



## *News Release*

Contacts: Marion Joyce, 301-495-4602  
Patrick Lacefield, 240-777-7939

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### **County Council, M-NCPPC and Gaithersburg Launch New “Going Green at Home” Program**

**Fair Set for Saturday, May 21 at Wheaton Regional Park**

In an Earth Day announcement at Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Derick P. Berlage, Chairman of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the Montgomery County Planning Board, and City of Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz launched the “Going Green at Home” program to encourage and promote energy efficiency, cleaner indoor air and contributions to improving the environment for Montgomery County’s 338,500 households. To kick off the program, M-NCPPC and County officials invited the public, especially homeowners and homebuyers, to participate in “Going Green at Home,” a fair for the whole family to be held Saturday, May 21, 11-3 p.m. at Wheaton Regional Park near the antique carousel and miniature train station at 2002 Shorefield Road. PEPCO and Renewal by Anderson – The Window Place are the fair’s major corporate sponsors.

During the May 21 fair, visitors will learn about energy efficient, earth-friendly products from vendors and local experts through a series of seminars and exhibits. Children will enjoy playing with the Enviroscape as they learn about the consequences of runoff on the Chesapeake Bay, and a salsa band will entertain park visitors. A drawing for prizes includes a canoe trip for two on the Anacostia River, an organic lawn care kit, *Building Green* a book edited by Alex Wilson and Mark Piepkorn and more.

Additional sponsors include East Coast Organics, Maryland-National Capital Building Industries Association, Building Green, Anacostia Watershed Society and Strosniders Hardware. Exhibitors include Alan Abrams (builder), Helicon Works (architects), LBA Renewable Systems (solar photovoltaic and hot water), MNCBIA (Green Awards Program), Anacostia Watershed Society, Gardens that Work (landscapers), Amicus Design and Build (builders and multiple products including carpets and flooring) and WSSC.

As part of the Going Green at Home program, a series of seminars will follow in the fall and spring will include such topics as: clean indoor air, how to create a rain garden, checking your home for air leaks and insulation, green kitchens, green roofs.

After the fair targeting residential homeowners, we plan to investigate a variety of ways to promote commercial and residential green buildings in Montgomery County. "We hope to be able to share the lessons M-NCPPC and other agencies have learned in developing and implementing their own programs," commented Berlage, "and we'll be looking for more regional partners and sponsors for the initiative. Our process will seek to improve and create the most effective ways to encourage the use of building materials and techniques that sustain a healthy environment."

"Like most important things, staying green starts at home. That's why I'm delighted to support the 'Going Green at Home' program. With common sense tips as well as cutting-edge innovations, we're promoting environmentally-friendly home environments for County residents of today and tomorrow," said Councilmember Nancy Floreen, who chairs the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

"The City Council and I are extremely proud of the progress we have made with Gaithersburg's public and commercial green building program, and we are looking forward to working with our regional partners to promote residential green building. There are many opportunities for all of us to incorporate green principles at home to reduce energy consumption, save money, and improve our environment. As a local government, it is incumbent upon us to take this leadership and educational role."

For more information, a website is available: [www.goinggreenathome.org](http://www.goinggreenathome.org).

Montgomery County and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourage the participation of all individuals in their programs and facilities. For assistance with special needs, such as large print materials, sign language interpretation, listening devices, etc., contact Marion Joyce, 301-495-4600, TTY 301-495-1331 or the Maryland Relay Service.