


ACOB for

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	LISA MCNEILLY, Director, Office of Sustainability	CITY of BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 <sup>th</sup> FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #19-0332 – The Baltimore City Sustainability Plan		

DATE:

**TO**

March 1, 2019

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

The Office of Sustainability requested City Council Bill #19-0332 The Baltimore City Sustainability Plan for the purpose of adopting a new Sustainability Plan for Baltimore City; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to all elements of sustainability, including air quality, water quality, resource conservation and recycling, energy, public health, environmental justice, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the use of alternative means of transportation.

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability was created by City Council in 2007 to be a resource, a catalyst, and an advocate for a healthy, resilient Baltimore. The Office offers innovative, sustainable solutions to Baltimore’s opportunities and challenges while engaging people throughout the city, region, and country. The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability, comprising 20 members appointed by the Mayor and one City Council member appointed by the City Council President, oversees the Sustainability Plan, monitoring and reporting progress annually.

The 2019 Sustainability Plan update represents a step forward for the City. The Plan uses an equity lens, a transformative tool to improve planning, decision-making, and resource allocation leading to more racially equitable policies and programs. The equity lens focuses on the experiences that have been historically harmful to some of our residents, and broadens the scope of voices represented in the plan, inclusive not only of race but also gender, age, neighborhood, and employment status. It helped include those who have typically been left out of conversations in and about the American sustainability movement. The equity lens was used in framing issues and in crafting strategies, actions, and measures of success. It will also be used in evaluating impact.

The framework is based on the STAR Community Rating System. Using this framework as a basis, and incorporating feedback gathered from residents, the Sustainability Plan includes new topics, more intentionally addressing all three legs of sustainability: people, planet and prosperity.

Further, the Plan is globally inspired. As part of the USA Sustainable Cities Initiative (USA-SCI), Baltimore was selected to be one of three U.S. cities to pilot localizing the

Sustainable Development Goals, the ambitious vision adopted by the United Nations (UN) to address the most pressing global challenges of our time. The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The Sustainability Plan has big, audacious commitments that include big, audacious corrections in conventional thinking. These commitments constitute a practice for how the plan will be implemented. It cannot be achieved by City staff alone; it is fundamentally based on effective collaborations and partnerships with individuals, organizations, and agencies throughout the City.

### Process

In order to include many voices in the Plan, 125 residents signed on as Sustainability Ambassadors, 68 percent of whom are African-American. Together, we developed a survey that reached 1,200 neighbors, friends, and family. As the Ambassadors fanned out to conduct interviews, Sustainability Commissioners and Office of Sustainability staff attended almost 25 meetings, engaging over 500 industry and nonprofit leaders and professionals. Simultaneously, our Every Story Counts campaign surfaced stories from residents who, through their day-to-day actions, improve the sustainability of our city. Plan drafts were written and feedback was solicited at Town Hall meetings and working groups; the Plan was also made available for public comment through an online site where participants could click anywhere to comment, as well as review and respond to others' comments. More than 1,000 comments were submitted during the open period.

### Accountability

Advancing the goals of this plan requires more than just a commitment to act; it requires a commitment to be held accountable. A way for us to reach our equity goals is to ensure that we are learning from our failures and our successes. Tracking our progress and monitoring our ability to advance equity and sustainability goals is an essential responsibility of the plan. Every year, the Commission on Sustainability and the Baltimore Office of Sustainability will produce an annual report, as mandated by the City Council Ordinance. Every year, we will also use the annual Open House to solicit feedback and identify new strategies and actions as we become more attuned to equitable systems, and as technologies and best practices change.

### Fiscal Impacts

No direct fiscal impacts are expected from adoption of the Plan, and budget requests for additional funds to implement it would be submitted and reviewed through the annual budget process.

### Amendment

A minor amendment to the plan text is recommended, to clarify the need to identify funds for implementation through the annual budget process. Insert the following text on page 7, following the last paragraph under "Sustainability Plan Purpose."

*"The Plan will be implemented in a fiscally sustainable way that minimizes the financial impact on the City and coordinates efforts across agencies and*

*stakeholders. Budget requests to implement the Plan will be reviewed through the City's annual budget process, along with other enhancement requests."*

The 2019 Sustainability Plan is available on the Office of Sustainability website at:  
<https://www.baltimoresustainability.org/plans/sustainability-plan/>

**The Office of Sustainability fully supports City Council Bill # 19-0332 with the proposed amendment.**

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances  
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Jeff Amoros, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Chris Ryer, Director, Department of Planning

