



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

Bill: 21-0161

City Operations - Net-Zero Emissions of Greenhouse Gases

Sponsor: Councilmember Conway, et al

Introduced: October 4, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of making City operations achieve net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050; defining certain terms; authorizing rules and regulations; and generally related to the City's emission of greenhouse gasses.

Effective: 30th day after the date it is enacted

AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Planning	
Office of Sustainability	
Commission on Sustainability	
Department of Finance	
City Solicitor	Favorable

ANALYSIS

Current Law

Article 1 (Mayor, Council, and Agencies), Subtitle 34 of the Baltimore City Code establishes the Office of Sustainability and tasks the Office with developing a Sustainability and Environmental Management Program.

Article 5 (Finance, Property, and Procurement), Subtitle 34 of the Baltimore City Code establishes the Commission on Sustainability, requires the Commission to develop a comprehensive sustainability plan, and lists the required contents of the plan.

Bill Summary

The bill amends Article 1, Subtitle 34 of the Baltimore City Code to add definitions of greenhouse gas and net-zero emissions. Greenhouse gas “includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.” Net-zero emissions “means the balancing of greenhouse gas emissions with emissions off-sets that cause an equivalent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”

The bill also adds a provision to Article 1, Subtitle 34 requiring the Sustainability and Environmental Management Program to include appropriate measures for “developing, implementing, and coordinating City policies that make all City operations achieve, by January 1, 2050, net-zero emissions...”

Additionally, the bill amends Article 5, Subtitle 34 to require that the 3-, 5-, and 10-year sustainability targets in the Sustainability Plan include “making City government operations achieve, by January 1, 2050, net zero emissions...”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Code, Reporting Agencies, Bill 21-0161.



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