

Residential Energy Efficiency

Rockville partners with Montgomery County, local utilities, non-profits and other agencies to educate the community and promote utility, state and federal residential energy programs and incentives.

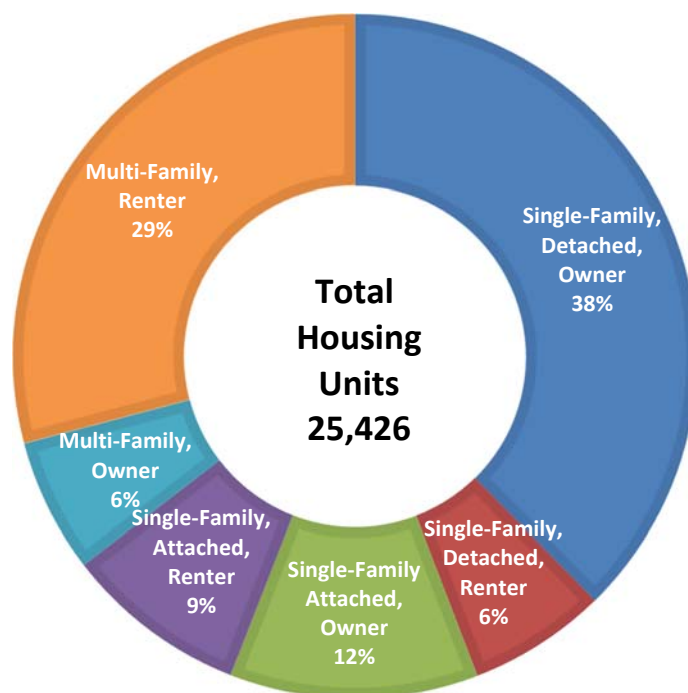
Per the latest *Housing Market and Needs Assessment*, Rockville had approximately 25,426 housing units in 2015. Approximately 38 percent of Rockville housing units are single-family, detached, owner. Whereas, 29 percent of units are multi-family, renter units; which is the fastest growing housing type in the city. Therefore, Rockville's residential energy program addresses a variety of housing types and ownership patterns.

Rockville's location within the Pepco service area and Montgomery County provides a unique opportunity to join forces with other residential energy programs to leverage limited resources. Rockville promotes Pepco's home energy savings incentive programs offered under the Maryland Empower Program through its website, online and printed monthly newsletters, and community events. Rockville also coordinates with Montgomery County on education and outreach. In 2016, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection hired a Residential Energy Program Manager to help residents become more energy efficient and find renewable energy options. The County spends approximately \$95,000 for residential energy program staff and materials and features energy education and incentive information on two websites:

- <https://mygreenmontgomery.org/>
- <https://montgomeryenergyconnection.org/>

The new Montgomery Energy Connection website is a network of County government and community partners created to provide customized education on the benefits of energy efficiency, availability of programs, and opportunities for assistance.

**ROCKVILLE HOUSEHOLDS BY UNIT TYPE
2015**



Households by Unit Type	2015
Single-Family Detached, Owner	9,570
Single-Family, Detached, Renter	1,663
Single-Family Attached, Owner	2,988
Single-Family, Attached, Renter	2,194
Multi-Family, Owner	1,606
Multi-Family, Renter	7,404
Total	25,426

Residential Education and Outreach

The County's Residential Energy Program Manager worked with various Rockville entities, including community centers, Senior Center, Department of Housing and Community Development, Environment Management Division, and the Environment Commission to identify coordination opportunities for community energy outreach and engagement. Between 2018 and 2021, residential energy outreach was conducted at 29 events in Rockville with 1,253 impressions (Table 1). While impressions declined from the previous period due to the pandemic, the program still was able to host tabling events, attend community center events, hold LED lightbulb exchanges, hosting Energy Express family events at local libraries, and providing education presentations. The programs seek to educate homeowners about their electricity bills, energy saving techniques, Empower Maryland audit and rebate programs, and renewable energy opportunities. More information is available at: <https://mygreenmontgomery.org/energy/> and example of promotions and tabling are shown below.

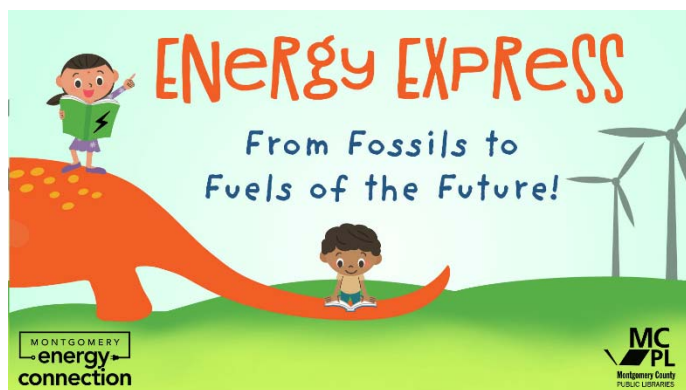


Table 1: Residential Energy Outreach in Rockville (2018-2021)

Event Name	Date	Location	Type of Event	Impresssions
Energy Express: Electricity Rocks!	7/10/2018	Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville Town Square	Presentation	15
Energy Express: Electricity Rocks!	7/19/2018	Aspen Hill Library, 4407 Aspen Hill Rd, Rockville, MD 20853	Presentation	12
Energy Express: Electricity Rocks!	7/19/2018	Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Dr, Rockville, MD 20851	Presentation	7
Lighten the Load	7/30/2018	Safeway #1668: 5510 Norbeck Rd, Rockville, MD 20853	Tabling	227
Energy BINGO	2/26/2019	Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr, Rockville, MD 20850	Workshop	14
Brews & Bulbs	3/1/2019	Saints Row Brewing Company, 1211-1213 Taft St, Rockville, MD 20850	DEP Sponsored Event	46
Bayard Rustin PTA	3/5/2019	332 West Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20850	Presentation	28
Electricity Rocks	3/13/2019	Christ Episcopal School, 22 W Jefferson St, Rockville, MD 20850	Presentation	43
Brews & Bulbs	3/29/2019	7 Locks Brewing, 12227 Wilkins Ave, Rockville, MD 20852	DEP Sponsored Event	62
Let there be Light (bulb exchange)	3/31/2019	UUCR, 1900, 100 Welsh Park Dr, Rockville, MD 20850	Tabling	41
Solar Co-Op Informational Session	5/7/2019	Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave, Rockville, MD 20850	Presentation	43
Happy, Healthy Homes Launch	5/8/2019	Beall's Grant Apartments, 254 N. Washington Street, Rockville, MD 20850	Other	52
\$pring into \$avings	5/20/2019	HOC, 14639 Bauer Drive, Rockville, MD	Presentation	12
Light up the Holidays	12/17/2019	Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane, Rockville	Tabling	14
Light up the Holidays	12/18/2019	Twinbrook Elementary School, 5911 Ridgway Ave, Rockville, MD 20851	Workshop	28
Light up the Holidays	12/21/2019	835 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852	Tabling	45

Rockville HOA Meeting	1/14/2020	Pump House, 401 South Horner's Lane, Rockville	Light bulb Exchange	18
FeBREWary: Brews and Bulbs	2/5/2020	Saints Row Brewing, 1211-1213 Taft St, Rockville	Light bulb Exchange	25
FeBREWary: Brews and Bulbs	2/7/2020	7 Locks Brewing, 12227 Wilkins Ave, Rockville	Light bulb Exchange	20
Let there be Light (bulb exchange)	2/9/2020	Interfaith Families Project, Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Rockville	Light bulb Exchange	40
ESP STEAM Night	2/27/2020	Robert Frost Middle School, 9201 Scott Drive, Rockville, MD	Other	99
FeBREWary: Brews and Bulbs	2/28/2020	True Respite, 7301 Calhoun Pl #600, Derwood, MD	Light bulb Exchange	37
Food Distribution Site	4/20/2020	Rockville Senior Center	Other	250
I Pay What? City of Rockville (Spanish)	5/15/2020	Montgomery County DEP Zoom	Online	8
I Pay What? City of Rockville	6/4/2020	Montgomery County DEP Zoom	Online	11
Rockville Solar Info Session with Solar United Neighbors	6/24/2020	Solar United Neighbors Zoom	Online	16
Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service Plogging	1/18/2021	Maryvale, 15101 Bauer Dr, Rockville, MD 20853	Other	23
\$pring into \$aving\$	3/10/2021	Rockville Senior Center Zoom	Online	4
Let there be Light (bulb exchange)	3/14/2021	UUCR, 100 Welsh Dr, Rockville, MD 20850	Light bulb Exchange	13

Empower Maryland Participation in Rockville

Unfortunately, the publicly available data on Maryland's open data portal has not been updated since 2018 for Empower Maryland Programs and Home Performance programs. Therefore, estimates are no longer available for the number of participants in these programs for homes located within four zip codes within Rockville. However, between the 2015-2018 period, Montgomery County had the highest participation rates in these programs.

Rockville Low-to-Moderate Income Weatherization

In 2019, Rockville Housing and Community Development began to coordinate with the non-profit, Blockchain Frontiers Foundation (BFF), to provide energy audits and efficient home improvements for low-to-moderate income residents. To participate in the program, homeowners must meet eligibility requirements. Income eligibility requirements range from \$69,800 for a single-person household, to \$99,600 for a four-person household and \$131,600 for an eight-person household.

The Maryland Energy Administration's Clean Energy Communities Low-to-Moderate Income Grant Program awarded BlockChain Frontiers Foundation, Inc. \$329,000 to support energy-efficiency home improvements in central Maryland.

The program was advertised in Rockville Reports, the City's monthly print and online newsletter (see example below). Eligible energy improvements may include but are not limited to: attic insulation; furnace testing, diagnostics, maintenance and replacement; duct sealing and insulating; water heater treatments; Energy Star appliances; replacing standard light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs; and installing low-flow, energy-efficient aerators and showerheads. In some cases, projects may include HVAC replacement, including heat pump, furnace or boiler replacement. Window, roof and door replacements are not eligible.

In 2019, Rockville assisted 22 families in applying for MEA grant funding through Blockchain Frontiers Foundation (BFF) to help weatherize their homes. As a result, the City and BFF leveraged \$9,256.20 in City funds, with \$42,352.01 in MEA grant funds and \$24,056.09 utility rebates, to help make low-to-moderate income residents' homes more energy-efficient. The City's funds have been utilized in three homes which required assistance with mold remediation or electrical safety issues. For all Rockville residents receiving weatherization enhancements, average annual savings amount to \$468.08. While program participation declined in 2020/2021 due to the pandemic, Rockville is planning to continue this model in the future.



Street Paving Scheduled to Begin in May for Neighborhoods East of MD 355

The city is scheduled to resurface roads in the East Rockville and Twinbrook neighborhoods, beginning in mid-May and continuing for about four months, depending on the weather.

"No parking" signs will be posted within 48 hours of the start of work. Temporary traffic stoppages are necessary for safety but should have minimal impact on traffic. The schedule is subject to change based on weather conditions and coordination with other utility work.

Paving occurs in three phases and will take place between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. The first phase involves milling, to grind down the existing asphalt surface. Street access may be blocked for five- to 10-minute periods to move equipment or work near driveways. Residents are asked to follow flagger directions and be patient. A vacuum sweeper truck will closely follow the milling operation to remove loose material.

The second phase involves lowering or raising existing utilities, such as manholes and water valves, to the new street grade, and patching and repaving the asphalt base. This work may begin before the first phase is complete.

In the third phase, new asphalt is placed from curb to curb. This moves more slowly than the milling operation

and may have greater impact on access to and from driveways. Immediately before placing the hot asphalt, the contractor will spray a tack coat of liquid asphalt onto the street surface in segments about 500 feet ahead of the paving machine. Do not attempt to drive through this liquid asphalt, as it may damage tires, stick to vehicles and be tracked onto driveways.

The new asphalt surface is applied at a high temperature – generally about 200 degrees. It is immediately rolled for compaction, cools quickly and is safe to drive on about 10 minutes after compaction rolling is complete. If paving operations are close to your driveway, check with the construction crew before attempting to drive onto the street. Pedestrians should use extreme caution and children should never be allowed to play around the new surface on the day it is placed.

Rockville streets are evaluated and maintained through the asphalt maintenance program, which is funded annually through the city's Capital Improvements Program. Rockville repaves streets to create a smoother drive for motorists and to preserve the integrity of roads.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/street-repairs to learn more and find updated paving schedules. +

Building Safety Month Highlights Importance of Modern Building Codes, Strong Code Enforcement

May is the 39th year for Building Safety Month, a campaign to raise awareness about safe and sustainable structures. This year's theme for the international campaign is "No code. No confidence."

"Building Safety Month is a chance to celebrate the entire building safety community and to educate others about the importance of the codes to each and every one of us," International Code Council Board President William Bryant said. The ICC promotes Building Safety Month each year.

On Monday, April 29, the Mayor and Council were scheduled to issue a proclamation declaring May as Building Safety Month in Rockville.

"[T]he City of Rockville recognizes that our strength and growth depends on the safety and economic value of our homes, buildings and infrastructure that serve our community, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster," the proclamation states.

Most U.S. communities, including Maryland and the City of Rockville, have adopted

and enforce ICC codes and standards. In Rockville, the Inspection Services Division regulates state-mandated building codes and ordinances by issuing permits and contractor licenses, reviewing plans, and inspecting all phases of residential and commercial construction, to ensure buildings and structures under construction are safe, code-compliant and in conformance with approved plans.

Each week of May is dedicated to a different aspect of building safety:

- **May 1-5:** Preparing for disasters. Build strong, build smart.
- **May 6-12:** Ensuring a safer future through training and education.
- **May 13-19:** Securing clean, abundant water for all communities.
- **May 20-26:** Construction professionals and homeowners partners in safety.
- **May 27-31:** Innovations in building safety.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/inspection-services to learn more about the Inspection Services Division, and www.buildingsafetymonth.org for information on Building Safety Month. +

Get Your Summer Swim On

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's outdoor recreation pool, complete with large slide, sprayground and hot tub, will open for the season on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 25).

The outdoor fitness pool will open in May. Spring's unpredictable weather means the exact date for the official first day for the fitness pool is still developing.

Plan ahead for your visit. Renovation and expansion

work at the center means the lobby and locker rooms will be closed, so make sure to enter from the outdoor pool entrance. Most of the work will take place over the summer months when customers can use the outdoor bathhouse while the indoor locker rooms are closed.

Check the swim center's website and sign up for the email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter to stay updated. +

Carbon Monoxide Detector Installation Ordinance to go into Effect July 1

An ordinance that will go into effect July 1 will require carbon monoxide detectors in Rockville homes built prior to 2008 that have a fuel-burning appliance or attached garage.

The city ordinance, passed by the Mayor and Council in November, incorporates legislation passed by the county in October. The July 1 enactment date was intended to allow residents time to understand and comply with the new requirement.

Specifically, the county bill requires owners of single-unit, two-unit and townhouse dwelling units, with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages that were permitted before Jan. 1, 2008, to install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms.

Since 2008, all new single-family dwellings and townhouses in the state have been required to install carbon monoxide detectors. Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause serious injury or death.

Rockville's Senior Services Department can help Rockville residents age 60 and older find and install carbon monoxide detectors.

For help with information and referrals to purchase detectors, and assistance with installation, residents age 60 and older can contact senior services home maintenance coordinator Jerry Jones by email at jjones@rockvillemd.gov or by phone at 240-314-8819.

Here Comes the Solar Co-op

Homeowners looking to save on energy costs by using green energy should save the date for Tuesday, May 7, when the city will host an informational meeting, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., about an upcoming solar co-op opportunity.

The co-op presents an opportunity for homeowners interested in installing solar panels on their home to receive technical assistance and guidance throughout the process. While each participant signs an independent contract with the installer for their own system, they band together to negotiate a volume discount and reduce the total cost of installation.

To learn more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes.

Go Green in May

Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center, at 852 Avery Road, offers several opportunities to go green in May.

Join the **Rockville Brewshed**, from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, May 4, as Keny Allen, head brewer for True Respite Brewing Company, leads a streamside hike in the Hayes Forest Preserve to gather inspiration for the brewery's next beer. Then head to True Respite to enjoy 15% off beers for hike participants 21 and over. Cost is \$4 for residents/\$5 nonresidents. Register for course #9027 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Learn how to save money, reduce runoff and replace weedy areas of your yard at a free **RainScapes Rebates information session** from 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, May 5. Single-family homeowners and nonprofits, including religious institutions, private schools and homeowners associations, can receive up to \$4,800 in rebates through Rockville's RainScapes Rebates program. The program offers rebates for planting trees and native plants, installing rain barrels, and removing pavement and installing pervious pavers. To register, call 240-314-8877 or email rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov with your name, phone number and address. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes.

Work with a regional expert to **pull invasive plants** and improve the health of the watershed from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 5. Gloves will be provided. No registration necessary. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Student Service Learning hours are available. Call 240-314-8770 for details.



BE CART SMART: Throwing out plastic bags, clothes or a garden hose? Please don't use the brown recycling cart – put them in the gray trash cart. Or, to find a nearby grocery store that accepts plastic bags for recycling, visit <http://bit.ly/howtorecyclebags>. Got a city cart that's falling apart? Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it for you.