



# Connections

The Newsletter of Easton Utilities

Spring 2026



410-822-6110 (24/7)

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday,  
8:00am-4:30pm

**Easton Velocity**  
410-763-9400

[eastonutilities.com](http://eastonutilities.com)

201 N. Washington St.  
Easton, MD 21601



Para español contactenos  
al 410-822-6110 o via  
[info@eastonutilities.com](mailto:info@eastonutilities.com)



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Environmental Stewardship at Easton Utilities



As a community leader, Easton Utilities recognizes its responsibility to be a strong corporate citizen, particularly in environmental stewardship. The organization is committed to making thoughtful, responsible decisions that conserve resources, protect the environment, and benefit the community for generations to come. The range of projects and initiatives undertaken reflects both the organization's resourcefulness and its long-standing commitment to sustainability.

Easton Utilities' environmental stewardship goals extend from its mission to enhance the quality of life in our community. Our conservation efforts focus on restoring ecological integrity, educating the public about important environmental issues, and encouraging community involvement. These initiatives support our commitment to providing reliable, competitively priced utility and communication services in a responsible manner.

## FREE SHRED DAY

Community-wide

**Protect your identity, help the environment!**

Hosted by:



Life. Made better.™

- Old tax returns
- Bank statements
- Medical records

*Please limit to a maximum  
of 4 bags/boxes.*



**Wednesday**

**APRIL  
29**

**11 am - 2 pm**

Easton Utilities Warehouse | 8670 Commerce Drive, Easton MD 21601

**EASTON UTILITIES**  
Life. Made better.™



*Easton Utilities teamed up with the Oyster Recovery Partnership to build oyster cages to restore oyster populations and help improve the health of local waterways.*



*The Environmental Committee proudly displays Easton Utilities' Utility of the Future Today award in front of the Solar Array.*

Easton Utilities maintains an employee-led Environmental Committee that organizes initiatives such as recycling, LED lighting replacement, energy conservation, waste reduction, waterway improvement efforts, environmental stewardship training, and invasive species control. The committee also works toward two objectives each year tied to our corporate goals: tree planting and completing 200 hours of community service. Easton Utilities partners with many local environmental organizations to expand these efforts.

Easton Utilities is made up of a team of employees who live in the same community they serve. Due to this connection, employees feel a personal responsibility to go above and beyond in protecting the environment and leaving the community better than they found it.

## ANNUAL TREE PLANTING

One of Easton Utilities' environmental corporate goals is to plant twenty-four 1.5 to 2-inch caliper trees each year. Since this tradition began over 17 years ago, we have planted 545 trees in our service territory. Altogether, the trees Easton Utilities planted over the years offsets approximately 25 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e from the overall environmental footprint. This offset continues to grow as the trees planted mature to absorb more CO<sub>2</sub> and new trees are planted within Easton Utilities' service territory each year.



**EASTON UTILITIES**  
**BRANCHES OUT**

## HABITAT CREATION FOR OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

To provide a home to native wildlife, Easton Utilities installed and maintains two osprey nest platforms to create a space that is a safe distance away from valuable wastewater treatment facility equipment, saving on maintenance and equipment replacement costs. Plans are also underway to recreate habitat conditions at the Easton Sustainability Campus once favorable to an endangered species of bird, called the eastern black rail. In collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Natural Resources, this grant funded project is in the concept design phase creating a plan to regrade the almost 20-acre site. Easton Utilities is designing a piping and pump system to spread treated wastewater over the habitat area to establish a marshy, tidal-like environment.

Most recently, we donated and installed a utility pole at Pickering Creek Audubon Center to house a radio antenna used to track the movements of small birds. The data collected from this station will be used to further research on the migration of these birds as well as for education programs in local schools.

# SOLAR ARRAY

Perhaps our biggest effort to offset greenhouse gas emissions was the installation of the 2MW solar field at Easton's Sustainability Campus located adjacent to the wastewater treatment facility. The array generates more than enough electricity to power the entire treatment plant. On average, 20% of the electricity generated by the panels is fed back onto the local electric grid. Commissioned in 2017, the nearly 10-acre site was constructed for a total of \$4 million. Through a grant by Maryland Department of the Environment, 75% of the construction costs were covered, making Easton Utilities' total investment \$1 million. This partnership allowed the project to be both cost and environmentally effective, benefiting the community by avoiding almost 1,672 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions per year.



Easton  
Sustainability  
Campus

POWERED BY *EASTON UTILITIES*

## OUR BEE-AUTIFUL POLLINATOR HABITAT

Starting in 2020, Easton Utilities collaborated with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund to create a 16-acre pollinator habitat around the solar array, stationed at Easton's Sustainability Campus. Ground-mounted solar power arrays combined with perennial flowering plants create the perfect opportunity to provide much needed safe pollinator habitats. The plants produce pollen and nectar to feed honeybees, native wild bees and butterflies. They are also a host for the caterpillars that become butterflies.



The site offers a variety of other benefits to the local ecosystem, including the improvement of soil health, better stormwater retention, and reducing on-site temperatures underneath the panels. This can increase the efficiency of energy capture on hot summer days. Since the pollinator habitat requires less maintenance than grass, it represents a significant cost savings.



# SMELL GAS?

Call  
**410-822-6110**

Natural Gas is a clean and efficient energy source to use in your home.

## RECOGNIZE

Natural Gas is a non-toxic, colorless and combustible fuel. An unmistakable "rotten egg" odor is added to natural gas as a built-in safety signal to detect even a very small leak.

## REACT

If you smell gas, leave the area immediately.

## REPORT

Call Easton Utilities at 410-822-6110 or 911 immediately. Easton Utilities will dispatch a technician to investigate.

**FUGASY EMERGENCIAS DE GAS NATURAL**  
Easton Utilities  
Servicio al cliente:  
410-822-6110

# Retirements



*Bill Heisterhagen*  
Supervisor of Velocity Plant Ops  
41 years



*Tracie Thomas*  
Chief Financial Officer  
26 years



*Terri Bennett*  
Marketing Coordinator  
22 years



*Mary Wheeler*  
Billing Specialist  
11 years



## Carrie Manuel & Kirsten Tieder Promoted

Carrie Manuel (top) will serve as Chief Financial Officer, overseeing all aspects of Easton Utilities' financial management in a progressively challenging financial and regulatory environment. She replaces Tracie A. Thomas, who retired after 22 successful years with the company. "I am honored to take on this new position and look forward to continuing to work with our talented finance team to ensure Easton Utilities' long-term success," said Manuel.



Kirsten Tieder (bottom) will serve as Human Resources Manager. In this role, Tieder will leverage her leadership skills and innovative HR strategies to drive culture, improve workforce performance, and help Easton Utilities carry out the mission "to enhance the quality of life in our community".

Your pennies have the  
**POWER TO HELP**  
a neighbor in need!

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and log in to My Account to enroll.



**Change** for Change



Life. Made better.™

**Round up your bill to help a neighbor with utility bills!**

## GET CONNECTED!

Follow Easton Utilities to get the latest news and information!

- Outage alerts
- Project updates
- Community news
- Energy tips



## Committed to our community

In keeping with our mission to enhance the quality of life in our community, Easton Utilities is proud to support many local organizations and events including:

- Empty Bowls
- Friends of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department
- Chesapeake Film Festival
- Talbot County Free Library
- Shore Leadership