

# Henrico County Sustainability ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024-25



An overview of the projects and initiatives undertaken by Henrico's Environmental Action Resource Team (HEART) and departments across Henrico County Government

# Positively Sustainable

Energy Saving	Pollution Control	Transit	Land Conservation	Public Involvement	Greenspace & Trails
8.5% reduction in energy use past 5 years	Stream Restorations – 1.1M pounds pollution removed	Bus Ridership – Up 37%	Eastern Henrico Conserved Properties 15,800 acres	Doubled size of Youth Council	Fall Line & New Market Heights
25 Certified Green Buildings	34 Residential BMPs Restored	Express Bus rides up 43K – decreasing congestion	-	5 BOS Appointees	Growing % of residents with walk access to parks
Wilton Living Building	1 Trash Interceptor Pilot	-	-	+20 Stewart Appearances	+1-mile paved trails installed

Renewable Energy	Waste-Not	Walk & Roll	Keeping Cool	Collaboration	Innovation In Progress
Solar for 200-250 Low-Income Households	+6 tons of food waste composted	16 H.E.A.R.T. Bike Racks	7,263 trees planted	8 Community Impact Grants	38 EV Charging Stations in Development
4.55 MW in solar production (up from 2.9 MW)	5,000 tons Leaves Vacuumed	Nearly 3X Bike Lane Mileage	5 Playground Shade Structures	HEF Youth Scholarships	4 new sites in Solar RFP
+2MW Landfill Solar in Development	35%, 4,000 tons increase in recycling	Added 6.25 miles Sidewalks	-	2nd Year with Capital Trees	39 miles Recycled Asphalt

# Making Moves to Energize & Invest in Environmental Action

**H**enrico County has a long-standing and enduring commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The major accomplishments and actions taken in recent years underscore this commitment.

The County Manager adopted Henrico's first Environmental Policy Statement in 2013, which provided the framework by which the County's environmental efforts are conducted. The initial focus areas were on environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and continual improvement. Since then, Henrico has maintained and increased its financial dedication to sustainability initiatives – affirming its commitment to environmental stewardship and values.

The County also established a robust Energy Program to manage renewables and county-wide energy use, providing an annual budget of up to \$250,000. The impact of Henrico's commitment is evident through the wide array of sustainability initiatives undertaken between 2012 and 2025. During this period, the County acquired and preserved over 3,279 acres of land, constructed 25 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) facilities, removed millions of sediment pollutants from waterways, achieved a record-setting expansion of curbside recycling, and developed a foundational partnership with Capital Trees to green the County.

In 2023, the Henrico Board of Supervisors established the Henrico Environmental Action and Resource Team (HEART) to champion environmental projects and promote environmental stewardship

in County operations. HEART is comprised of staff from the County and Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS), along with one community member appointed for each supervisory district.

As these collaborative efforts gained momentum, the County introduced the new Sustainability Division in 2024 to advance sustainability across the County and community. This annual report encapsulates the Sustainability Division's first year of accomplishments, achieved through strong internal and external partnerships.

In the latest fiscal year, the Board of Supervisors approved a budget amendment dedicating \$250,000 to HEART for environmental and sustainability projects. HEART staff did not miss a beat, implementing a portfolio of projects across each of the HEART subcommittee areas: Mobility and Active Transportation, Outreach, Youth Council, Greenspace and Recreation, Energy and Resource Conservation, and Water Resources. HEART projects in the first year were largely 'pilot' projects, serving as proof-of-concept and demonstrating scalability. The composting program launched at Henrico's Public Use Areas is one pilot project that is now offered as a regular resident service.

Together, these ongoing programs set the stage for future progress. Looking ahead, Henrico County has ambitious sustainability goals. We envision that:

Henrico County is a leader in environmental stewardship, consistently prioritizing actions and investments that enhance sustainability and resilience for all who work, live, and play in Henrico County.

**Thank you to all who dedicated time, energy, resources, and passion to advancing environmental sustainability in Henrico County this year!**

County Manager's Office, Department of General Services, Henrico County Public Schools, Henrico County Libraries, Department of Public

Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Public Relations, Department of Public Utilities, Department of Planning, Department of Community Engagement and Outreach, Board of Supervisor's Offices, Capital Trees, Keep Henrico Beautiful, Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District

# Mobility & Active Transportation



## Fall Line Trail

Henrico is one of seven localities along the 43-mile Fall Line Trail, which extends from Ashland to Petersburg. This project is designed to “move people to the places they need to go, promote health and well-being, improve sustainability and resilience, and increase access to communities and local destinations”. The Henrico County segment will span 7.5 miles, from Bryan Park Avenue to the Chickahominy River at the Henrico-Hanover boundary. The Spring Park section was the first phase of the Fall Line Trail to be completed in July 2024. All eight phases are projected to be complete by early 2027.



## Annual Cap2Cap Event

HEART participated in the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation's (VCTF) 20th annual Cap2Cap Bike Ride fundraiser on May 10. The Mobility and Active Transportation Subcommittee promoted bike safety, distributing high visibility “Watch Out Ahead Henrico” (WOAH) vests and sharing information regarding trails and bike facilities in the County. This interactive event engaged a diverse cross-section of the community, offering four travel distances ranging from a family- and beginner-friendly 7-mile route to a challenging 100-mile route for experienced cyclists. Sponsored by Riverside Health, VCTF also offered a virtual option where riders selected a distance goal and submitted their progress online during the month of May.

## Bike Racks

Biking offers a range of benefits for residents’ health and is a great form of sustainable transportation, reduce the negative impact of fossil fuels on air quality. HEART is making it more convenient for residents by installing bike racks and repair stations at parks and government facilities. The bike racks feature a bold green color, enhancing visibility and symbolically reinforcing the community’s commitment to a greener future. As part of this project, Henrico County Public Schools welding students at the Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center at Virginia Randolph are designing and constructing a set of ten additional bike racks to be installed at a HCPS location when completed.

## Bike Month Proclamation

At the May 13 Board meeting, the Board of Supervisors issued a Bike Month Proclamation, highlighting the key benefits of biking: protecting the environment, lowering transportation costs, and improving health. The proclamation also stated intentions to expand bike lane infrastructure and prioritize safety.



# Leaning into Green



## Tree Planting & Reforestation

In fiscal year 2025, HEART led a major tree planting effort to advance Henrico’s reforestation goals, with support from the Virginia Department of Forestry and key County departments. This initiative resulted in the planting of 7,290 native trees and shrubs. A diverse mixture of species was chosen to maximize biodiversity and expand ecosystem services provided by the growing canopy, such as improved water and air quality, carbon sequestration, heat mitigation, and enriched wildlife habitats.

With extensive acreage of public land available

to the County, HEART's reforestation initiative aims to expand gradually, adding thousands of trees and implementing sustainable forest management practices. Henrico County's reforestation pilot included planting 5,951 trees at the Water Reclamation Facility, 183 at Lake Hening, and 1,150 at Brook Road Neighborhood Park.

Guided by a Memorandum of Understanding, the local nonprofit Capital Trees partners with the County to conduct tree planting and maintenance, provides technical expertise, and coordinates volunteer events. Tree planting events have taken place at five locations to date: Dorey Park (25 trees), Deep Run Park (15 trees), Armour House & Gardens (18 trees), Eastern Recreation Center (48 trees), and Fairfield Middle School (13 trees). These tree planting opportunities were conducted in partnership with Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) and Capital Trees, providing an opportunity for community members, students, families, and County staff to work together and make a positive, lasting impact on their environment.

Locations with the greatest need for reforestation are identified through collaboration with Recreation and Parks arborists and leadership, as well as HCPS staff and community members. Typically, the focus is on areas with limited tree cover, vulnerable to the heat island effect, or otherwise in need of enhanced ecosystem services and beautification.

The partnership with Capital Trees supports hands-on student learning and reflects the County’s commitment to sustainability and climate resilience.

## Arbor Day Proclamation

Arbor Day is a day dedicated to recognizing the vital role that trees play in supporting a healthy community. In recognition of this, Henrico County officials signed a proclamation declaring April 25 as Arbor Day. Celebrated worldwide, Arbor Day highlights the numerous environmental benefits that trees bring,

including reducing soil erosion, moderating temperatures, purifying the air, producing oxygen, capturing carbon dioxide, providing renewable resources, increasing property values, and enhancing community beauty. Since 2023, HEART has planted over 7,500 trees, and the Board of Supervisors is committed to expanding the county's tree canopy.

# Leaning into Green



## Solar Access Henrico

The County continues to demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability through the deployment of renewable energy at County and HCPS owned facilities. To increase residents' access to sustainable technologies and to help reduce their energy bills, the County secured \$5 million to provide residential solar to low-income households as part of a rezoning in the Varina district in 2024. Dominion Energy Solutions is deploying these funds to provide solar panels and installation free of charge for approximately 200-250 homes. Analysts relied on federally established data sets to identify geographic areas of focus and ensure residents of all magisterial districts benefit from the program.

## Henricopolis Native Seedling Giveaway

HEART and Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District hosted a Native Seedling giveaway on April 12 in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day. The event was organized to encourage community participation in Henrico's reforestation initiative and educate the public about native plants and their benefits. Attendees could select from river birch, elderberry, redbud, and/or red maple seedlings, all native to Virginia and Henrico County.

## "Throwing Shade" in Henrico

HEART installed 5 canopies and shade structures to offer heat relief at four locations: Varina Park, Woodman Park, Taylor Farm Park, and Highland Springs Park. The inspiration came from the Board of Supervisors' desire to provide cooler spaces for families and community members utilizing Henrico County parks & playgrounds. These shaded areas create a cooling effect, providing heat protection for the young and elderly, who are the most susceptible to heat-related illnesses. In the future, these sites will be considered for tree planting projects to further increase shade and cooling.





## Capital Trees Partnership

Henrico County's Sustainability Division, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Division, and Capital Trees collaborate to assess tree canopy across the County. The Capital Trees staff led training sessions to teach volunteers how to identify and differentiate tree species and how to use GIS. Once trained, volunteers conduct an inventory and analysis of the existing tree presence at government-owned sites across the county. This program equips high school and college interns, community members, and staff with new skills and knowledge, in addition to providing opportunities to spend time interacting with nature.

Reforestation efforts increase habitat availability for wildlife, provide shade, improve air quality, and form the foundation of a strong, climate-resilient community.



## Sample Tree Inventory

HEART's Water Resources Subcommittee was awarded \$30,000 in matching grant funds from the Virginia Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program to inventory and understand the County's existing tree canopy. The team has partnered with a consulting team to conduct a sample tree inventory of Henrico County using the i-Tree Eco platform. Based on the findings of sampling 100, 0.25-acre plots throughout Henrico County, maps of priority planting areas will be generated. These maps will highlight optimal planting areas on Henrico property and right-of-way that will maximize the ecosystem services provided by future tree planting efforts. The project kicked off in May 2025 and is expected to be completed in Fall 2025.



## Plant Native Festival

HEART collaborated with Keep Henrico Beautiful & Dorey Park Farmers Market to host the annual Plant Native Festival on October 19th, 2024. HEART provided \$10,000 in funding for \$10 vouchers to be distributed to households, encouraging the purchase and planting of native plants. Typical household landscaping may include ornamental and invasive species, which can disrupt ecosystems if not balanced or compatible with native species. The next Plant Native Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025.

# Community Engagement

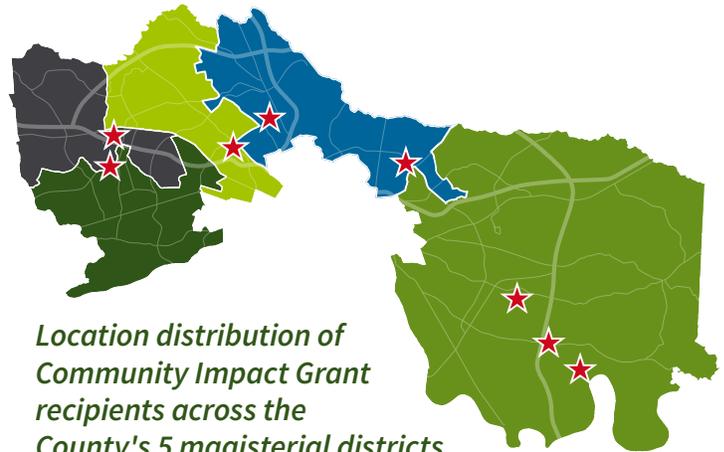
## Community Impact Grants

HEART awarded Community Impact Grants to eight local charitable organizations dedicated to environmental sustainability and community investment in Henrico County. Each grant, up to \$2,500, supported projects with a direct service-oriented impact and strong alignment with HEART's mission of environmental stewardship. To broaden reach, the program also aimed to fund organizations across all five of the County's magisterial districts.

To ensure impactful use of funds, recipient organizations submitted applications outlining a project plan, scope of work, budget, and timeline for review by a HEART selection committee. By launching this inaugural program, HEART increases the capacity of local groups, expands services for residents, and advances County environmental resilience. The next application period opens in fall 2025. Eligible organizations are encouraged to visit the Community Impact Grants site on the HEART webpage for more information and application details.

### Recipient Organizations:

- **Beyond Boundaries** - Hosted "Community Day 2025", where they provided accessible adventures for participants with disabilities, veterans, underserved youth, and those in recovery programs. The day included fishing, paddling, biking, hiking, refreshments, and giveaways.
- **Capital Region Land Conservancy** - Installed an ADA-compliant portable toilet at the Varina LandLab outdoor education center, increasing accessibility. The grant also funds weekly upkeep and cleaning.
- **Dorey Park Farmers Market** - Hosting a community garden conference along with Virginia Public Media (VPM) to help existing community gardens increase their impact and inspire the creation of more gardens.
- **Henrico Master Gardeners** - Created a community/pollinator garden in the Fox Hall neighborhood.
- **Henrico County Cooperative Extension (4-H)** - Offers an "Eco Explorers" year-long environmental education initiative for youth ages 9-18. The program held its kickoff on Earth Day 2025 and will culminate with a showcase on Earth Day 2026. This grant is used to contribute towards travel expenses for off-site educational experiences, such as visiting Pocahontas State Park, and materials for the Teen Leadership Training and summer day camp activities.
- **Richmond Beekeepers** - Replacing ornamental plants with pollinator-friendly native landscaping on the grounds of Belmont Golf Course.
- **RVA Rapid Transit** - Hosting an "Adopt-A-Stop" annual banquet to honor and motivate groups maintaining local bus stops, fostering community pride and cleaner, safer transit environments.
- **Virginia Capital Trail Foundation** - Offered free registrations to youth and caregivers for the choose-your-own-adventure style "Summer Challenge". Participants choose the distance (in miles) of the trail they would like to complete and the mode of transportation (running, walking, biking, skating, etc.).



*Location distribution of Community Impact Grant recipients across the County's 5 magisterial districts*

This project enhances local biodiversity and gives residents hands-on environmental learning opportunities through ongoing volunteer-led maintenance.



## HEART Podcast

The HEART podcast features members of the Youth Council and guest speakers, leading conversations around Henrico County’s plans to become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible community. Since 2023, HEART has aired 22 podcasts on topics including the

PlanRVA CCAP, composting programs, and Community Impact Grants. By engaging the next generation alongside local experts, HEART fosters a culture of ongoing learning about sustainability and connects with an external audience to share progress and success stories.

## Outreach through Media

HEART recognizes the importance of engaging with the local community and actively utilizes trusted platforms, such as Radio Poder and VPM, to share updates on impact projects and upcoming events. HEART’s beloved mascot, Stewart the Turtle, appeared on Channel 12 News to promote the Halloween composting pilot and connect with families in a fun, memorable way. On Earth Day, Stewart waved to passersby outside the Western Government Center!

Radio and television interviews featured Solar Access Henrico participants and Community Impact Grant recipients, highlighting real stories that inspire action. These efforts encourage broader community involvement in sustainability and show how local voices and projects drive meaningful environmental change.

## Sustainability Division Interns

This summer the Henrico County General Services Sustainability Division hosted two college interns: Joslyn Hill and Reve Meili. Both are rising college juniors who are interested in learning more about sustainability and the practical application of environmental initiatives. Their main activities this summer were supporting tree identification and inventory efforts, participating in stream clean-ups, drafting this report, reconciling energy bills, and writing blog posts and updates for the HEART and Sustainability Division webpages. Combined with shadowing Division staff in meetings, conferences, and in the field, Reve and Joslyn gained valuable insight into the inner workings of the County’s operational systems throughout their internship.

# Community Engagement

## HEART Youth Council

As active members of HEART, the inaugural Youth Council contributed to a variety of sustainability initiatives and gained access to learning opportunities throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Demonstrating qualities of leadership, collaboration, initiative, and dedication, the students displayed attributes of future environmental advocates and sustainability leaders. Youth Council members toured the Henrico water treatment facility, planted trees, and removed invasive species at Lake Hening. They also cleaned local streams and volunteered at other H.E.A.R.T. outreach events, making a meaningful impact on the environment and community. Recruitment for the next cohort of students will begin shortly after the start of the 2025-2026 school year.



## Environmental Sustainability Summit

On April 24th, 2025, the HEART Youth Council hosted the inaugural Environmental Sustainability Summit, which featured a keynote address from NBC 12's Chief Meteorologist Andrew Freiden. Approximately 100 attendees participated, including student representatives from each high school who applied, county staff experts such as Steve Yob and Bentley Chan, and community experts from Henricopolis, Dominion Energy, the 4-H program, and Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA). The event took place at the Hermitage ACE Center, a LEED-certified building. Henrico staff and community experts listened to students' concerns, helped brainstorm potential solutions, and shared their expertise and knowledge with the students. Representatives from the Youth Council presented their findings to HEART subcommittee members and County leadership. Next year's summit is scheduled for April 7th, 2026. Students interested in environmental justice and sustainability solutions are encouraged to attend and contribute.

## HEART Scholarship

HEART celebrated an exciting milestone by awarding its first-ever educational scholarship to a standout senior of the 2024-25 Youth Council. This year's deserving recipient, Anjali Mukundan from Deep Run High School, was honored for her exemplary leadership, active participation in the Youth Council, passion for the environment, and outstanding performance in a HEART panel interview. Anjali is set to bring her talents to the University of Pennsylvania this fall, and we enthusiastically wish her continued success as she pursues a degree in Bioengineering.

# Stewardship & Resilience

## Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

Henrico County maintains compliance with its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution in waterways, improve stream habitats, and protect sanitary sewer infrastructure. Pollutant reduction is most effective if prevented at the source. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged, untreated, into water bodies that we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

These stream restorations and system improvements have prevented over 16,000 lbs of Nitrogen, 4,000 lbs of Phosphorus, and 1,300,000 lbs of sediment from making its way into the James River and Chesapeake Bay.

## Voluntary Property Acquisition Program

To help residents reduce the risk of flooding and strengthen community resilience, Henrico launched a Voluntary Property Acquisition Program (VAP) to give property owners an opportunity to sell their flood-prone properties to the County, helping to break the cycle of damage and repetitive losses.

The VAP has been informed by community feedback, and outreach efforts continue to educate residents on acquisition opportunities and resources to reduce flood risk. Acquisitions are completely voluntary and based on mutual agreement between the County and homeowners. All acquired properties are maintained as open space or used for community resilience projects that support flood mitigation.

## PlanRVA Climate Action Plan

As a member of PlanRVA, Henrico collaborates with local governments in the region to address pollution reduction. PlanRVA received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and subsequent Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

Approved in spring 2024, the PCAP consisted

of broad-based priority areas. The CCAP will be completed in winter 2025 and consists of a regional emissions inventory and long-term emissions reduction actions for all sectors of the local economy. This regionally cooperative effort was designed to maximize the results of individual localities' actions and provide flexibility for local governments to implement strategies based on what works best for their community.



## Wilton Farm Living Building

Henrico County Public Schools is developing the first K-12 education “Living Building Challenge” facility in the world at Wilton Farm. The Living Building Challenge requires that buildings be regenerative, connect occupants to light, air, food, nature, and community, be self-sufficient, limit resource use to the site itself, and create a positive impact on the human and natural systems they interact with.

The Living Building at Wilton Farm will include an orchard, wind turbine, pollinator garden, an outdoor classroom, and more! The site will be part of the Varina High School Center for Environmental Studies and Sustainability.

# Water Resources & Waste Reduction



## Stream Cleanups

HEART and the Department of Public Works facilitated five local stream cleanups: in June 2024 at Dorey Park and Woodman Park, in October 2024 at The Hamlet Condominiums, in May 2025 near the Eastern Government Center, and in June 2025 at the Henrico Police Trail. These cleanups are vital for maintaining healthy ecosystems, improving biodiversity, protecting aquatic life, and engaging the community. County staff, HEART Youth Council members, and community members built meaningful connections by working together to protect and care for our natural environment.

## Paint Out Pollution

HEART partnered with the James River Association to “Paint Out Pollution”. In August 2024, volunteers of all ages created artwork on storm drains to promote clean waterways in the community. The program aims to educate the community on how trash and other harmful contaminants impact our waterways. Groups

## Rain Barrels for Schools

Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District and the Middle James Roundtable partnered with HEART to provide rain barrels for 5 County schools: Fairfield Middle School, Shady Grove Elementary School, Varina High School, Quioccasin Middle School, and Tuckahoe Middle School. Rain barrels conserve water, reduce pollution caused by runoff, and enable rainwater to replace tap water for watering plants, washing cars, and other purposes. Additional rain barrels are available and will be distributed in the 2025-26 school year.

## Trash Interceptor Pilot at Lake Hening

The HEART Water Resources subcommittee led a project to install a trash interceptor at Lake Hening, located at the Western Government Center. This device uses a floating barrier to channel and collect litter and debris from the lake’s surface, preventing it from sinking or spreading further into our waterways. By intercepting trash early, the system enables more efficient and consistent lake maintenance, keeping Lake Hening cleaner and healthier.



of volunteers spray-painted multilayer stencil artworks of native species with the message “Only Rain Down the Drain” to raise awareness about local wildlife and the risks of losing it if we do not protect our natural resources. The art pieces were located at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, Henrico Theatre, Glover Park, Tuckahoe Area Library, and Short Pump Park.

## Halloween Pumpkin Compost Pilot

HEART and Keep Henrico Beautiful piloted a composting program for the County, starting with Halloween pumpkins! The initiative offered residents an environmentally friendly way to dispose of leftover pumpkins without increasing landfill waste. Residents composted their Halloween pumpkins for free at the Springfield Road or Charles City Road Public Use Areas during the first week of November, resulting in the composting of 1,708 pounds of organic waste.

## Residential Composting

Following the success of the pumpkin composting pilot, the County continued the composting program, accepting kitchen scraps and other organic materials from residents at no cost. As of June 2025, composting at our two Public Use Areas, located on Springfield Road and Charles City Road, has diverted over 12,000 pounds (approximately 6 tons) of food scraps and other compostable materials from landfills.

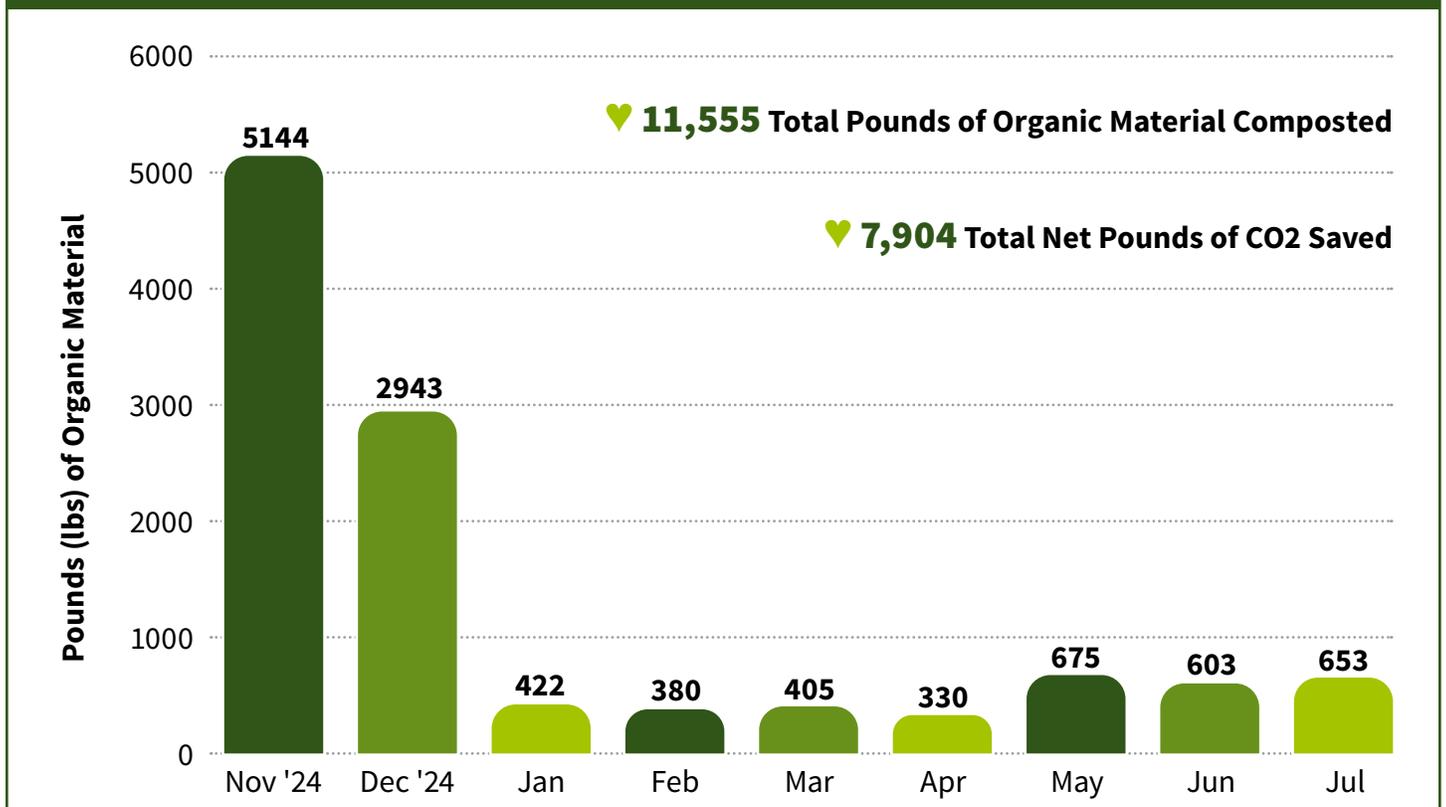


## Fishing Line Disposal Receptacles

The HEART Water Resources subcommittee, along with the Department of Public Works and the Henrico County Sign Shop, installed 5 fishing line recycling receptacles at County parks. Monofilament fishing line does not biodegrade and tangles easily, so it can harm wildlife and damage ecosystems

when it remains in our waterways. This initiative raises awareness about the dangers of improperly discarded fishing lines and provides convenient access for proper disposal. These receptacles are available at Crump Park, Dorey Park, Echo Lake, Three Lakes Park, and Osborne Park & Boat Landing.

## Amount of Waste Diverted from Landfills (FY25)



# Energy Management

## Continuing to Expand Solar & Green Building Projects

Henrico Solar Projects		
Location	Year Completed	System Size (kW)
Libbie Mill Library	2019	122 kW
New Mental Health East Clinic	2019	272 kW
Tucker HS	2023	1004 kW
Highland Springs HS	2023	885 kW
Holladay ES Addition	2022	219 kW
Public Safety Building	2021	104 kW
(New) Fairfield Area Library	2023	262 kW
Recreation & Parks Office	2023	100 kW
Harvie ES	2023	395 kW
Holman MS	2024	280 kW
Glen Allen HS	2024	678 kW
Eastern Rec Center	2025	200 kW
-	-	<b>Total: 4521 kW (4.5 MW)</b>



### Achieving Green Building Standards

The following buildings were constructed or underwent renovation in FY25 and received LEED Silver certifications:

- Hermitage Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center
- Highland Springs ACE Center
- Bungalow City Firehouse 23



## Expand Renewable Energy

A feasibility study was initiated in spring 2025 to assess the potential use of methane gas from the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) for energy purposes. The WRF currently produces approximately 120 million cubic feet of biogas per year. This biogas (approximately 60% methane) is a byproduct of the anaerobic digestion processes at the wastewater treatment plant.

Anaerobic digestion is a biological process that breaks down organic materials in the absence of oxygen, and it is a vital step in the wastewater treatment process.

Currently, the WRF uses approximately 30% of this gas for on-site heating; however, the remaining 70% is flared. This project represents a significant opportunity for the County to utilize greenhouse gases for good and, at the same time, potentially generate revenue by selling this gas to a third party. An engineering contractor has been hired to conduct the analysis, including gathering information by evaluating existing plant data and coordinating with local gas utilities. The results of the feasibility evaluation will be available in winter 2025.

## Reduce Energy Cost & Use

Henrico County's General Services Department has integrated Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) billing with EnergyCAP, a third-party energy management software. This automated service identifies billing gaps and errors, converts data into energy cost and consumption information, and enables quick correction of billing errors.

## Solarizing Public Facilities & Schools

Henrico County began its solar renewable energy program in 2019. These projects utilize power purchase agreements (PPAs), in which a solar developer designs, installs, and maintains the systems. Henrico County purchases the renewable electricity generated by the systems at a reduced rate compared to utility grid electricity. These systems have no capital costs, save money on electricity bills, and provide renewable energy to our county buildings, lowering our carbon footprint.

The County currently has rooftop solar arrays on 12 facilities: 6 schools and 6 government buildings. These arrays have a total capacity of 4.55 MW (4550 kW). Three of these projects were completed in FY 2025: Holman Middle School (280 kW), Glen Allen High School (678 kW), and the Eastern Rec Center (265 kW).

New ground-mounted systems are in progress at the closed Nine-Mile (2 MW) and Springfield (250 kW) landfills. A system planned for the James River Juvenile Detention Center (686 kW) is on hold due to interconnection barriers.

## Seek Alternative Financing Mechanisms for Energy & Fleet Projects

Henrico is the only locality in Virginia and one of only 47 localities nationwide to receive funding from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The County was awarded \$1.4M and will contribute matching funds of \$363,200 to provide 38 electric vehicle charging stations at 7 locations across the County.

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program awards federal grants to local governments, Indian tribes, states, and territories to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, as well as to improve energy efficiency. Henrico County received \$333,000 through the program to begin the transition to a cleaner County fleet by purchasing hybrid and electric vehicles.



HENRICO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES  
**Sustainability Division**

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