



Commission on Sustainability
Office of Sustainability
417 East Fayette Street, Eighth Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill # 08-0058, Property Tax Credits – Energy Devices

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

April 11, 2008

Dear Honorable President and Council Members:

City Council Bill # 08-0058 would grant property tax credits for buildings with solar panels, solar water-heating equipment (unless used to heat pools or hot tubs), or geothermal energy technologies. Single family homes would qualify for a tax credit worth 1/3 of the cost to purchase and install the technology up to a maximum of \$25,000. Commercial, industrial, and multifamily dwelling buildings are eligible for up to 100% of the technology's cost up to \$150,000, taken in equal portions over 5 years. (Currently, the federal government offers a similar tax credit for these technologies, but the amounts are much more conservative- only 30% of cost up to a maximum of \$2,000.)

The Commission on Sustainability (Commission) defers comment on this bill. The Commission was sworn-in by Mayor Dixon on April 2, 2008 and will convene its first official meeting on April 22, 2008. As the Commission has yet to meet, any response to City Council Bill # 08-0058 would be premature. The Commission anticipates reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation after having made a sufficient amount of progress in developing the larger Baltimore Sustainability Plan recommendations, including adequate public input on major environmental issues. The planning process will take six months and the Commission expects to present a draft plan to the Planning Commission in October.

Regards,

Cheryl Casciani
Chair, Commission on Sustainability



BALTIMORE CITY COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

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Comments