

FROM	NAME & TITLE	LISA MCNEILLY, SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #19-0137R INFORMATIONAL HEARING – RECYCLING		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

May 2, 2019

The Office of Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Bill #19-0137R, which is for the purpose of inviting the Director of the Department of Public Works and the Head of the Bureau of Solid Waste to discuss Baltimore City's recycling program and its progress.

Recycling is addressed in more than one chapter in the new 2019 Sustainability Plan (formally adopted by the Planning Commission on April 22, 2019):

Waste and Recycling

Strategy #1: Increase the amount of trash that is diverted from the landfill and incinerator to recycling programs.

Action 1: Provide free recycling bins to all Baltimore residents; increase commercial recycling; conduct continuous, deep engagement on what can be recycled.

Action 2: Launch an anti-litter, pro-recycling campaign. Use positive, actionable messages, ensuring racially and ethnically diverse materials are provided, along with additional support and infrastructure to communities most impacted by trash and litter.

Action 3: Create and implement a plan to achieve zero waste, meaning we "are working toward or diverting over 90 percent of our discards from landfilling or incineration." Ensure extensive outreach and a plan that addresses the needs of the entire population.

Strategy #2: Expand Baltimore's Waste to Wealth initiative.

Action 3: Investigate revising codes and/or creating ordinances to eliminate waste and maximize reuse of deconstructed building materials, etc. Establish reuse businesses along with marketplaces for selling products, located strategically to ensure access for the entire population. Require these businesses to employ local unemployed or underemployed residents.

Action 4: Create a revolving loan fund for investment in recycling and composting infrastructure and loans for companies that address infrastructure.

Strategy #3: Pursue legislative and policy changes to reduce the waste stream.

Action 1: Enact legislation to impose a fee for plastic bags, and support state legislation instituting beverage container deposits.

Action 2: Create a City government procurement committee that incentivizes source reduction, efficiencies, the purchase of goods that have longer life spans, and purchases from local businesses.

Action 3: Develop a plan for a “Save As You Throw” program to reduce waste that is landfilled or burned; incentivize reductions in the amount of household garbage placed on the curb using coupons or vouchers (recycling would remain free of charge). Ensure early and ongoing input from communities, communicate about the program with racially and ethnically diverse materials, and include provisions for neighborhoods with high litter and trash rates.

Healthy School Environments

Strategy #4: Conserve resources.

Action 1: Reduce waste and increase recycling through rightsize food ordering, maximizing food recovery, and composting food waste and compostable trays. Recycle at all schools, and increase electronics, light bulb, and construction waste recycling. Minimize paper waste by replacing print and mail notifications with electronic communication systems (like email or text message).

Local Economy

Strategy #1: Proactively support local businesses to advance the triple-bottom-line approach: people, planet, and prosperity.

Action 3: Expand the adoption of environmentally-friendly business practices, such as the use of green technologies, policies, and programs—reduced packaging, reuse and recycling of materials, energy reduction and renewable energy. Also promote the Maryland Green Registry.

The Office of Sustainability fully supports City Council Bill #19-0137R.

cc: Mr. Jeff Amoros, Mayor’s Office
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Ervin Bishop, Council Services
Mr. Chris Ryer, Department of Planning