



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-4374

Joshua D. Feldmark, Director

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September 4, 2009

Dear Spring Breeze Community Association:

Congratulations! You are officially invited to participate in Howard County's Sustainable Homeowners Association (HOA) and Community Group Pilot Project in coordination with the Kings Contrivance Community Association. The Pilot Project successfully drew a diverse collection of interested communities, allowing us to select yours as one of seven communities throughout the County that represents the rich geographical and population diversity of Howard County. The principle goal of this pilot is to facilitate both environmental awareness and sustainable living within the County. The selected HOAs and Community representatives are responsible for working closely with the County to research, analyze, and update their architectural guidelines, covenants, and procedures as appropriate for their specific community. While we certainly will not require any changes to architectural guidelines and/or covenants and such changes may not even be necessary, we do expect openness to changes to make them friendlier toward green improvements.

Secondly, we will work with you to develop a "best practices" guide for both homeowners and the associations detailing sustainability issues and providing recommendations ranging from energy use and waste management to landscaping and storm water management. The County will be dedicating many resources to this project including staff hours from multiple departments. We are very excited about this endeavor and expect a full commitment from your Association. That commitment will include availability for meetings, site visits, and a willingness to allow us onto community property. No changes will be required, but we do hope you will take all recommendations seriously and are looking for opportunities to make your entire neighborhood a part of our model green community.

Examples of possible new inclusions of sustainable guidelines include: determining allowable placement of solar panels or other alternative energy sources, permitting rain barrels, explaining and encouraging the proper installation of rain gardens to homeowners and working with landscapers to reduce fertilizer and pesticide applications that harm waterways and the Bay.

Howard County remains a leader in the sustainability effort nationwide. We look forward to working with you as we continue to move toward greater environmental sustainability. This pilot project requires your association's commitment to exploring changes and improving your community in a sustainable manner. Upon completion of the covenant and guidelines analysis, as well as the production of the best practices guide, you will be recognized by the County with a Green Salute and be known as a community that promotes the "Live Green Howard County" philosophy.

We look forward to working with you to increase the sustainability awareness and actions within our County, allowing us all to enjoy a higher quality of life. To set up your initial project meeting, please call Lindsay at 410-313-4374 or email her at LDeMarzo@howardcountymd.gov. Please have your Board Chair or his/her representative sign the letter below and return to Lindsay DeMarzo at our first meeting.

Sincerely,

Lindsay A. (Leiterman) DeMarzo
Sustainability Outreach Coordinator
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Dr. Gary L. Weinberg
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_____, Board Chair Signature

_____, Print name