


FROM	NAME & TITLE	AVA RICHARDSON, ACTING SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #21-0161/ NET-ZERO EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES		

DATE: March 16, 2022

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400
 100 North Holliday Street
Position: Support with amendments



The Office of Sustainability is in receipt of City Council Bill #21-0161, which is for the purpose of achieving net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases (defined as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride) by 2050 in city operations and authorizing rules and regulations generally related to the City’s emission of greenhouse gasses.

The 2019 Sustainability Plan (formally adopted by the Planning Commission on April 22, 2019) outlines citywide greenhouse gas reduction goals and energy efficiency priorities in the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapters - which call for the city to update its current Climate Action Plan (CAP) through an equity lens, and to modify operations/policies to reduce emissions. As per the 2019 Plan - Baltimore’s CAP Update is currently underway and will be completed by June 2023. The CAP is intended to demonstrate a roadmap to carbon neutrality for the whole city. This process entails distilling feedback from Baltimore residents – aiming for a total of 6,000 unique engagement - to inform the CAP priorities from the perspective of our most climate vulnerable communities.

On January 18th, 2022, Mayor Scott and the Baltimore Office of Sustainability committed the city to reaching carbon neutrality by 2045. Interim GHG reduction targets of 30% by 2025 and 60% by 2030 (relative to 2007) were outlined in the announcement. It is imperative for the city to lead by example with commitments to zero emissions within city operations. To reflect alignment with the current carbon neutrality goal and the City’s CAP Update process, we recommend the following amendments:

1. Change the target date for zero emission in city operations to 2045, in the indicated sections.

“DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, AND COORDINATING CITY POLICIES THAT MAKE ALL CITY OPERATIONS ACHIEVE, BY JANUARY 1, 2045 ~~2050~~, NET-ZERO EMISSIONS, AS DEFINED IN § 34-1(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE...”

“...INCLUDING MAKING CITY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS ACHIEVE, BY JANUARY 1, 2045 ~~2050~~, NET-ZERO EMISSIONS, AS DEFINED IN CITY CODE ARTICLE 1, § 34-1(E)...”

2. Reference the CAP Update process and intended goals as the primary mechanism the city is using to determine the most impactful GHG reduction targets and provide a roadmap for the city to reach these targets informed by communities and residents.

The bill aligns with the following strategies and goals in the city's 2019 Sustainability Plan.

Green House Gas Emissions

- Strategy 1: Improve efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - *Action 1*: Update the Climate Action Plan by 2020, using an equity lens.
 - *Action 2*: Establish a Climate Change Advisory Committee, engaging diverse community stakeholders in identifying and implementing strategies to prevent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to achieve a “drawdown” of carbon dioxide, and to equitably adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- 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.
 - *Action 2*: Require a life-cycle evaluation of energy savings and emission reduction options during the City's capital improvement request process.
 - *Action 3*: Update codes, requiring new development projects to consider impacts from future climate events (such as heat waves and flooding) and to be designed for resiliency against these events, including through greater energy efficiency and use of renewable energy.
 - *Action 4*: Work with community members and organizations to develop strategies to mitigate harm to, and to also increase the benefits accrued by the communities from climate actions.
- Strategy 3: Create new programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - *Action 1*: Develop outreach campaigns focused on actions to reduce emissions, such as switching to LED lights (which are 88 percent more efficient than incandescent bulbs). Work in partnership with community members, businesses, and institutions. Identify and promote actions already being done by communities to conserve energy.
 - *Action 2*: Commit to being a “Carbon Neutral City,” meaning we would have a net zero impact on greenhouse gas emissions.
 - *Action 3*: Reduce short-term pollutants, developing an action plan to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (such as the harmful chemicals found in some refrigerators and air conditioning units), which cause significantly greater warming than carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Energy

Strategy #3: Support and deploy innovative technologies and programs to reduce energy use in buildings and transportation.

- *Action 3*: Increase installation of cool roofs and green roofs and plant more shade trees in neighborhoods where concrete and other hard surfaces trap and collect heat, creating “urban heat islands.”

The Office of Sustainability supports City Council Bill #21-0161 as the bill aligns with the Greenhouse Gas Emissions strategies and goals in the 2019 Sustainability Plan. However, we recommend the bill refer to the current CAP Update to reflect the steps taken to reach these

goals with input from Baltimore communities and aligns with the current citywide carbon neutral goal by 2045.

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