# Sustainable Communities program APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Approved SGCC

11/4/2020

### **Eligible Applicants:**

- Local Governments with a Sustainable Communities Designation
- Local Government Consortiums with a Sustainable Communities Designation

Application must be submitted on or before the expiration date of Sustainable Communities designation.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Division of Neighborhood Revitalization

2 N Charles Street, Suite 450

Baltimore, MD 21201

410-209-5800

http://dhcd.maryland.gov/

LARRY HOGAN, Governor

**KENNETH C. HOLT, Secretary** 

**BOYD K. RUTHERFORD, Lt. Governor** 

### **OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

The Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 established a framework for reinvestment and revitalization of Maryland's existing communities creating a single, locally designated geographic focus area. Since that time the "Sustainable Communities" designation has provided an efficient means of targeting scarce public and private resources for multiple State agency investments and prioritizations.

### PURPOSE OF RENEWAL AND STREAMLINED APPLICATION

The Sustainable Communities (SC) designation must be renewed every five years. This renewal application provides an opportunity for local governments to update their existing SC action plan and report on the accomplishments made over the past five years. Through the renewal process, local governments can request additional technical assistance and highlight any areas from the original action plan for which progress must still be made.

### **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE**

If a local government has limited capacity, staff from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Department of Planning (MDP) will be available to assist local government officials through the application process.

Please contact your Regional Project Manager at DHCD if you would like to request or learn more about this assistance (see page iv for contact information).

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BENEFITS

The benefits of a Sustainable Community designation are substantial. The SC designation is a threshold requirement for application to several Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development revitalization programs (such as the Community Legacy Program and Strategic Demolition Fund listed below). Other programs from both the Department and other State agencies offer additional points or preference in the application process. The Sustainable Communities designation provides access to a suite of resources that can support housing and community development, local transportation enhancements, tax credit programs and programs to support a healthier environment. Taken together, these resources can promote safer, healthier and more attractive communities for families to live and put down roots.

Community Legacy Program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides local governments and community development organizations with financial assistance to strengthen communities through such activities as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization. Community Legacy funds are restricted to Sustainable Community Areas.

**Strategic Demolition Fund** is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides grants and loans to local governments and community development organizations for predevelopment activities including demolition and land assembly for housing and revitalization projects. The Strategic Demolition Fund catalyzes public and private investment in the reuse of vacant and underutilized sites. These funds are restricted to Sustainable Communities.

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### **Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements**

Local governments (municipal or county) are eligible to apply.

Eligible applicants are to convene their <u>Sustainable Communities Workgroup</u> to discuss the accomplishments and challenges of their Sustainable Community Action Plans in addition to any update they may like to make to the Action Plan. The applicant may choose to select new members to participate in the Workgroup. The purpose of this workgroup is to continue and reinforce working relationships and collaborations among local governmental departments and better align community development priorities and strategies. In addition, this is an opportunity to assess if the Workgroup would like technical assistance from State government agencies to implement certain action items or develop strategies to address local challenges.

### Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

- 1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy;
- 2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;
- 3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;
- 4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

Applications that do not meet these threshold requirements will not be considered.

### **Application Evaluation**

The Sustainable Community application for renewal will be evaluated based on the reporting of the accomplishments achieved and a thorough assessment of local strengths and weaknesses and how well desired outcomes, strategies and action steps are connected to the local conditions.

#### **Priority Funding Areas**

All Sustainable Communities must be located entirely within a Priority Funding Area. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml

#### **Application Training**

The Department will be hosting various webinars for communities planning to submit a renewal application. Attendance at a minimum of one application training session is strongly encouraged for all applicants. Contact your Regional Project Manager (contact information page iv) to schedule an application training or verify when the webinars will be scheduled.

### **Application Submission**

Applications will be submitted <u>both electronically/digitally and via postal mail</u>. Each applicant must submit <u>one</u> hard copy of their application with all required attachments. DHCD reserves the right to not consider incomplete applications.

The first printed page of the electronic application is a Table of Contents (see page vii). This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs. In addition to the digital copy of the application, all pictures and maps are to be submitted on a CD-ROM or flash drive. Pictures should be burned to the CD in a JPEG format and maps should be burned to the CD in a pdf format. Please ALSO include GIS shapefiles of Sustainable Community boundaries and other GIS related data if a boundary change is requested. Be sure to label your files on the CD-ROM appropriately, i.e., "Proposed Sustainable Community Boundary," "Current Sustainable Community Boundary," etc.

No incomplete applications will be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications to:
Sustainable Community Application
ATTN: Mary Kendall
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
Department of Housing and Community Development
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201

### Site Visits, Follow-up Discussion

During the application review process, the review team may make site visits, hold meetings or have for follow-up discussions with applicants prior to designation approval.

#### **Approval**

Approval of applications will be made by the Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee on the recommendation of an inter-agency review team. The review team is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

### **Contact Information**

All questions related to application content, please contact your regional project manager. Regional contacts listed in the table on the next page.

DIVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, STATE REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS **REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGERS** 

REGION 1:	REGION 2:	REGION 3:
<ul><li>Northwest Baltimore City</li><li>Northwest Baltimore County</li></ul>	<ul><li>Northeast Baltimore City</li><li>Northeast Baltimore County</li></ul>	<ul><li>Southeast Baltimore City</li><li>Southeast Baltimore County</li></ul>
Larry Brown Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5819 Email: larry.brownjr@maryland.gov	Garland Thomas Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5803 Email: garland.thomas@maryland.gov	Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal Program Officer Phone: 410-209-5826 Email: olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov
REGION 4:      Southwest Baltimore City     Southwest Baltimore County     Anne Arundel	REGION 5: Western Maryland	REGION 6: Washington DC Metropolitan  • Prince George's  • Montgomery  • Howard
Nick Mayr Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5842 Email: nicholas.mayr@maryland.gov	Sara Jackson Project Coordinator Phone: 410-209-5812 Email: Sara.jackson@maryland.gov	Duane Felix Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5825 Email: Duane.Felix@maryland.gov
REGION 7: Upper Eastern Shore  • Harford County  • Caroline  • Cecil  • Kent  • Queen Anne's  • Talbot	REGION 8: Lower Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland  Lower Eastern Shore  Dorchester  Somerset  Wicomico  Worcester	
Ashlee Green Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5815 Email: Ashlee.Green@maryland.gov	Southern Maryland  Calvert  Charles  St. Mary's  Jeremy Weiss Phone: 410-209-5848  Email: Jeremy.Weiss@maryland.gov	

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

Ongoing designation as a Sustainable Community is contingent upon the continuation, expansion, and/or modification of a multi-year investment strategy that addresses the topic areas of Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning. The table below provides a non-exhaustive list of ideas that can be incorporated into each element as they are addressed in the sections that follow in this application.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Environmental accomplishments and objectives may include improvement of quality of land, water, air or watersheds, increased tree canopy, mitigation or adaptation to issues related to sea level rise, reduction of carbon footprint, improved energy conservation, access to local foods, green infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure/management, construction of parks, trails and other recreation facilities, recycling, improved water and sewer capacity, etc.

**ECONOMY:** Economic accomplishments and objectives may include increased regional accessibility, business attraction/retention, improved health of the business district and decreased commercial vacancies, improved accessibility to employment opportunities and economic drivers, adopted local policies/regulations that encourage economic growth, enhanced marketing and tourism, improvements to cultural and historic assets, etc.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation accomplishments and objectives may include increased access to transit corridors, improved pedestrian safety and increased accessibility/sidewalks, alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails, public transit, such as bus and rail, carpooling, improved parking and road conditions, etc.

<u>HOUSING</u>: Housing accomplishments and objectives may include an increase in affordable, workforce or market rate housing, either for homeownership or rental, improved housing conditions and values, increase in housing programs, reduction in foreclosures and residential vacancies, increase in property values and home sale values, etc.

<u>QUALITY OF LIFE</u>: Quality of life accomplishments and objectives may include crime, socioeconomic demographics, educational opportunities, museums, libraries, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, faith-based organizations, economic health of households, sense of place, etc.

**LAND USE/LOCAL PLANNING:** Land use accomplishments and objectives may include changes to zoning, improved land use policies, increase/decrease in taxes and fees, etc.

### RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Sustainable Communities application for renewal has **three** sections:

### A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

In this section, applicants are asked to update their contact information, provide information about demographic shifts over the past five years, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their Sustainable Communities workgroup and share any technical assistance needs the workgroup may have.

### B. Qualitative and Comprehensive Report on accomplishments over past five years:

The report is an opportunity to reflect on any accomplishments achieved in the Sustainable Community area. It is a tool used to evaluate if the SC applicant achieved its intended outcomes, implemented the strategies initially envisioned and identify what resources were used. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the six elements listed on the previous page (v), including how any of the elements may have interrelated during the five initial years of SC designation.

### C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:

The Sustainable Communities Action Plan has been revised so that it is less time consuming and focused on developing a strategic implementation plan. Renewal applicants are encouraged to use their previous Sustainable Communities applications as a basis for their updated Action Plan. You may identify which weaknesses have not yet been addressed or which strategies have not yet been implemented. Include your revitalization priorities for the next five years, basing them on your community's current strengths and weaknesses.

### CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

**APPLICANT: Town of Hurlock** 

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Hurlock Revitalization Area

Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the application should be tabbed and organized as follows:
Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information
☐ Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)
Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)
Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster
Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)
■ Section F – CD-ROM: The CD-ROM should include the following contents:
• If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format of the proposed Sustainable Community
• <u>GIS shapefiles of the modified Sustainable Community boundary</u> (if requesting a modification) and other GIS related data
• Pictures (jpeg format) of your accomplished projects of the last five years (as indicated in Section B)

Digital copy of completed Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

### I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:

Hurlock Revitalization Area

**Name of Renewal Applicant:** 

**Town of Hurlock** 

**Applicant's Federal Identification Number: 52-0852017** 

Applicant's Street Address: 311 Charles St., PO Box 327

City: Hurlock County: Dorchester State: MD Zip Code: 21643

Phone Number: 410-943-4181 Fax Number: 410-943-8556 Web Address: www.hurlock-md.gov

**Sustainable Community Renewal Application Local Contact:** 

Name: John Avery Title: Town Manager

Address: 311 Charles St., PO Box 327 City: Hurlock State: MD Zip Code: 21643

Phone Number: 410-943-4181 Fax Number: 410-943-8556 E-mail Address:

javery@townofhurlock.org

**Other Sustainable Community Contacts:** 

Name: Michael Henry Title: Mayor

Address: 311 Charles St., PO Box 327 City: Hurlock State: MD Zip Code: 21643

Phone Number: 410-943-4181 Fax Number: 410-943-8556 E-mail Address:

mhenry@townofhurlock.org

### I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

### A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? No changes are being requested.
- (2) Include the following in as an attachment (if requesting a modification to your current boundary):
  - a. PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
  - b. GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),
- (3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: 976

(4)	Existing federal, state or local designations:
	☐Main Street ☐Maple Street
	□ National Register Historic District □ Local Historic District □ Arts & Entertainment District
	X□State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District □BRAC □ State Designated TOD
	$\square$ Other(s):

(5) Describe the SC Area's current demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, number of housing units, or other relevant factors). How have demographics changed in the last five years?

The Town of Hurlock displays a number of troubling economic indicators both past and present regarding income, employment, and other financial factors. This has been an important factor in terms of taxes for the town and its assessable base as well as many non-profit groups in the area that depend on donations and fundraising efforts to survive and flourish. The demographics of the town is that of a low income, rural area.

The most recent information for Hurlock's demographics comes from the 2018 American Community Survey, which is part of the United States Census Bureau. The median age as of 2018 was 37.3 years compared to 39.3 years 5 years prior in 2013 indicating a slight trend towards a more youthful makeup as time goes on. The most recent racial makeup of the county was 65.4% Caucasian, 23.8 African American, 2.1% Asian, 4.9% mixed race, and 3.8% another race. Within these numbers, 11% of the population was Hispanic. Five years ago these numbers were 54.9% Caucasian, 35.2% African American, 1.0% Asian, 3.8% mixed race, and 5.1% another race. Within these numbers, 7% of the population was Hispanic five years prior.

The average household size in 2018 was 2.52 while in 2013 this number was 2.59 indicating relatively little change in household size over time.

When it comes to education, 9.3% of the population aged 25 years or older of Hurlock had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2018 compared to 6.2% in 2013. These values increase noticeably to 24% in 2018 when only looking at those aged 25 to 34 suggesting a drop in educational attainment among the older members of the town. However in 2013 educational attainment for the 25 to 34 age group was only 5.3% having bachelor's degrees indicating significant progress in the last five years. The median income for those aged 25 and older in Hurlock in 2018 was \$34,792 while this number in 2013 was \$24,659.

### B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

(1) Describe any changes to the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

The original designation was given in 2015. Since that time, a new Mayor, Michael Henry, has been elected and has become a member to replace the former Mayor, Joyce Spratt. The other members remain the same. The Mayor will lead the work group, assisted by Town Manager John Avery, who was on staff at the time of the original designation.

(2) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?

The strength of the work group has been its commitment to bettering Hurlock. Three of the five members are associated with town government and are thus easily accessible. The challenge has been that the remaining two members are volunteers.

(3) How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to the Sustainable Communities Action Plan update? On which existing local plans (comprehensive plans, economic development plans, sector plans, etc.) is the Sustainable Communities Action Plan based?

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the work group was unable to meet. The Sustainable Communities Action Plan is based upon the town's Comprehensive Plan, with updated information generated by town records on projects and conditions which have occurred since the approval of the Comprehensive Plan in 2009.

(4) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance.

The town does not require such assistance at this time.

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this assessment is to capture significant projects/ improvements that have been completed since the approval of your local government's Sustainable Communities designation.

In relation to the goals stated in your local government's Sustainable Community Action Plan, <u>please highlight at least</u> three major accomplishments from the last five years, including how you achieved them. When writing your narrative, consider the questions below and refer to the six elements discussed in the General Information section of this document (page iv) – Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning.

- 1) **Outcome**: Which outcomes identified in your Sustainable Community plan were you able to achieve?
- 2) **Projects**: Which projects did you implement in order to achieve the outcome? Also indicate when you started and completed these projects.
- Partners: With whom (i.e. state agencies, local stakeholders) did you partner to complete projects?
- 4) **Impact**: What kind of measurable impact did the achieved outcome have on your community? Are there other intangible benefits?
- 5) **Pictures**: Please also include pictures that depict your accomplishments.

### [EXAMPLE] Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply

#### Example – Accomplishment 1

Outcome: Improved stormwater management

### Projects:

Project 1: Stormwater Retrofit Plan – In October 2014, the Town Council approved the Town's stormwater retrofit plan which outlines various strategies and capital budget expenditures over the next five years. Strategies include reducing the amount of impervious surface in the community and improving stormwater management. One of the plan recommendations is to pass an ordinance that assesses an environmental protection fee on municipal permits.

Project 2: Green Streets – The Town added green elements to approximately 600 linear feet of roadway that had been experiencing severe flooding. Specifically, bioswales were constructed and trees were planted.

#### Partners:

Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance

MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling \$50,000).

Impact: The implementation of the projects had a significant impact on the community by improving stormwater runoff. The streets with the newly constructed bioswales no longer experience flooding.

### Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply.

### **Accomplishment 1:**

Outcome: Improved water and sewer service

*Projects:* Replacement of water mains under Academy St. and S. Main St. This project cost \$1,200,000 and was funded by a USDA loan. The paving of the streets was done later by the state of Maryland, as they are state roads. A sewer force main was installed from the Jackson Street pump station to the wastewater treatment plant. This project cost \$900,000 and was paid for by the Town.

Partners: US Department of Agriculture

*Impact:* This project has provided an impetus for increased development at the Industrial Park and will allow the Town of Hurlock to raise its economic indicators. This increase in the tax base will enable us to realize additional revenue for necessary projects, as well as operations and maintenance. This will be a benefit to the entire town, but will be especially important to those of lower income, as this is the group which is least able to afford increased fees.

### **Accomplishment 2:**

Outcome: Development of a heritage tourism center housed at the train station

*Projects:* This entails roof replacement and the purchase of display cases at the train station. We completed complete renovation of the two passenger cars the town owns. The train cars were built in the 1940's. We took the cars down to the frames inside, put in new floors, carpet, painted the interiors and reupholstered the seats.

Partners: Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; National Trust for Historic Preservation

Impact: The Town estimates that approximately 700 visitors will tour the museum per year. This will include a significant number of persons who will be extending their stay in Dorchester County due to this addition to the inventory of tourism sites. As the number of tourism sites are expanded, a certain percentage of the tourists will be spending the night as opposed to making the tour be just a day trip. This will have significant impacts on the area's economic health, with increased employment and an increased assessable base. This part of Dorchester County has a substantial potential for becoming a major tourism base. Any addition, such as the Hurlock Train Museum, will bolster this position and improve the poor economic indicators which have historically plagued the area, such as high unemployment, low median incomes and a high poverty rate.

### **Accomplishment 3:**

Outcome: Expansion of the town's recreational facilities

*Projects:* The Town received funds from the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program to purchase two different sets of play equipment, one for ages two through five and the other for ages five to twelve at the Triangle Park on Poplar St. These two play areas will be located next to one another. The play area for this younger age group will include spring animals, a Triceratops sculpture, a rope tower, tunnels, a fun wheel, rock challenge wall, iPod climber and a bridge between two separate pieces of equipment. It will also include a train/fire truck and a quantum spiral.

A large set of modern swings will also include some swings with belt seats and some with tot seats. The other play equipment will include a plastic slide, crawl tunnel, a balcony deck with wheel, an elbow slide, a rocky rambler, a monkey lean out wheel and an inverted arch climber.

The town also received funds for a gazebo/picnic area for the Triangle Park. Another park, the Hurlock Memorial Park, was completed in 2017.

Partners: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

*Impact:* The public benefit from this project is significant. The general public in the town of Hurlock and any who visit will have access to more convenient and user-friendly recreational facilities. It will allow the public to enjoy the outdoors and take advantage of additional recreational facilities. The gazebo will invite social activities. This will be a benefit to those who may be elderly or have physical challenges of some sort. The park will allow residents to extend their time at the playground.

### Descriptive Narrative: Please use this section to describe any major outcomes or projects from your last Sustainable Communities Action Plan that have <u>NOT</u> been accomplished and why.

Outcome: Retrofit of the Jackson Street Pump Station and expansion of the wastewater treatment plant

Narrative: The only significant portion of Hurlock's Sustainable Communities Action Plan that we were unable to accomplish was expanding our wastewater capacity. This would have involved retrofitting a pumping station located at Jackson Street and expanding the facilities at Hurlock's wastewater treatment plant. We were unable to accomplish this part of our action plan due to a lack of funding needed for the expansion. We had sought out funding from a variety of sources such as the Maryland Department of the Environment for this project and unfortunately were unable to obtain grant money for this project. Due to economic factors in the town and the Eastern Shore region we could not afford to fund this project with our own money.

This has had a significant impact on our ability to expand and kept Hurlock from expanding as the current state of our wastewater treatment abilities mean that we cannot put more strain on the system without a loss of service to some areas or risking the system breaking down. Going forward we expect that this will be an important issue and will be a priority for our town. We will continue to seek funding for this project and once it is obtained we will be able to increase our facilities as necessary for the town to grow.

Outcome:	
Narrative:	
Outcome:	
Narrative:	

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the comprehensive assessment is to capture indicators of accomplishments in each Sustainable Community. <u>Indicators should reflect the five year time period</u> since the adoption of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Thus, the following questions focus on the common outcomes that were identified in the various Sustainable Community Action Plans approved by the State. The assessment will be grouped in the sections of Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use.

#### Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.

Check "YES" if applicable to your community. If you answer "YES" please quantify the accomplishment (i.e. Q: Has there been an increase in the number of businesses in your Main Street/commercial district? A: YES 4 new businesses have opened in the past five years). If necessary, please also provide a short description of the accomplishment.

Please check "NO" if the question item did not have any impact on your community. If you answer "NO" please briefly summarize what kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes.

Check "N/A", if the question item does not apply to your Sustainable Community.

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1.  Has there been an improvement in water quality?		X		The water quality has always considered to be good. No improvements have been deemed to be needed.
2.  Has the amount of impervious surface in your Community been reduced? (Amount in SF)		X		The town has not received funding to reduce impervious surfaces.
Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your park and/ or recreational green space?	X			The town recently received a Community Parks and Playground (CPP) grant in the amount of \$138,000 to purchase and install playground equipment and a gazebo at the Triangle Park on Poplar St. A previous CPP provided funding for the development of the N. Main St. Park.
4. Did the Sustainable Community implement any recycling or waste reduction programs?			X	Dorchester County operates a recycling program in the town.
Do all residents have access to healthy food options (i.e. fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) within the Sustainable Community?		X		Hurlock is located in an isolated, rural area in northern Dorchester County. Fresh food grocery stores and farmers' markets are not attracted to an area such as this, with its low population base and poor economic indicators.
OTHER:				

ECONOMY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years  If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?	X			We have not had any significant job increases in the downtown. However, Amick Farms expanded and increased its employment base.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?			X	
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?		X		Most of the stores in the commercial district are small operations whose customer base is consistent over time.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?		X		The number of vacancies has remained stable.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	X			Amick Farms has provided new jobs to the community.
OTHER:				

TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?		X		The town has not received funding to create new trails.
2.  Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?			X	There is no public transit in Hurlock.
3.  Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet)		X		The town has not been able to receive funding for new sidewalks.
4.  Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?		X		No funding has been made available for this purpose.
5.  Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased?  (Amount in percent)		X		The amount of traffic has remained the same due to the stability of the population and the location of Hurlock within an isolated, rural area.
OTHER: Street improvements	X			The following streets have been re-paved in the past 5 years: Oak St., Dogwood Dr., part of Mill St., Academy St., S. Main St. and Center St. The following streets are scheduled to be paved in the spring of 2020: Middle St., Gay St., and the balance of Mill St. The state of Maryland repaved Nealson St., as it is a connector road between two state roads for trucks.

HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
Have any residential facades been improved?	X			Some homeowners have improved the facades of their homes on their own. A Community Legacy grant of \$50,000 allowed the town to improve several buildings.
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?	X			The rate of homeownership has increased.
3.  Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable?	X			There has been an increase in the number of housing units, all of which are affordable.
4.  Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	X			In 2016, 6 blighted properties were removed. Three more have been done recently, with another structure pending.
5.  Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	X			The residential vacancy rate has decreased, as there have been several foreclosures which have been sold to households coming into town.
OTHER: Policy changes to promote decent and affordable housing.	X			For houses that have major renovations completed, the property tax increase due to the renovations is abated for 5 years. The town is currently working on a new zoning ordinance to allow assisted living developments by special exception.

QUALITY OF LIFE	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1.  Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	X			The crime rate has been reduced thanks to the work of our police department through enforcement, community policing, and crime prevention education.
2.  Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your public spaces (i.e. museums, community centers, public plazas)?	X			The town is working on plans to get a new library in coordination with the Dorchester County government. Plans have been completed. The old library will be used as a heritage center.
3.  Has there been an increase in public art/ arts & entertainment programs/venues (i.e. murals, movie theatre, music events)?	X			A new mural has been installed in the downtown, using Community Legacy funds. The town has started a free movie event on a regular basis. The town will also start a free concert series.
4. How many historic properties were renovated/improved?			X	
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/ outdoor courses or groups)?	X			The town has tennis courts, baseball fields, and volleyball courts.

OTHER:					
	D USE/ PLANNING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have the developm	re been any infill nents?	X			A new assisted living development is planned. This development will be available in 6 to 9 months.
the amou	e been an increase in int of d/protected land?		X		All town locations have stayed in their intended use. As Hurlock is a municipality, there is not a large amount of land to be placed into protection.
developn	re been any nents hindered by onstraints?		X		Town capacity has been ample to meet all requests.
or any po	re been any zoning blicy changes that ered growth in your ble Community?	X			The town made a zoning change to allow a new auto repair shop to locate in town.
significan the muni- within th Commun	re been any nt improvements to cipal infrastructure e Sustainable hity (i.e. street water/sewer lines)?	X			The town received a major water line replacement, a force main replacement, the repaying of several streets, and work was done on the storm water pipe between Railroad Ave. and Nealson St. This was done to improve drainage and was funded by the town. The major work will be done in the future as funding allows. A new water main was installed under Middle St. and part of Railroad Ave. That part of Railroad Ave. was repayed. Storm water catch basins were all rebuilt in the Woods Edge development and along Legion Dr. Repaying was done around all catch basins.

	Sustainable	Communities	Renewal	Application	- Section B
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OTHER:		

COMPETITIVE FUNDING:  Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): Façade program  • •	DHCD	\$50,000		
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF):  • •	DHCD			
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE			

COMPETITIVE FUNDING:  Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes	
Other Funding Programs: examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.					
*Please add more rows if necessary	1	Τ.			
MHAA- Roof replacement at the train station	MD Dept. of Planning	\$62,500			
Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund-roof replacement at the train station	National Trust for Historic Preservation	\$22,300			
Smart Energy Program- replacement of heating systems at Town Hall and the wastewater treatment plant	MD Dept. of Energy	\$22,250			
Community Parks and Playgrounds- Triangle Park	MD Dept. of Natural Resources	\$138,000			
MHAA- display items for the train station	MD Dept. of Planning	\$5,000			
USDA- water main replacement- loan	USDA	\$1,100,000			
Town funding- force main replacement	Town	\$900,000			
USDA- construction of new police station- loan	USDA	\$1,700,000			

**COMPETITIVE FUNDING:** Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?

The only project for which we have not identified funding sources is the replacement of the current fire department building.		

### III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy – a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increase prosperity for local households and improve the health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects identified in the action plan are your priorities for improving the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties – and the sustainability of new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. At the same time, the plan should only discuss the strategies that will impact the geographic area targeted for revitalization, so that resources have the best opportunity to have the intended effect. These projects can also be designed to reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a livable and sustainable community.

All communities submitted an SC Plan when the community earned its original designation. Some applicants may want to take advantage of the designation renewal process to outline new strategies, set new priorities or reaffirm existing strategies for their Sustainable Community. Changes to SC Plans may be due to changes in external factors affecting the community or changes in the priorities of the applicant.

Guidance for completing the Action Plan can be found on the next page.

### Action Plan Guidance

The document has been broken down into the same six categories as the Comprehensive Assessment section of this document. These parts address key components of your Sustainable Community Action Plan. Follow the guidelines below to fill out the matrix.

- 1) For each of the different sections, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community. Example Transportation: Strength Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness Insufficient amount of downtown parking.
- 2) Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome. Example Economy: Outcome Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.
- 3) After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals. Example Economy: Strategy Increase number of Town sponsored events → Develop with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host.
- 4) List potential partners that can support the successful implementation of these strategies through different types of resources. Example Economy: DHCD (Community Legacy program), Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance) etc.

## Sustainable Community Action Plan

### Hurlock Revitalization Area

Submitted by the Town of Hurlock
Date: May 28 2020

### **Environment**

This section focuses on the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships to the natural environment.

Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: quality of land, water, and air; watershed maintenance and preservation; tree canopies and green spaces; climate change mitigation and adaptation; energy conservation; green infrastructure; stormwater infrastructure and management; water and sewer capacity; recycling, pet waste, and organic waste programs; the mitigation of environmental hazards; and parks and recreation.

#### Strengths

• The Town has a strong system of parks, 2 of which have been developed just in the past 3 years. Partners in the creation of the park system were the American Legion and C&J Market. Local farmers helped with design, demolition, demolition of existing blighted houses, clearing of the lots and construction costs. Royal Sod Farms donated the sod.

### **Weaknesses**

- Insufficient capacity at wastewater treatment plant to allow for significant growth
- The tree canopy could be increased in certain places
- The Town lacks walking trails
- The Jackson St. pump station is in poor condition

### <u>Desired Outcomes and Progress</u> Measures

Based on the strengths and weaknesses identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address.

What outcomes are you trying to achieve? Where/ in what area do you want those changes to happen?

### **Strategies and Action Items**

Identify strategies that will help your community to achieve each identified outcome to the left. If applicable, break down each strategy into specific action items that outline different steps of the strategy. Specify how you are planning to achieve the desired outcomes.

### **Implementation Partners**

Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy?

Name specific public and/or private sector partners.

### [Type text]

Progress Measure: Identify how you will know that you have achieved your outcome.		
Outcome 1: Wastewater treatment plant capacity will be increased  Progress Measures: Town will seek to increase capacity by at least 100,000 gpd	Strategy A: Search for and apply for grant funding  Strategy B: Supervise improvement to the wastewater treatment plant	MDE; Hurlock wastewater treatment department; Dorchester County Planning and Zoning (County Water and Sewer Plan)
Outcome 2: Inventory of walking trails and tree canopy will be increased	Strategy A: apply to the programs of the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the tree planting project  Strategy B: apply to MDOT's Recreational Trails Program for funding for a walking trail	Chesapeake Bay Trust  MDOT
Progress Measures: There will be at least one new walking trail and 50 trees planted	Strategy C: The town will create a mini-arboretum in the rear of the Memorial Park using native plants and trees along paths  Strategy D: The town will create a plan to develop a walking trail at the North Main St. Park	

### **Economy**

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: business attraction & retention; improving and maintaining the health of business districts, downtowns, and main streets; commercial vacancy reduction; workforce attraction and retention; employment/job training; marketing, branding, and tourism; improving or creating economic impact of cultural and historic assets; providing technical and financial assistance to businesses; commercial building acquisition, rehabilitation and/or adaptive re-use; and creating a sense of place and vibrancy through streetscaping and beautification.

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- Hurlock has an Enterprise Zone
- The rural life in Dorchester County is an attraction for some businesses.
   Property here is much more available and affordable as opposed to large urban areas. In addition, zoning requirements are much less restrictive.
   The crime rate is lower and there are more open spaces to enjoy.
- The Town has attractions which can be marketed to the heritage tourism market. These historic assets can be developed to draw more people into town, promoting business growth and the town economy.
- Façade grant program, funded by Community Legacy. This program funded the installation of awnings, a heritage mural, and porch repairs to a commercial building.

#### Weaknesses

- Poor economic indicators, including a high unemployment rate, high poverty rate, low median income, and age of housing
- Lack of a trained workforce. Skill level of available workforce does not meet the needs of some industry sectors, which are looking for very specific skill sets.
- Lack of adequate shopping facilities for town residents.

**Desired Outcomes and Progress** 

Measures

**Strategies and Action Items** 

Implement

Outcome 1: Job creation/business attraction  Progress Measures: Additional 20 jobs	Strategy A: Creation of an economic development strategy. Partnering with the Dorchester County Economic Development Department and the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, we are already offering tax incentives through the Enterprise Zone.	Deve	hester County Economic Flopment; Dorchester nber of Commerce
	Strategy A: Secure DHCD funding for the façade program		DHCD; Hurlock
	Strategy B: Identify properties and contract to have the work done		businesses
Outcome 2: Continuation of façade program  Progress Measures: Additional 5 properties and address deficient siding			
and other building needs			

### **Transportation**

This section describes the way people in your community get from place to place.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes can focus on: access to transit corridors; pedestrian safety and accessibility; sidewalks; alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails; public transit, such as bus and rail; carpooling; proximity to transportation centers; parking; and road conditions.

Strengths	Weaknesses
The sidewalk network in the downtown is adequate for current needs for	There is no alternative transportation
pedestrian traffic. The sidewalks in the downtown have been replaced	Street work needs to be done on a continuing basis.
and upgraded by the state following the water main work the town has	
done.	
<ul> <li>Most streets are well-maintained- major street work has been done in</li> </ul>	
the past 5 years. There is a maintenance plan currently in effect to	

### [Type text]

replace old water mains and then re-pave streets after that. We have started in the center of town and are working outwards using Highway User Revenue and town funds as they are available. This is being done as part of the annual budget.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Improvement of all streets needing work. Hurlock's streets are in much better repair than most towns. Hurlock just bought a new state-of-the-art street sweeper that removes weeds as well as rubbish, thus making the town more attractive to live in and  Progress Measures: Linear feet of streets maintained-To date, 6300 feet of water main has been replaced, 4000 feet of force main, and 13,000 linear feet of paving has been done.	Strategy A: Seek grant funding to repair streets  Strategy B: Develop a priority list of projects  Strategy C: Continue to follow the street improvement plan already in place.  The next streets are Legion Dr., Maryland Ave., Webster St. and Andrews St. for water main replacement and paving, Gay St., Mill St.,. and Middle St. are scheduled for re-paving. MTA has delayed the work due to the installation of a gutter.	MDOT; Dorchester County
Outcome 2: Utilize greenways to connect hiking and biking routes  Progress Measures: Number of feet of greenways  Outcome 3: Advocate for public transportation  Progress Measures: Steps taken to make public transportation in the region a reality	Strategy A: Seek Maryland Bikeways Program funding  Strategy B: Construct greenways in coordination with Dorchester County after the MD and DE Railroad is property is conveyed to the county  Strategy A: Contact appropriate agencies, such as the Dorchester County government and the Mid-Shore Regional Council  Strategy B: provide information as requested to regional organizations on the need for public transportation	MDOT; Dorchester County

### Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live or making it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing condition (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

### Strengths Weaknesses

- Some spontaneous housing rehabilitation has occurred. Seven houses have been renovated.
- Town is willing to encourage new developments of affordable housing.
   Twelve new houses have been built, with plans for an additional three underway. One of the houses planned is under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity, which, in cooperation with Hurlock and Dorchester Count, has built five of the twelve new homes.
- Lack of affordable housing.
- Need for housing rehabilitation- Approximately one percent of the houses are in need of rehabilitation before they can be inhabited.
- Housing values are relatively low. The median house value in Hurlock in the last Census was \$159,105, much less than the value of \$318,600 for the entire state.

**Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures** 

**Strategies and Action Items** 

**Implementation Partners** 

Outcome 1: Increase in available affordable housing.  Maryland wants to limit urban sprawl and get homes off septic systems, yet will not help with the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.  Currently, there are plans for an assisted living	Strategy A: Initiate discussions with potential developers, offering incentives if necessary. We have partnered with Dorchester County to sell tax sale properties at a very low cost to have a few properties developed and put back on the tax	DHCD Private developers
development. Once that has been completed, the town will probably not have the wastewater capacity for any other new developments. Only a few individual housing will be allowed. We cannot implement a housing plan until we get financial assistance with the expansion of the wastewater	rolls.  Strategy B: Address water and sewer capacity issues	MDE
treatment plant.  Progress Measures: Increase in affordable housing stock by 20%		
Outcome 2: Development of a strategy to review the Comprehensive Plan Housing Element in the five-year period of this designation for conformance with House Bill 1045 (2019), which became effective on 6/1/20.	Strategy A: Procure consultant to make the review Strategy B: Review proceeds	Md. Office of Planning

[Type text]				

### **Community Health and Quality of Life**

This section is concerned with public health, community culture, and the day-to-day life of community residents.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: improvement of public safety and the reduction of crime; libraries; educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs; senior facilities and programs; youth facilities and programs; facilities and programs for the disabled; civic amenities, access to quality food options; collaborations with faith-based organizations; arts and entertainment education; and homelessness prevention, services, and facilities.

Strengths Weaknesses

- Hurlock is the location of several historic structures, including the Unity Washington United Methodist Church
- Hurlock is close to a number of other county heritage tourism attractions, such as the many resources in East New Market and the Harriet Tubman centers in Cambridge and at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.
- Hurlock's train station project is going well and has received several
  grants. An MHAA and a Bartus Trew grant have been awarded for roof
  replacement and painting. An MHAA mini-grant has been received for
  display materials.
- Hurlock Fall Festival is a regional attraction
- The town is located within driving distance of 4 higher education institutions- Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Wor-Wic Community College, and Chesapeake College
- Low crime rate
- New police station
- Excellent water quality, with a force main replacement and water main replacement having been done.

- Isolated location- the nearest town is 3 miles away. Hurlock is located in the middle of agricultural land 10 miles from the county seat of Cambridge.
- Poor economic indicators, such as low median income, high poverty rate, and high unemployment rate
- Lack of funding for various community facilities, such as a community center
- Need to relocate fire department
- Lack of nearby healthy food options- there are no farmers' markets or health food stores close by.
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Library facilities will be improved  Progress Measures: More citizens can engage in community and learning activities	Strategy A: Construct new library  Strategy B: Turn old library into a heritage museum	Dorchester County  Hurlock Fire Department  State of Maryland
Outcome 2: Community Center will be	Strategy A: Work with fire department to purchase the current fire station for	
developed  Progress measures: number of events at community center and number of people participating  Outcome 3: Development of new fire	use as a community center  Strategy B: Develop property into a community center  Strategy C: Plan and publicize events and usage  Strategy A: Donate land and purchase building	

### [Type text]

department building- the Town will donate a	Strategy B: Work with fire department to build a new department building	
larger piece of property and the town will		
also purchase the current fire department		
and building. The present fire department		
could become a community center. There is		
a lack of space in town for functions and		
youth activities.		
Progress measures: construction of new fire		
department building		

### **Local Planning and Staffing Capacity**

This section is concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, taxes, fees, etc.; increasing local government staff capacity; and updating planning documents like sector plans or comprehensive plans.

Strengths	Weaknesses	
Current staff have been in place for a substantial amount of time and ha relevant experience	<ul> <li>The Comprehensive Plan is 11 years old</li> <li>Codes need updating to allow for more housing options for residents and to encourage new development</li> </ul>	

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Comprehensive Plan update and Housing Code update. A codification of town ordinances and charter is budgeted for and will be accomplished as time permits.  Progress Measures: Completion of updated plan and code	Strategy A: Hire consultant and oversee update  Strategy B: Have public meetings  Strategy C: Work to be complete over a one-year period starting in January of 2021	Planning consultants; Maryland Department of Planning; Town Attorney, outside legal services
Outcome 2: Application for grant funding	Apply to DHCD for funding	DHCD

### [Type text]

Outcome 3: Procurement process for plan review work  Strategy A: Specifications prepared  Strategy B: Bidding Process  Consulting staff  Town staff
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### SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of the Town of Hurlock, I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for the Hurlock Revitalization Area. I understand that the Disclosure Authorization and Certification from the original Sustainable Communities application continues to apply to the applicant local government, and as such the applicant agrees that not attaching an objection constitutes consent to the information being made available to the public, and a waiver of any rights the applicant may have regarding this information under Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

I also confirm that I am named or a former holder of my current title is named as an

authorized official for the Sustainable Communities designation for my local government in the Local Government Authorization submitted with the original application.		
Authorized Signature		
Mayor Michael Henry		

Date