

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0161
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Conway, Dorsey, Porter, Bullock, Middleton, Burnett, Cohen,
Ramos, Glover

Introduced and read first time: October 4, 2021

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of
Planning, Office of Sustainability, Commission on Sustainability

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Operations – Net-Zero Emissions of Greenhouse Gases**

3 FOR the purpose of making City operations achieve net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by
4 2050; defining certain terms; authorizing rules and regulations; and generally related to the
5 City’s emission of greenhouse gasses.

6 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

7 Article 1 - Mayor, Council, and Agencies

8 Sections 34-1 and 34-9

9 Baltimore City Code

10 (Edition 2000)

11 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

12 Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement

13 Section 34-5

14 Baltimore City Code

15 (Edition 2000)

16 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
17 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

18 **Baltimore City Code**

19 **Article 1. Mayor, Council, and Agencies**

20 **Subtitle 34. Baltimore City Office of Sustainability**

21 **§ 34-1. Definitions.**

22 (a) *In general.*

23 In this subtitle, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 (b) *Director*.

2 “Director” means the Director of Planning or the Director’s designee.

3 (C) *GREENHOUSE GAS*.

4 “GREENHOUSE GAS” INCLUDES CARBON DIOXIDE, METHANE, NITROUS OXIDE,
5 HYDROFLUOROCARBONS, PERFLUOROCARBONS, AND SULFUR HEXAFLUORIDE.

6 (D) [(c)] “*Includes*”; “*Including*”.

7 “Includes” or “including” means by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

8 (E) *NET-ZERO EMISSIONS*.

9 “NET-ZERO EMISSIONS” MEANS THE BALANCING OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WITH
10 EMISSIONS OFF-SETS THAT CAUSE AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS
11 EMISSIONS.

12 (F) [(d)] *Office*.

13 “Office” means the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability.

14 **§ 34-9. Sustainability and Environmental Management Program.**

15 (a) *Office to develop*.

16 The Office shall develop a Sustainability and Environmental Management Program for
17 the City.

18 (b) *Components*.

19 (1) The Program shall incorporate the Sustainability Plan developed by the Commission
20 on Sustainability and any other recommendations made by the Commission.

21 (2) The Program shall include appropriate measures for:

22 (I) DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, AND COORDINATING CITY POLICIES THAT
23 MAKE ALL CITY OPERATIONS ACHIEVE, BY JANUARY 1, 2050, NET-ZERO
24 EMISSIONS, AS DEFINED IN § 34-1(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

25 (II) [(i)] developing or coordinating City policies and programs that will improve
26 environmental performance in City operations;

27 (III) [(ii)] facilitating the City’s compliance with federal, state, and local
28 environmental regulations;

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- 1 (IV) [(iii)] advancing the City’s environmental priorities;
- 2 (V) [(iv)] integrating sustainability and environmental values into City plans,
3 programs, and policies; and
- 4 (VI) [(v)] setting sustainability and environmental targets and objectives for the
5 City.

6 (c) *Implementation.*

7 The Office shall oversee implementation of the Program.

8 **Baltimore City Code**

9 **Article 5. Finance, Property, and Procurement**

10 **Subtitle 34. Commission on Sustainability**

11 **§ 34-5. Comprehensive Sustainability Plan.**

12 The Commission’s Comprehensive Sustainability Plan shall:

- 13 (1) discuss all elements of sustainability, including air quality, water quality, resource
14 conservation and recycling, energy, public health, environmental justice, reduction
15 of greenhouse emissions, and increasing use of alternative means of transportation;
- 16 (2) establish 3-, 5-, and 10-year sustainability targets, INCLUDING MAKING CITY
17 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS ACHIEVE, BY JANUARY 1, 2050, NET-ZERO EMISSIONS, AS
18 DEFINED IN CITY CODE ARTICLE 1, § 34-1(E);
- 19 (3) create public and private sustainability initiatives, to include but not limited to
20 standards for city purchasing, incentives for citizens and businesses to recycle and
21 purchase recycled goods, incentives for energy conservation, and water quality
22 improvements;
- 23 (4) describe the resources and responsible agencies and others needed to implement the
24 Plan;
- 25 (5) include a public information component;
- 26 (6) establish key sustainability indicators to track progress of Plan implementation; and

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1 (7) set criteria and recommend mandatory measures for annual reporting to the City
2 Council on:

3 (i) Energy Consumption Reports, as required in City Code Article 5, § 45-2;

4 (ii) Comprehensive Recycling and Composting Plan, as prescribed in City Code
5 Article 23, § 16-2; and

6 (iii) greenhouse gas emissions reduction reports.

7 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
8 after the date it is enacted.