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| FROM | NAME & TITLE | Ava Richardson, Sustainability Director | CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO |  |
| | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability 8 th Floor, 417 East Fayette Street | | |
| | SUBJECT | City Council Resolution #22-0106R Investigational Hearing - Solar Farming | | |

DATE:

TO

September 9, 2022

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

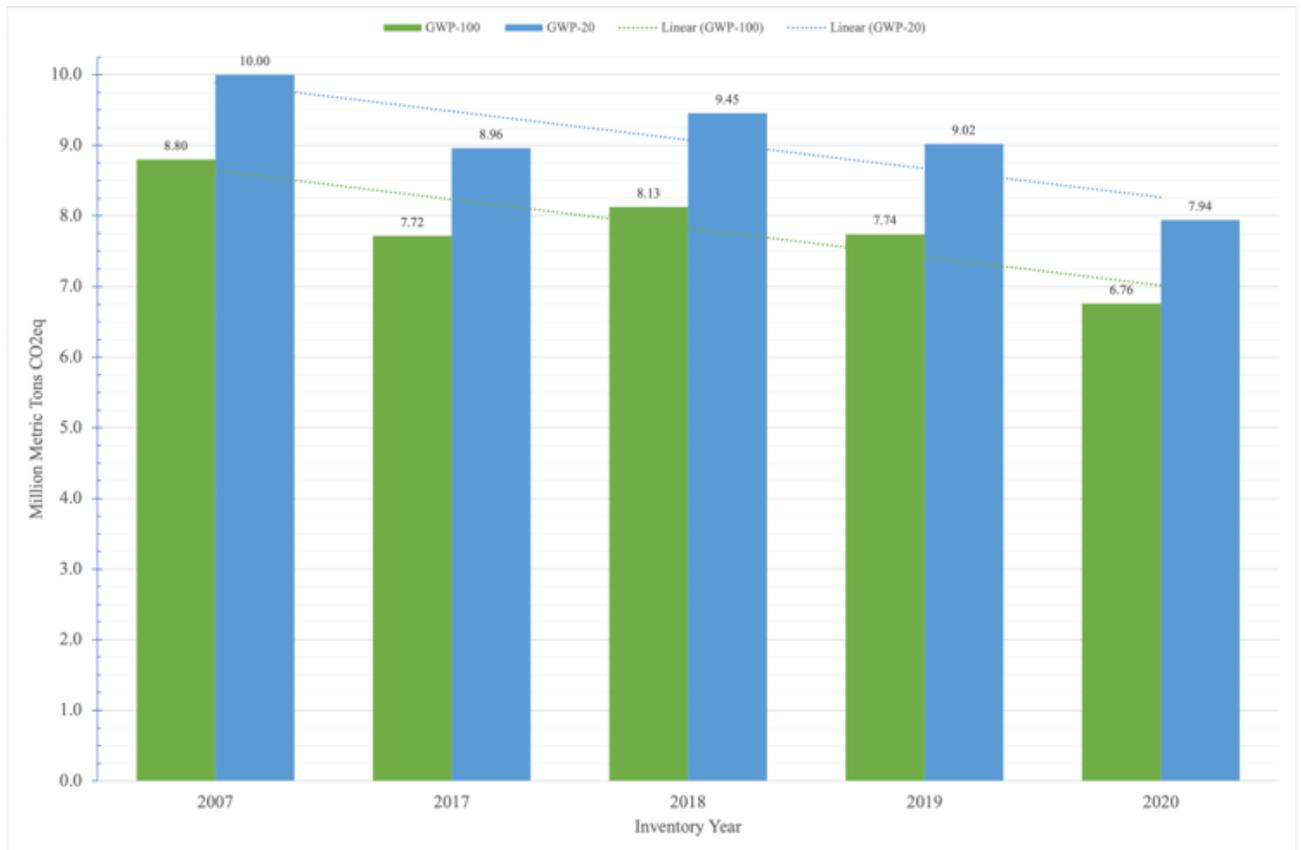
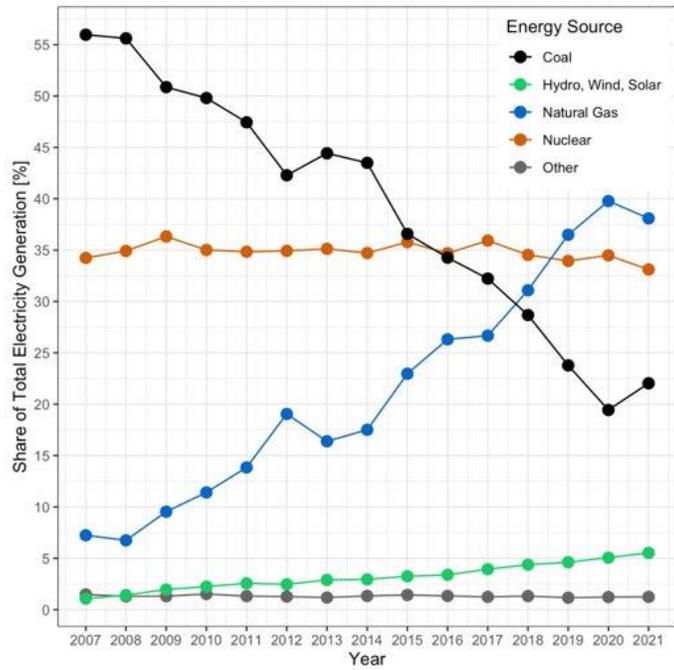
The Office of Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Resolution #22-016R – Investigational Hearing – Solar Farming, which seeks to convene solar sector representatives, including WeSolar, the nation’s first solar company owned by and African American woman, and relevant city agencies -- DPW, Sustainability, DGS and other relevant stakeholders, across the Baltimore region to discuss, explore and assess current barriers and/or opportunities to advancing solar energy adoption across the city.

The 2019 Sustainability Plan (formally adopted on April 22, 2019) calls for more ambitious GHG reduction targets for the city through energy, conservation, energy efficiency, and the adoption of more renewable energy infrastructure in both the residential and commercial sectors. Expanding solar farming, community solar and the adoption of new solar technologies aligns with the citywide target to reach carbon neutrality by 2045, and goals in the Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emission and Housing Affordability chapters of Baltimore’s 2019 Sustainability Plan as outlined below.

Summary of Baltimore’s 2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory:

- Electricity emissions decreased by 32% between 2007 and 2020. This change is largely due to a decrease in coal and an increase in natural gas in Baltimore's electricity supply.
- Renewable energy still constitutes a small share of Baltimore's energy supply (5% in 2020).
- Baltimore's electricity consumption has changed little since 2007. However, per capita electricity consumption has increased by just over 10% since 2007.
- Based on Baltimore’s 2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, less than 1% of energy used in the city is generated from solar sources (0.89%), compared to 3% nationally.

The expansion of solar energy technologies is critical to reaching citywide carbon neutrality goals. Graph 1 reflects the incremental increase in the share of renewable energy sources (green dotted line). To date, hydro, wind and solar contribute to just over 5% of the electricity generated in the city.



Relevant Strategies and Action in the 2019 Sustainability Plan

Energy

- Strategy 1: Expand awareness of and funding models for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

- *Action 2:* Seek increased financing for energy programs including home efficiency and improvement programs, energy assistance, and weatherization, solar, battery storage, microgrids, and alternative vehicles.
- Strategy 2: Speed the path to decarbonization through increased deployment of renewable energy and electric vehicles.
 - *Action 1:* Increase the supply of clean, renewable electricity and battery storage, including community solar and rooftop solar opportunities for low-income homeowners and renters, and tie to building improvements.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Strategy 1: Improve efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Strategy 2: Modify operations and policies in city government to reduce emissions.
 - *Action 1:* Set an ambitious reduction target specifically for government operations and adopt policies and standards to achieve these reductions through less fuel use, greater energy efficiency and conservation, and the use of renewable energy.
- Strategy 3: Create new programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - *Action 2:* Commit to being a “Carbon Neutral City”, meaning we would have a net zero impact in greenhouse gas emissions.

Housing Affordability:

- Strategy 3: Enable homeowners—especially older adults, people of color, and people with low-incomes—to maintain their homes.
 - *Action 1:* [...] Encourage households to take advantage of opportunities for solar tax credits and community solar to increase clean energy generation.

The Office of Sustainability supports the expansion of solar technologies, solar installation, workforce development opportunities related to the solar industry and incentives to encourage the adoption of solar energy, especially those programs and initiatives that support low to moderate income households with solar installation.

cc: Ms. Natasha Mehu, Mayor’s Office
 Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office
 The Honorable Eric Costello, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
 Mr. Matthew Stegman, City Council President’s Office
 Ms. Nikki Thompson, City Council President’s Office
 Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD
 Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
 Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
 Mr. Chris Ryer