

Don't feel need to undertake sustainability initiatives

Open-Text Questions

Question #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?

1. Not the business of the Town to do so. Please keep our government small and for the people's safety, etc.
2. 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.
3. Do not impose on residents if they do not agree with your assessment of these issues.
4. 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.

Question #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?

1. This is the kind of thing that I don't want the Town involved in at all.
2. We are doing the things we can at this point.
3. I already follow some practices to reduce negative impacts on the environment; here are plenty of resources available to help with that.
4. 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.
5. I don't believe I have a negative impact on the environment. You are entitled to your opinions, but not to an intrusion upon my life.
6. 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.
7. We already take public transportation, walk, use the car rarely. There is nothing the Town can do that we are not already doing.
8. let's face it, those choices are up to us, not the town.
9. I think the town should forget about most of the items on the list in the survey.
10. 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.
11. I think the town should stay out of this business, and stick to managing our local affairs

Bottom of Question #1: Feel free to provide comments on the topics above or suggestions for additional environmental issues you feel the town might address"

1. 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 dissatisfied in the resolution authorizing the Town's participation in this SMC program.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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...
5. 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.

Bottom of Question #4: **Feel free to tell us other actions you have taken to reduce your environmental impact.**

1. Mind your own carbon footprint and please do not force your agenda on others
2. None of your business.
3. 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.'

Final Question: **Please briefly describe any issues you would be interested in discussing further.**

1. 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.
2. I am concerned that the town may add undue and expensive burdens on residents in a misguided attempt at controlling the environment.