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	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 09-0272 – Baltimore City Sustainability Plan

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO DATE: February 3, 2009

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

Bill No. 09-0272 establishes a Sustainability Plan for the City of Baltimore, which becomes effective upon its enactment by the City Council. The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED), Baltimore City's workforce investment agency and one-stop career center operator, strongly supports the adoption of the proposed Sustainability Plan.

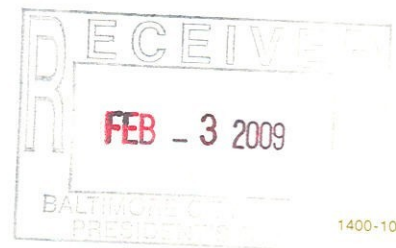
In early 2008, the Mayorally-appointed Sustainability Commission, together with the Office of Sustainability, was tasked with developing a Sustainability Plan for the City of Baltimore. Developed with input from over 1,000 individual stakeholders, this plan articulates the collective vision of a Sustainable Baltimore, lays out priority goals to move us toward this vision, sets ambitious targets that will measure our progress toward these goals, and recommends some initial strategies on how we will accomplish these recommendations.

An entire chapter of the plan is devoted to the emerging green economy, which is defined as an economy based on jobs that help protect the environment by reducing energy, material and water use, while reducing the amount of pollution and waste created. Key goals and strategies include:

- Adding clean technology to Baltimore's targeted growth sectors
- Conducting a needs assessment of green job demand, and linking this to existing job training programs
- Establishing and marketing creative financing strategies for local green businesses
- Encouraging the construction industry to use "green" building practices

As the members of the City Council are well aware, beyond the Sustainability Plan there is also legislation being considered by this body (08-0077R) that would form a coalition focused on green collar jobs in Baltimore City. MOED believes that, collectively, both the Sustainability Plan and the Green Collar Jobs Creation Coalition can facilitate the City's efforts to cultivate a green economy and accompanying green job opportunities for Baltimore job-seekers.

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We believe that the emerging cadre of green or environmentally-driven employment opportunities could offer many Baltimore residents the chance to be productively engaged in the workforce and thus better able to support themselves and their families financially. Moreover, it is essential that we take steps now to promote the awareness of our youth and other job-seekers as to the likelihood of future career pathways with green business enterprises.

Indeed, MOED, in concert with the Mayoral-appointed, business majority Baltimore Workforce Investment Board (BWIB) will introduce the clean energy industry as an additional targeted growth sector for Baltimore. Additionally, MOED, the BWIB, the Office of Sustainability, and other Baltimore workforce intermediaries, have been actively pursuing opportunities for preparing the City for future green collar job growth. For instance, we have been assessing the feasibility of a pilot initiative to provide training and accompanying employment opportunities for Baltimore residents to work in the deconstruction of publicly-owned residential properties, in preparation for their redevelopment through the Department of Housing and Community Development. Additionally, MOED, in concert with the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board, served as conveners in bringing together various partners, including the Office of Sustainability, in seeking grant funds from Living Cities, Inc. for the development of a City-wide clean energy jobs initiative.

In conclusion, MOED is committed to the specific proposals outlined within the Baltimore City Sustainability Plan, in particular those that relate to building a pipeline for future green collar jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

cc: Andrew Frank, First Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood and Economic Development
John W. Ashworth, Chairman, Baltimore Workforce Investment Board
Jeffrey W. Smith, Executive Liaison for Public Policy, MOED