Global warming emissions and water runoff are the real culprits from our little patch of paradise.
Do not impose on residents if they do not agree with your assessment of these issues.
Reduce the number of cars/trucks that use Town streets for a cut through to avoid waits on Bradley Lane between Wisconsin and Connecticut by (a) Instituting no access during rush hours on all 5 streets exiting Bradley Lane and (b) Penalizing scoff-laws who speed through the town and fail to stop at stop signs with significant fines, e.g., \$250 or more per vehicle for 1st infraction and increasing amounts for succeeding infractions.
Encouraging families to use fewer vehicles and to encourage greener vehicles rather than the gas-guzzling SUVs that are currently used to define social status in the community. It would not surprise me to learn that 60 percent of our carbon footprint comes from vehicle use.
A toss-up between storm water management and preparedness for climate related emergencies
Pay attention to the development that is encroaching on the neighborhood at the perimeter.
The racket from leaf blowers and trimmers and construction, particularly on weekends.
Sustainable landscape and public green space
education and support for positive environmental actions
Co-existence with the extreme development occurring all around our borders (Purple Line, condos, etc.) and climate emergency preparedness.
Increase street lighting so that we are safer.
I believe that the most important issue that the town faces to improve the environment is the maintenance and support for our tree canopy. I support the current ordinance and believe that residents should be more informed on the value of and importance of trees to our environment.
The encouragement of sustainable lawn care practices. Reason: Water restrictions, Run-off, Lawnmowers give off more pollution than cars, mosquito breeding.

<p>I believe the Town already gave up on this issue several years ago by allowing the size of homes to become so much larger which also decreased the green around each home's plot. This has meant that smaller homes are regularly bulldozed and replaced with larger, more expensive ones. Additionally, there are few smaller homes left for those who wish to stay in Town but are looking to downsize.</p>
<p>I think the single biggest environmental issue facing the world (and therefor us) is climate change and green house gas emissions. Having the town pursue the Maryland Sustainability Certification is a great idea. On a more local level our efforts to preserve/expand open space and maintain the tree canopy are important.</p>
<p>Maintain the tree canopy and kill the purple line</p>
<p>Not sure what the most wasteful (lost energy) and most expensive (i.e., energy costs) items are now, but whatever that is would be on the top of my list.</p>
<p>Promoting renewable energy....</p>
<p>Promoting a healthy lifestyle would address many of the other issues listed above. I think the town could be involved in making sure streets and sidewalks are safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, whether in icy/snowy whether or well lit enough to feel safe to walk when it's dark. If people walked, carpooled, bicycled to Bethesda to shop, dine or for entertainment or to get to the metro, it would cut down on emissions, could provide exercise, would help create community and would encourage shopping 'locally' (at least as far as travel for the individual).' The town could be involved in providing information about these things and how it can benefit residents, as well as provide information about farmers markets or CSAs. I also liked the idea of a bus providing transportation to downtown Bethesda from town.</p>
<p>Reducing the destruction of existing houses. These buildings represent the epitome of waste and environmental destruction.</p> <p>While new homes may be more energy efficient than many existing homes, because they are two, three or even four times as big as the homes they replace, they consume far more overall energy for the same number of household residents. In addition, they result in massive additional landfill and contribute to stormwater runoff as more of the Town's limited land is made impermeable.</p>
<p>Conservation of canopy trees.</p>
<p>reducing the town offices' climate imprint</p>

<p>If residents of CC are serious about improving peoples' lives they should forgo conspicuous environmental gestures like solar panels on their roofs (very costly per pound of carbon abatement, though it does help your image as a true environmentalist) and contribute the money to organizations that can save the lives of people in poor countries at a cost of only a few thousand dollars per life saved. Far more effective use of dollars. For a list of the most cost-effective organizations, see GiveWell.com.</p>
<p>Initiatives to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions so bike and car sharing or shuttles, more energy efficiency in homes, public buildings, and town or contractor vehicles; improved stormwater management; sustainable landscaping practices.</p>
<p>Support public transportation such as the Purple Line; and steady support for its operating costs. Support higher density residential such as apartments and condos at Chevy Chase Lake and next to Bethesda and Medical Center Metro.</p>
<p>Less pesticides and herbicides on lawns.</p>
<p>Traffic. it will just keep growing as Bethesda growth seems unstoppable</p>
<p>Close monitoring of and participation in debates on wider community development that affects our environment, as the Town has been doing with the Purple Line, the Chevy Chase Lake Development and Bethesda downtown, and continuing to update Town residents on what is happening and what action we can take to preserve the long-term livability of the Town and surrounds.</p>
<p>bus to Bethesda better mix of trees - not just tall canopy improve the yards and treefronts - some houses have really lousy looking unkempt yards more community events to foster a close community like house tours, dessert and discussions</p>
<p>I think water management in general deserves more attention. It would be good to see if there are ways for homeowners to *cost-effectively* harvest and use rainwater for use during droughts.</p>
<p>Better security in Elm Street Park and along city streets. As Bethesda densifies, the spill-over effects need to be addressed</p>
<p>Sustainable landscape practices! Many residents spend a fortune on chemicals and gas-powered lawn equipment to make our lawns gorgeous, to the detriment of our environment.</p>
<p>Creating a better sense of community would help the Town would greatly strengthen the Town in many ways; from environmental action, to crisis management during extreme events, to</p>

security issues within the community.

One thing that would be very helpful and doable would be to improve the street and sidewalk lighting. I know the Town is working on this, but I haven't seen any improvement. I often feel the need to use a flashlight.

Improving access to public transit so we can leave our cars at home more often

3. Being realistic, what do you think are the three most important things the Town might do to help you and your family reduce your negative impacts on the environment? 84 respondents provided comments.

1 reduce our taxes.
2 don't oppose development in surrounding areas that could bring additional shopping or services within walking or short auto trip distances.
3 reinstate bi-weekly yard trash collection.

expand recycling, lobby for better commuter bike paths thru bethesda (north to NIH), establish centralized composting facility with curbside pick-ups of kitchen waste separately from regular recycling.

Compost option (big fan of that idea)
Promoting 'green' landscaping contractors
Promoting group purchasing of green upgrades

Increase the composting program. Maybe include a town pickup for compost and offset this with fewer pickups for garbage. By increasing the amount/timing of recyclables that are picked up and reducing the number of times garbage is picked up you may increase the amount that the town residents recycle.

This is the kind of thing that I don't want the Town involved in at all.

compost pick up would be great.
less complicated process to install/contract for solar panels
not sure what to do to improve dog waste process. I hate wasting those plastic bags, but we've got to pick it up. Suggestions?

Public shuttle, Supporting locally produced food, and Increasing Usage of Renewable Energy

advanced recycling programs, solar panel based street lighting, storm water reuse program

1. incorporate a composting program on a Town-wide scale (perhaps shift one trash collection per week to a compost collection)
2. make it as easy as possible to bike/walk in town -- more and better and clear sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.
3. educate about impacts

Offer curbside composting, offer incentives for reduced energy use, offer incentives for reduced waste disposal.

<p>Better lighting. Better preparedness. Greener building practices.</p>
<p>We are doing the things we can at this point. A free energy audit would interest me.</p>
<p>I already follow some practices to reduce negative impacts on the environment; here are plenty of resources available to help with that. I note that one of the attractions of the Town for me is the diversity of its architecture from the 1890's into the 1930's, and the interest of many Town residents to preserve that architecture. I cringe when I look out and see a whole roof of solar cells on a 1920's house. There are some tradeoffs between historic preservation and environmental impact that I do not think the Town is adequately addressing; environmental impact receives the bulk of attention, preservation issues receive somewhat of a back seat.</p>
<p>Provide information and frequent reminders on behavioral changes we can all make to reduce consumption. Consider buying co-ops (a la Common Sense Solar) for steps where acquisition of technology is required. Monitor/track consumption/energy use over time for their town--have to be able to show progress, I think.</p>
<p>Beyond continuing the recycling program, I would say nothing. We don't need to Town's assistance in determining best environmental practices, because the information is widely available already. We have already cut out lawn fertilizer to protect the Bay, and will try to use more native plants.</p>
<p>Allow residents to use their own judgment in maintaining trees on their property, so that those who want solar power can have it if they so choose.</p>
<p>Work for much better pedestrian and bike routes in the Town and surrounding jurisdictions.</p>
<p>Help with a more advanced recycling strategy of most household trash, e.g. composting advice, maybe organizing bulk order of composting cans, with an analysis of which cans are best and how to use them. Review streams and natural water flow in town to decrease mosquitoes and flooding.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curbside Composting 2. Allow for removal of trees that interfere with Solar Panels. Stop planting large trees under wires. 3. Begin to bury wires when ever possible--ie when ever the street is torn up for ANY reason at all.

<p>Solar- geothermal collective. Education on lawn management (planting native, natural lawn and garden maintenance, wildlife habitats, etc) Organize an ALL ORGANIC CSA for the town.</p>
<p>Pay for the entire town to join Compost Crew. Subsidize landscaping improvements on private property which is visible from the street or a danger to the community. Educate the community on sustainability.</p>
<p>Improved sidewalks on routes to Bethesda, make it easier for bikers (parking bike near town), and increased safety at Elm St park.</p>
<p>Continue tree programs, waste recycling, green space expansion.</p>
<p>reduce run off from black top surfaces on driveways - Town should be a model by changing its parking area which is a heat island and offers little or no onsite absorption</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once-a-week trash pickup 2. Sponsor a local bus system to reduce driving to Wisconsin Ave. 3. Encourage recycling of materials that could be composted.
<p>Can't think of one, much less three, things the town could do for me, but here are two it could do for all of us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) use renewable energy (solar panels) to offset electric use in town offices 2) reduce stormwater runoff reaching streets and storm drains 2) control pesticide runoff and noise from commercial lawn services..
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Let each house know how much garbage we throw away (as opposed to compost/recycle) each month, compared to other households. This might encourage more recycling/composting. 2. Encourage more food production within Town (vegetable gardens, etc.) by allowing some areas to be sunny instead of having the entire place tree-shaded. 3. Provide hazardous waste pickup from time to time, or provide a place to dispose of it within the Town, to discourage residents from 'hiding' their hazardous waste within regular garbage. (Yes, I know that people do this. Getting to the transfer station is too difficult for many.)
<p>I don't know what negative impacts my family and I have on the environment.</p>

<p>Energy conservation/renewable energy. Educational programs on mitigating run-off and employing sustainable landscaping practices. Keeping having a walkable community in planning efforts.</p>
<p>The Town can encourage residents to reduce waste and encourage composting.</p>
<p>I would like to convert to gas heat, but there is not a line and putting one in is way expensive.</p>
<p>reducing waste/compost pickup encourage sustainable landscape practices greener building</p>
<p>We recycle to the point that we have almost no household waste, so thanks for making that possible. I use my bike for transportation as much as possible, and so far I feel safe riding on town streets. I would be glad to do some changes to make our house more 'green', but the cost vs. the amount of time we will stay in the house has not made it possible.</p>
<p>help with energy efficiency options, including alternative energy use, intensify recycling</p>
<p>Education - how to reduce household trash, how to reduce energy usage, how to prepare for severe climate events, the value of native plants in the landscape, etc. Social events around these topics would be good - although I don't know how we reach the right audience.</p>
<p>Less salt on roads Better lighting Better energy managment</p>
<p>Switch to big, commingled recycling bin (like the ones the rest of the county uses) Promote town-wide composting Promote stormwater management efforts</p>
<p>First the Town should support mass transit and non-motorized transport including bus service on Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues, the construction of a South entrance to the Metro, and construction of the Purple Line.</p> <p>Second, the town should focus on accommodating pedestrians by maintaining and improving sidewalks and ensuring that residents keep them clear of vehicles, vegetation, and dog waste.</p> <p>Third, the town should encourage use of green and high efficiency building technologies and renewable energy.</p>

<p>Easy kitchen-waste pick-up. Solar EV charging station.</p>
<p>I don't believe I have a negative impact on the environment.</p> <p>You are entitled to your opinions, but not to an intrusion upon my life.</p>
<p>Town wide composting, supporting locally produced foods and increasing greener transportation options.</p>
<p>Recycle plastic trash; support Farm Women's Market/promote CSAs for Town; improve street lighting to allow reduction of home porch lighting.</p>
<p>compost for us teach pesticide free lawn maintenance, etc. go solar! on the municipal buildings</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit to 'greening' all Town government: from paper use, to landscaping, to energy consumption, to products used at town events, to vehicles, to choices for all construction. 2. Improved recycling services (single stream and compost) and promote them so it is easier for families to recycle more. 3. Begin an on-site leaf recycling program. Commercial grade shredders to process piles of leaves on site into mulch, rather than collecting, trucking out to the County, and having residents buy back their own leaves as Leaf Gro.
<p>provide a list of greener but effective, readily available cleaning, gardening, and pest control products, doggie poop bags, bottled water and plastic trash bags -- with cost, location and trial-size samples.</p> <p>do once a week trash collection and allow/promote curbside pick-up of trash without plastic bags that add significant non-degradable waste.</p> <p>provide a community garden plot using compost and non-toxic pest control</p>
<p>continue re cycling pick up, change the street lighting to a more economical method, perhaps use the leaf collection to make compost for the residents</p>
<p>Encourage and educate the community about recycling. Research environmentally-friendly vendors (i.e. landscapers) and provide a reference list to town residents. Maintain sidewalks, pathways and good lighting to encourage people to walk rather than drive to Bethesda.</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. curbside collection for composting 2. shuttles to Metro/downtown Bethesda 3. bike sharing
Provide more information and opportunities for parking bikes at the Metro and near downtown.
<p>I guess I'd ask TOCC to be realistic on what it can do to persuade me to reduce my carbon footprint. TOCC has limited powers, talents, and capabilities. Cajoling and peer pressure only go so far in changing the high consumption engrained in our lifestyles and large homes. TOCC should lead by example and report out on how its making decisions to reduce the town governments footprint (reducing its fleet consumption, hiring locally, reducing environmental impacts from town lights, reducing impact from its roads, sidewalk, operations, investing in sustainable energy itself, partnering with other local entities to (Bethesda UP, local building owners) to be part of a meaningful project. Stop being distracted by all those tactical, peddling, boy scout types of initiatives, pick one, maybe two real meaningful projects and make it happen. Get Real TOCC.</p>
<p>Trash and Treasure -- perhaps do three times a year, and continue to put out to curb so that people from other neighborhoods can benefit from our trash/treasures.</p> <p>I do not think the town should impose so many rules on the neighborhood -- we are intelligent people -- give us the information and let us make our own decisions, but provide the means to do so -- pickups, trash cans, etc.</p>
1. Provide financial assistance to residents who might choose to adopt their homes for solar energy
storm water management, a dog park, landscape management assistance
Collect compost, install efficient light sources that don't add to light pollution and oppose the purple line.
See above.
Acquire green space. Plant more trees by offering trees to residents for their yards.comunity garden with support of town for those of us with too much shade to grow much.
Not sure?
We already take public transportation, walk, use the car rarely. There is nothing the Town can do that we are not already doing.

Continue to plant public and private canopy trees; initiate a composting program town wide given the success of the trial program; continue to sponsor programs and talks on sustainability and trees and the benefits of composting and recycling.
provide effective mass transit options
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote green tech. Lot of new products being put on the market and very little information about them. Tankless water heaters, CFL and LED lighting, Smart thermostats, Geothermal, Solar. (I assume town builders know all of this and can be of help) 2. Town use of alternative fuel vehicles with public charge or fuel stations for Natural Gas or/and electric: so as homeowners, we can invest in that technology and have convenient fueling options in town. 3. Help subsidize and encourage composting pickup.
I have no idea.
I think the town has done a good job providing information on a wide variety of actions we can each take to reduce impacts on the environment. Continuing to provide information that is generally applicable to all families is helpful.
no idea
Improve efficiency of street lighting, so we can use less around our block itself (it's DARK); optimize all trash pickups; and improve access to local food. Is there a sunny plot we could use to grow veggies in a community garden? There's not enough sun around our house, and many houses, to do so.
Expand recycling
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The town offering free energy audits - costly yet most effective because each resident can learn a variety of solutions to energy savings (I wish I would have taken advantage of that service when it was available; 2) Some kind of new campaign to stop the use of all pesticides, fertilizers, excessive watering; 3) Thank you for preparing this survey!

-- encourage and perhaps subsidize composting program
-- encourage and perhaps subsidize solar panel installation (is there a way we can get some kind of bulk rates if numerous Town families are interested?) even just aggregating and providing info to Town families on their options re: alternative energy sources would be very helpful.
-- provide info re: water usage and encourage use of rain barrels, sustainable watering (I have seen more than one lawn with sprinkler on mid-day in the summertime), etc.

1. Improve lighting around town so we will feel safer walking after dark. 2. Provide opportunities to join/purchase environmentally friendly services or products such as the solar panel program and the Compost Crew. 3. Provide activities for families to teach them about how things impact the environment and what they can do that's more environmentally friendly (such as not using pesticides on lawns) and maybe providing lists of providers and/or products as alternatives.

replace some large appliances with more energy efficient ones

The Town should provide bins for recyclables that are picked up from the back like our trash is. It is horrible to see all the recycling on the curb in paper bags. Since I use reusable bags, I have to buy paper bags do do my recycling. It's silly.

Tree stewardship.
Energy audits
Reducing household waste, e.g. Trash issues

let's face it, those choices are up to us, not the town. provide advice and possibly shared tools on natural landscaping

I think the town should forget about most of the items on the list in the survey.

I am an economist who was one of the authors of the UN's second Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which later shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore. Until I injured my back in a cycling accident last summer, I had for some years commuted to my job near Capitol Hill by bicycle, about 25 miles each day, for 10 months a year; I'm now 63. Note that we have only one car.

Guidance for sustainable landscaping practices; guidance for even greater home energy efficiency; promote more bike racks in commercial areas of Bethesda so I can safely use my bike for errands.

Reduce demand for Town services such as leaf collection and sidewalk snow removal
Reduce permitting requirements for socially preferred environmental actions (eg: try getting a geothermo well drilling truck into some of these lots without running into a expensive rats nest of conflicting regs and offers to help if just a little money was directed to a favored friend; ever see what size the newer high efficiency AC/Heat Pumps+required clearances are and their impact on set-backs?)

I think the town should work to get Bethesda to be more bicycle friendly. Bethesda is so close, but as a cyclist I feel extremely vulnerable riding in and around it because of aggressive drivers and the lack of bicycle travel lanes and signage.

I think the town should stay out of this business, and stick to managing our local affairs

- 1) Continue the wonderful education programs that the Climate & Environmental Committee has been conducting over the last few years: the columns in the Town newsletter, organizing Green House tours, talks, circulating the Climate Action list, repeating the competition held several years ago to encourage less driving and more walking and biking, the Town Arborist consultations and Town walks.
- 2) Help homeowners determine if they need better water runoff management on their individual properties (e.g., provide advice on replacing driveway surfaces).
- 3) Helping to reduce household waster - e.g., the new trial composting program.

training in assessing carbon footprint
meter in house to calculate energy use
info session on solar

Not sure if I can suggest what is most important, but I can suggest at least one low-hanging fruit idea. Installing eco-lawn (or similar, e.g. Pearl's Premium) is a relatively simple and inexpensive way of reducing water use and pollution from gas-powered mowers.

Better recycling, compost collection, and tax rebates for low emission vehicles

1. Educate residents about sustainable landscape practices and give them economic incentives (e.g., a property tax rebate) to adopt these practices.
2. Subsidize homeowner solutions to water runoff problems that persist despite the Water Ordinance passed several years ago. The ordinance addressed new construction but not runoff from existing properties, and many of us endure squishy backyards all summer long, due to the runoff from our neighbors.
3. Give economic incentives to compost.

1. Facilitate better landscape and water retention practices. Perhaps a student intern group could help get homeowner's soil tested, council on rain barrels, explain available rebates, etc.
2. The waste pick-up could be restructured such that compost and recycling is facilitated and landfill waste is restricted and has to be taken to the curb.
3. A panel of experts could be involved in a meet-and-greet to give homeowners tailored advice on energy-efficiency and green building practices.

Provide a service like Compost Crew along with the trash and recycling.
More public transportation options.

Introduce a Shuttle to the metro so I don't have to drive as much
Mainstream compost crew pick ups
Introduce a CSA for the town with a pick up on weekends at the town hall
Negotiate a discount rate with a green cab company that uses hybrid Cars for all the trips town residents make to the or airports and Train station
Issue us more recycling boxes and options for recycling

4. Greenhouse Gas survey follow up questions:

	Yes	No	I might if I had more information
Have you had a professional home energy audit?	41% 55/133	45% 60/133	14% 18/133
If yes, did you do any follow-up work recommended in the audit?	74% 53/72	21% 15/72	6% 4/72
Did you receive a rebate from the Town's Home Energy and Efficiency Program?	21% 25/117	73% 85/117	6% 7/117
Do you know about the Town's Climate Action Plan?	42% 54/128	54% 69/128	4% 5/128
Have you participated in any activities associated with the Climate Action Plan?	21% 27/126	69% 87/126	10% 12/126
Do you utilize the classes and resources at the Lawton Community Center?	30% 39/129	62% 80/129	8% 10/129
Have you purchased electricity from renewable sources?	37% 48/130	55% 71/130	8% 11/130
Do you have solar panels, solar hot water, or geothermal energy at your home?	13% 17/131	82% 108/131	5% 6/131
Have you calculated your carbon footprint?	14% 18/130	77% 100/130	9% 12/130

Feel free to tell us other actions you have taken to reduce your environmental impact. 55 respondents provided comments.
Compost, use a reel push mower, do not use pesticides, try to plant a lot of native plants.
Massive insulation upgrade. Massive Hvac upgrade.
Mind your own carbon footprint and please do not force your agenda on others.
recycling and public transportation
high insulation, energy efficient doors and windows, geothermal heating/cooling, solar panels, motion-sensor lights, energy-efficient lights, organic landscaping, home vegetable garden, low-flow showerheads and toilets, dual-flush toilets, programmable thermostats, water-storing dry wells, hybrid heat-pump hot water heater, energy star appliances, composting, recycling
We compost all lawn clippings and leaves in an enormous compost pile in the back yard.
-We don't use a lawn service! -Insulated our home, kept the footprint small, reduced our grass, enriched the soil to maximize rain absorption, replaced with energy efficient appliances, reduce driving by walking to Bethesda to run errands, recycle, purchase produce from the farmer's market, eat whole foods as much as possible, keep our thermostat at 66 in winter and minimize cooling in summer. Have Pepco's meter controls on our system. Etc.
We walk a good deal, we are serious recyclers and composters.
We really try to implement behavioral changes (avoiding AC (though we did install a high efficiency compressor for when we do use); limiting heating, CFLs, walking, etc).
We turn our thermostat to 62 in winter and 78 in summer. No lawn fertilizer, as little water use as possible.
I typically commute on two wheels, we replaced all our windows and installed a new natural gas boiler when we moved in, we replaced all the old toilets in the house, and we keep our air conditioning at 80 in the summer. We also use a high-efficiency, front-loading washer.
During work of addition rewrapped house with Tyvex, then resingled, installed all new windows

We have not taken any steps yet (except we recycle), we are looking into options:
We plan to do a home energy audit.
We are looking into better insulating the house (e.g. immediately replacing some doors).
We will eventually consider using solar energy.
We would also be interested in composting.

- 1 We installed fans throughout the house.
- 2 We planted shade trees on the west side of the house to block the afternoon sun in the summer.
- 3 We have Solar Panels, Tankless Hot Water, upgraded all our appliances to low energy, high efficiency, including our Furnace.
- 4 Insulated the attic.
- 5 Placed a sun blocking film on our west side of the house, preventing the rooms from being excessively hot in the summer.
- 6 We compost everything we can in our own yard, and in the winter we use Compost Crew.
- 7 We have 4 large water barrels to catch rain water and use it for our plantings when needed.

Native plants, regraded lawn/lot to reduce run-off, ALL organic practices,

low flow plumbing fixtures
energy saving bulbs or conventional lighting on dimmers
new windows with the highest rating by Consumer Reports for energy savings
insulation in all walls affected by new construction and renovation

Always use bike if possible

Our household is all vegetarian, almost totally vegan. We all walk or bike as our primary means of commuting and doing all daily errands.

Lots of walking, cycling, metro.

I looked into solar panels. They are extremely expensive. Ditto other suggested ideas in the home energy audit. I cannot afford making those kinds of changes in my 80-year old house (with its fantastic plaster walls, wooden floors, wooden window sills, etc.) that I am supposed to throw into a landfill so that I can purchase new energy efficient materials!

composting leaves.
Biological pest control. (green lacewings, nematodes)

We have all energy efficient appliances and use natural gas to the maximum extent possible.

Energy audit, installation of insulated siding, fireplace cover, new windows.
I keep track of my energy usage and try to reduce it whenever possible. I find that data gathering helps motivate.
Composting Cloth napkins - daily use Solar hot water
Improved energy efficiency with addition and renovation 8 years ago.
Ordered an electric vehicle (Tesla), expected in April/May. Info below is for current cars.
See question #3
compost no pesticides on lot
Only have one car for two drivers, drive a hybrid car, keep heating and cooling of house low, keep overall water use low,
Use as little heat/AC as possible. Installed fluorescent and LED lights, energy efficient appliances. Electric car. Organic gardening.
Drive a Prius when I drive. Mostly walk. Compost and recycle religiously.
had my driveway redone with bricks to prevent water run off. but tghen wa told it wasn't the correct kind of material. This was not specified in the original descriptions
Form a neighborhood collective to allow residents to collectively invest in a solar panel farm on both the Lawton Center and CCES. Putting them on the house is challenge.
None of your business.
insulation in attic.
No fertilizer use, no pesticides. I clean up pet waste and sometimes, that of others. I walk a lot to shop and use the metro or bicycle.

More recycling. Prius owner. No fertilizer. Keep trees and protect them. More efficient appliances and windows (storm windows but kept original glass pane windows), some interior energy savers- lower heat, lights off when not needed, wrap hot water heater, only full laundry loads, more hanging dry of laundry, wind energy, donations, etc.
Why do you want to know what cars people have and how often they use them? Please tell me the Town is not going to try to ban cars it finds insufficiently 'green.'
We walk to the subway rather than drive to work, a choice we are fortunate to be able to make in our community.
installed a cistern to collect rainwater from our downspouts, installed low-flow toilets and faucets, planted drought tolerant plants in the yard and slow growing grass that needs very little mowing
Bought a hybrid and started composting as well. Not looking into major investments.
We both walk to the metro, purchase 100% wind generated electricity, drive a Honda Fit and a Toyota Prius, changed all our windows and all our light bulbs, bought a high efficiency furnace, added insulation, recycle yard waste and kitchen scrap in the back yard, planted a vegetable garden, and installed gutter barrels. A lot of these actions were taken as a result of information provided by the town.
Recently purchased a hybrid vehicle.
We walk or bike to nearby areas nearly every day to run errands and therefore only use my car a couple of times a week (usually to bring kids to activities that are too far to walk). I am an avid gardener and don't use pesticides in my yard/garden. I try to sign my kids (and myself) up for classes in which we can walk to or take metro. We are part of the town's pilot program with the Compost Crew. We set our thermostat under 70 in the winter and about 80 in the summer and it's programmable so it's adjusted for the times when we are home. I recycle as much as I can and try to reuse things I can't recycle before I throw it away (when possible). I try to donate toys and clothes instead of throwing them out. I buy many food items that are organic and buy local when I can.
We compost and recycle.
We don't use herbicides and use only organic pesticides. The primary source of nutrients for our garden is (purchased) compost and manure. We are faithful recyclers.

Critical thinking about what makes sense.
compost vegetable waste
<p>First - your questions are presuming your plan is appropriate. However, I have looked at the costs for my house for multiple options. Even though I am capable and do most of my own work, including obtaining permits, and I cost evaluate many of my own real estate investments regarding improvements and maintenance, I have not been able to find a solar option (hot water or electric) that is cost justifiable. The alleged social costs of environmental impact are not monetized.</p> <p>I suspect that I have spent more time and money on my 1927 house in ChCh that most people in town to improve its energy efficiency [all without the Town's guidance or help - indeed one case ignoring requests by a Town elected official for payoffs] - and as I did the work myself, I suspect I got a better return on my investment than most others doing similar upgrades.</p> <p>Non-monetized social costs could be monetized, but I suspect most Town residents oppose and vote against such measures, such as the carbon tax.</p>
I prefer biking or walking to driving or metro; Most importantly, i am frugal in general, whether with burning fossil fuels or excessive consumption, i don't need, want, or have a (now) typical oversized chevy chase home.
Use car much less for local errands and instead walk or bike. Planted more natives in garden, reduced lawn area. Other items on Climate Action List - this could be recirculated from time to time, or reminders given to review it.
interested in doing our part for the climate - currently living in South Africa so not involved in CChase activities right now but we'll be back in the fall
Native landscaping, eco-lawn, rain garden.
Minimal driving -- I walk places and take Metro whenever possible. I have been switching over to compact fluorescent bulbs and turn lights off when not in room. Conservative use of heating and AC. Only run full loads of dishes and laundry, and have front-loading washer and high-efficiency dishwasher.

91 Respondents provided information.				Days of commuting per week				Drives own or family car (car # from question 5)				What is your primary means of getting to work (eg., Metro, bus, carpool, drive own car, bike, or walk)?				Work at home (Yes or No)			
Approximate distance to place of work (miles)																			
Worker #1	Worker #2	Worker #3	Worker #4	Worker #1	Worker #2	Worker #3	Worker #4	Worker #1	Worker #2	Worker #3	Worker #4	Worker #1	Worker #2	Worker #3	Worker #4	Worker #1	Worker #2	Worker #3	Worker #4
10	12			1	2			yes	yes			car and bike		carpool or walk		sometimes			
5	home	2.5		5		5											yes		
1 mile	2 miles			5	3				2			Walk	Drive mostly, but sometimes bike or walk			No		No	
4	12			5	4				2			Car	Car			No		No	
8 miles				2				own				car				no			
8 miles	1 mile			5	3							car and/or metro	bike, walk			n		y	
10				5								Metro							
1				3														yes	
8	8			5	3			Drives car 2	Drives car 1			Car	Car			No		Yes	
6				5								metro plus walking						yes	
NONE	10 MILES	30		5	5	DAY STUDENT										YES			
6 mi.				5				Drives own car				drive own car				no			
1	1			5	4			No	No			Walk	Walk			No		No	
0	15			0	5			Yes	Yes			Car	Car			Yes		No	
8				5				No				Metro							
12	8			3	1			1	2			drive	drive			yes		yes	
6 miles				4				no				metro				no			
8	8			5	5			1	1			car/metro	car/metro			sometimes		sometimes	
22	2			5	5			1	2			Own car	Own car						
10	35			3	5			2	1			walk to metro	drive			yes (2 days per week)		no	
5				5				no				Metro				No			
1	1			5	5			1	2			walk	drive			no		no	
15	15			5	4			5	2			metro	car			no		no	
20				5								car							
8	0			5	0			Vehicle #2	Vehicle #1			drive own car				Yes		Yes	
7				1								car/bike				yes/no			
16				5				no				metro/bike multimodal				no			
2				5				no				cycle				n			
1	1			5	4							walk	walk			no		yes	
7				2				yes				drive my car				sometimes			
3				4.5				1				Metro				No			
15				5				no				metro				no			
45 miles				5-7				yes				car				no			
8	12			5	5							Metro	Metro						
1.0				3				yes				own car				no			
12				1	1			yes	yes			na	na			No		No	
21	7			5	5			1	Metro			Car	metro			Some		Some	
8				5				car #2	car #1			car	car						
10				2				yes				metro/car/bike				yes			
11				5				no				Bus & Metrorail				No			
8	7			5	4			1	2			Metro	car			No		No	
5	20			5	4			2	1			drive own car	drive own car			No		1/day/week	
10	20			3	5			1	2			Car	Car			yes		No	
8				5				2				own car				no		No	
0																yes			
10	0			5	0			2				car	no commute			No		Yes	
10				5				Sometimes to Metro				Metro				sometimes			
5	5			5	5							Metro	Metro			N		N	
9	Varies			5	Varies			3	1			Car	Car			No		Yes	
10	0	15		5	5			0	0	0		Metro		Metro		N		Y	N
7	1			5-6	varies	5		yes	own			drive own car	drive own car					yes	
10	0			5	5			no				metro/bike						yes	
25				bi-weekly				own car											
7	8			5	5			1	2			car	metro			no		no	
6	0			5	0			1	2			Car with school drop off, yoo	Works at home			No		Yes	
5	5			2	5			No	Yes			Carpool	Drive			Yes (in addition)		Yes (in addition)	
1/6 mile	1/2 mile			5	5							walk				Yes & office, usually walk			
10	12			2500	2500							metro	metro			no		no	
0				5	5			1	2			walk	walk			yes		yes	
5				7				1				drive own car				no			
0	0			0	0			0	0							Yes		Yes	
12	12			5	5			no	no			Metro/bike	metro			no		no	
10				3								Metro				No			
varies				4				Yes								Yes			
2				4				Yes				Drive				N			
varies				6				#2				own truck				yes			
1	6			5	5			Car 1	Car 2			drive car or walk	drive own car			no		no	
1/2				6								walk				no			
10				5				1				drive own car							
10				3				Yes				walk				No			
9	14			5	5							Car	Car			no		no	
7	8			1	4			2	1			Car	Car			Yes		Once a week	
11	10			5	5							metro	bike			no		no	
12	6			5	4				yes			metro				no		no	
7.5	12			4	6			2	1			car				Yes part of the day/week		no	
12		15		5				2		3		Metro		Car		No		Yes	NO
12				5								Metro						Yes	
10				5				0				metro							
10	13			5	5			no	no			bike				no		no	
8	8			5	5			No	No			Metro	Metro			no		no	
0				5								metro				no			
0	15			0	5			n/a	yes			n/a	car			yes		no	
10	10			5	5							Metro	Metro			no		no	
10	10			50	5			Rarely	Car #2			Metro	Drives Car #2 usually			No		Sometimes	
35	10			5	5			Mazda 3				Drive own car	Metro			No			

7. Please tell us about yourself

Your age:	128 Respondents
0-20	0%
21-30	1.56%
31-40	6.25%
41-50	19.53%
51-60	32.81%
60+	39.84%

How many years have you lived in Town?	126 Respondents
Less than 5	12.70%
Between 5 and 10	13.49%
More than 10	73.81%

8. Please briefly describe any issues you would be interested in discussing further. 23 respondents provided comments.

I don't want to discuss any of the above any more. I can not believe this survey is asking about our cars, etc. Please do not attempt to shove your passion for lowering your carbon footprint (which only makes you feel good and will do absolutely nothing to the big picture) on others that live in the Town.

Public shuttle

Ways to make my old home more energy efficient.

Having the Town supply clean biodegradable mulch to those who want to use mulch. It is ridiculous for us all to be paying a fortune for individual bags of mulch whether sold by landscape companies or acquired individually. There should be a common site where mulch could be bagged by the homeowner who would pay a small fee.

Getting rid of the automatic sprinkler systems which rain on the sidewalks (whether or not watering is necessary) and end up in the storm drains.

The town email said I would receive the bag if I answered the survey. Thank you, but I do not want to discuss issues or volunteer at this time.

All the best and doing ours,
Jane

See response to number 3, above.

I really support curb side Composting.

I think the Town should set a better of example. We were required to have 100% onsite absorption on our new driveway but the Town resurfaced its parking lot with an impenetrable material on a huge area. In addition, the Town created a heat island adjacent to the playground and courts.

how to discourage commuter parking where not authorized

I am concerned that the town may add undue and expensive burdens on residents in a misguided attempt at controlling the environment.

Bike patjhs? Supporting healthy lifeastyles, and buying locally grown foods

Town-wide composting

<p>Hazardous waste recycling -- some of us can't get to Shady Grove; the stuff's piling up in my garage Comingled recycling -- most every other Montgomery Cty town and municipality do it</p> <p>I have joined the Compost Crew -- it's terrific!</p>
<p>No, But thank you just the same.</p>
<p>TOCC, please stop piddling around on these issues and make a plan, invest some money, and make something measurable happen in the next few years. Seems like a lot of talk, fuss, and not much to show for it!</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. primary bread winner is physician and must have use of car for back and forth to hospital 2. secondary bread winner is Realtor who does desk and phone work at home, but drives customers in her car. This has changed over the years since local purchasers want more autonomy in their home searches before and while viewing homes with their agents and writing their offers. Out of town purchasers need the agent to show them the homes and area in their home searches.
<p>Improving CO2 emissions by improving tree cover</p>
<p>#3 above</p>
<p>NOISE--from old gas lawnmowers of residents, landscape crews using hi powered gas leaf blowers (3 at a time). Would like to see the shift from 2x week of trash pick up to 1x week of trash and 1x of organic waste.</p>
<p>All great stuff. Glad to see the town still working on these issues.</p> <p>Would be willing to help out with finding solutions for using alternative fuel vehicles. Our non-profit is purchasing some NGVs so I've been learning a lot about that.</p>
<p>I value critical thinking about environmental issues, so I'm happy to discuss which actions make sense and which don't. I am not interested in environmental theater.</p>
<p>The Town's idea for back up power generation is wasteful, costs too much and is unnecessary. Lots of Town residents have WiFi and would be happy to share with the Town. Back up power for computers (who really needs AC or heat in such situations?) is cheaply available, and most information should be on backup drives anyway which, with laptops, means the Town office is not a necessity to keep in operation or communication. Plus you forget the lease facilities at the 4-H, as the Town is rarely out of power on both sides of the grid at the same time.</p>

Some Chevy Chevy municipalities give property tax rebates to residents as a matter of course.
Why doesn't the Town explore doing this to encourage responsible environmental behavior?
The Town doesn't need a multi-million surplus IMO!