



Legislation Text

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

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INTRODUCTORY*
CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL

Introduced by: The Council President

At the request of: The Administration (Commission on Sustainability - Department of Planning)

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning
Baltimore City Sustainability Plan

FOR the purpose of establishing a Sustainability Plan for the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date.

Recitals

The Sustainability Plan is written in compliance with the directives of City Code Article 5, § 34-4 {"Duties [of Sustainability Commission]"} and § 34-5 {"Comprehensive Sustainability Plan"}. The Plan will create a framework to guide the implementation of sustainable principles for the City of Baltimore.

The Sustainability Plan encompasses 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 use of alternative means of transportation.

The Plan establishes sustainability targets and recommends public and private sustainability initiatives. The Plan includes a public information component, and it establishes key sustainability indicators to track progress of plan implementation.

The Plan is organized around a structure centered on seven themes: cleanliness, pollution prevention, resource conservation, greening, transportation, education and awareness, and green economy. These themes are meant to capture the main elements of sustainability, as experienced by Baltimore's citizens, workers, visitors, and other stakeholders.

Each of these themes overlap with several of the "element" areas covered in the Goals and Strategies of the Sustainability Plan. The Goals and Strategies are as follows:

CLEANLINESS

Goal #1: Eliminate Litter Throughout the City

Strategy A: Educate residents and businesses about proper trash storage and disposal

Strategy B: Expand existing programs to maximize public trash and recycling bin use

Strategy C: Launch a social marketing campaign to change the public's attitude toward litter

Goal #2: Sustain a Clean and Maintained Appearance of Public Land

Strategy A: Establish City-wide maintenance standards for publicly owned land

Strategy B: Build capacity of existing City maintenance staff through training and education

Strategy C: Expand adoption and community stewardship of public land

Goal #3: Transform Vacant Lots from Liabilities to Assets That Provide Social and Environmental Benefits

Strategy A: Strengthen enforcement of dumping and litter laws

Strategy B: Increase participation in community maintenance and stewardship efforts

Strategy C: Create and sustain a land trust to support community-managed open space

Strategy D: Return abandoned properties to productive use

Strategy E: Establish a new fee schedule charged to absent property owners

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Goal #1: Reduce Baltimore's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 15% by 2015

Strategy A: Create a Climate Action Plan for the City of Baltimore

Strategy B: Implement Climate Action Plan for the City of Baltimore

Goal #2: Improve Baltimore's Air Quality and Eliminate Code Red Days

Strategy A: Add an air-quality and climate-change implication evaluation to all government-funded projects

Strategy B: Create Code Red/Orange Day policies

Strategy C: Explore options for more efficient fleet conversion

Strategy D: Institute and enforce a City-wide no-idling policy

Goal #3: Ensure that Baltimore's Waters Are Fishable and Swimmable

Strategy A: Implement recommendations contained in the City County Watershed Agreement

Strategy B: Study creation of a stormwater-utility or other new funding sources

Strategy C: Reduce the amount of impervious surface in the City by at least 25%

Strategy D: Protect and restore Baltimore's stream corridors

Strategy E: Create watershed-based natural resource management plans

Strategy F: Increase actions by individual property owners to treat stormwater.

Goal #4: Reduce Risks from Hazardous Materials

Strategy A: Adopt the "Precautionary Principle" as the underlying policy standard

Strategy B: Adopt a policy and plan for eliminating the use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals

Strategy C: Comply with the Maryland mandate for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools

Strategy D: Enact an ordinance prohibiting the use of known toxins in health-care-delivery settings

Strategy E: Aggressively promote the redevelopment of Brownfield sites

Goal #5: Improve the Health of Our Indoor Environments

- Strategy A: Use green cleaning products in schools, government offices, and businesses
- Strategy B: Explore the feasibility of making all Baltimore multifamily dwellings smoke-free by 2010
- Strategy C: Increase and coordinate all healthy housing efforts
- Strategy D: Ensure coordination among weatherization, lead remediation, and healthy homes activities

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- Goal #1: Reduce Baltimore's Electricity Use by 15% by 2015
 - Strategy A: Require aggressive energy efficiency standards as part of the Baltimore Green Building Standards
 - Strategy B: Improve the energy efficiency of existing homes and buildings
 - Strategy C: Increase renewable energy generation in Baltimore City
 - Strategy D: Mandate efficiency upgrades to homes at point of sale
 - Strategy E: Increase energy conservation by residents, City government, businesses, and institutions
 - Strategy E: Dedicate resources to assist Baltimore in leveraging state and federal funds for energy efficiency
- Goal #2: Reduce Baltimore's Water Use While Supporting System Maintenance
 - Strategy A: Conduct outreach campaign on reducing water consumption
 - Strategy B: Study methods to fund the construction and maintenance of Baltimore's water supply system
 - Strategy C: Maintain a comprehensive water facilities master plan

- Goal #3: Minimize the Production of Waste
 - Strategy A: Distribute information on waste-reducing purchasing policies
 - Strategy B: Establish Baltimore City Green Purchasing guidelines
 - Strategy C: Educate consumers about product life-cycle analysis
 - Strategy D: Link industrial and commercial users to close waste loops
 - Strategy E: Expand Baltimore's composting program and opportunities
 - Strategy F: Develop and implement local legislation related to waste minimization

- Goal #4: Maximize Reuse and Recycling of Materials
 - Strategy A: Increase recycling opportunities throughout the City
 - Strategy B: Increase resident and business participation in the single-stream recycling program
 - Strategy C: Expand types of materials accepted by the single-stream recycling program
 - Strategy D: Establish construction and demolish waste regulations for reuse or recycling

GREENING

- Goal #1: Double Baltimore's Tree Canopy by 2037
 - Strategy A: Assess current urban forest
 - Strategy B: Protect our existing trees
 - Strategy C: Build communication and cooperation among City agencies to support Baltimore's trees
 - Strategy D: Develop a City-wide education program about the value of trees
 - Strategy E: Develop and strengthen innovative public-private partnerships
 - Strategy F: Identify and pursue opportunities for increasing trees planted on private property
- Goal #2: Establish Baltimore as a Leader in Sustainable, Local Food Systems
 - Strategy A: Increase the percentage of land under cultivation for agricultural purposes
 - Strategy B: Improve the quantity and quality of food available at food outlets

Strategy C: Increase demand for locally-produced, healthy foods among schools, institutions, supermarkets, and citizens

Strategy D: Develop an urban agriculture plan

Strategy E: Implement Baltimore Food Policy Task Force recommendations related to sustainability and food

Strategy F: Compile local and regional data on various components of the food system

Goal #3: Provide Safe, Well-maintained Public Recreational Space Within ¼ Mile of All Residents

Strategy A: Conduct an inventory and assessment of existing and potential outdoor spaces for recreation

Strategy B: Develop a plan with recommendations for increasing the quantity, quality, and use of recreation spaces

Strategy C: Create an inclusive organizational system to support stewardship of public spaces

Goal #4: Protect Baltimore's Ecology and Bio-Diversity

Strategy A: Manage Baltimore City land to restore, conserve, and create habitat for native species and to eliminate invasive plant species

Strategy B: Implement sustainable landscape maintenance practices

Strategy C: Develop and implement a system to regenerate soil health in Baltimore City

Strategy D: Build community support to conserve and restore Baltimore City's urban stream ecosystem

Strategy E: Support and develop native plant nurseries in the City

TRANSPORTATION

Goal #1: Improve Public Transit Services

Strategy A: Make software upgrades to allow for transit signal priority

Strategy B: Implement an integrated system of downtown shuttle and trolley routes

Strategy C: Work with the MTA to expand QuickBuses to more high-volume transit corridors

Strategy D: Bring the Red Line Transit project to Baltimore

Strategy E: Work with the MTA to develop and implement an ideal transit service profile for MTA routes

Goal #2: Make Baltimore Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly

Strategy A: Implement the Baltimore Bicycle Master Plan

Strategy B: Develop a Bike-to-Work program for Baltimore

Strategy C: Evaluate the creation of a bicycle sharing service

Strategy D: Expand the Safe Routes to Schools program

Strategy E: Implement "Sunday Streets" recreational street closure program

Strategy F: Increase sidewalk repair miles

Goal #3: Facilitate Shared-Vehicle Usage

Strategy A: Establish a Baltimore Car-Share program

Strategy B: Expand the City Commute Rideshare program

Strategy C: Leverage new Baltimore Green Building Standards to increase shared-vehicle use

Goal #4: Measure and Improve the Equity of Transportation

Strategy A: Track the disparity of transportation costs by neighborhood relative to income

Strategy B: Identify strategies to reduce the disparity in cost of transportation relative to income

Strategy C: Work with the MTA to measure the quality of transit service in Baltimore neighborhoods

Goal #5: Increase Transportation Funding for Sustainable Modes of Travel

Strategy A: Advocate for more funding for transit and sustainable transportation

Strategy B: Implement goals of Mayor's Transportation Investment Commission (TIC) report

Strategy C: Explore options for a new regional transit funding source and a larger local role in managing the MTA

Strategy D: Expand eligible expenses under sustainable transportation programs

Strategy E: Advocate shifting funding from roadway capacity expansion to transit, bicycling, and walking projects

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Goal #1: Turn Every Baltimore City School into a Green School

Strategy A: Incorporate sustainability into curriculum and activities

Strategy B: Build and retrofit green school buildings

Strategy C: Adopt a green facilities management guide for school operations

Strategy D: Develop a teacher training and certification program for sustainability

Strategy E: Recognize schools making strides in sustainability

Goal #2: Ensure All City Youth Have Access to Environmental Stewardship Programs and Information

Strategy A: Develop a sustainability education and community service program

Strategy B: Create a website devoted to the youth perspective on the environment

Strategy C: Create a Youth Ambassador Team to educate their peers about sustainability

Goal #3: Raise the Environmental Awareness of Baltimore

Strategy A: Utilize a Sustainability Ambassador network for community outreach

Strategy B: Coordinate a Year-Long Baltimore Sustainability Calendar

Strategy C: Increase public knowledge of alternative transportation options

Strategy D: Launch City-wide sustainability challenges to a variety of audiences

Strategy E: Engage membership organizations to develop and disseminate targeted sustainability information

Goal #4: Expand Access to Informational Resources on Sustainability

Strategy A: Develop an interactive website for the Baltimore Office of Sustainability

Strategy B: Create local Green Pages as resource guide

Strategy C: Utilize existing community centers to distribute sustainability information

Strategy D: Support innovative resources on sustainability

GREEN ECONOMY

Goal #1: Create Green Jobs and Prepare City Residents for These Jobs

Strategy A: Add clean technology to Baltimore's targeted growth sectors

Strategy B: Conduct needs assessment of green job demand

Strategy C: Link existing job training programs to the information provided in the green jobs needs assessment (above)

Strategy D: Encourage the employment of Baltimore residents in City clean energy projects

Strategy E: Convene Green Collar Summit

Strategy F: Develop a strategy to secure available funding

Goal #2: Make Baltimore a Center for Green Business

Strategy A: Leverage Baltimore's natural amenities attractive to green technology businesses and market them

Strategy B: Establish and market creative financing strategies for local green businesses

Strategy C: Encourage construction industry to use "green" building practices

Goal #3: Support Local Baltimore Businesses

Strategy A: Educate Baltimore City residents on the importance of supporting local businesses

Strategy B: Develop tools to connect local suppliers to businesses, consumers, and government

Strategy C: Increase local government purchasing of local products

Goal #4: Raise Baltimore's Profile as a Forward-Thinking, Green City

Strategy A: Create a brand for Baltimore's Sustainability initiative

Strategy B: Attract sustainability-related conventions and events to Baltimore

Strategy C: Target the tourism industry to promote Baltimore as a green city

Strategy D: Support innovative and pilot projects and technologies

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Baltimore City Sustainability Plan, dated _____, 200_, its goals, strategies, and recommendations, are approved. The Sustainability Plan, as approved, shall be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Master Plan as an appendix.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the Sustainability Commission annually shall review and submit a written report to the City Council on the state of the Sustainability Plan's implementation, goal achievements, and other effects, and recommend any amendments to the Plan that the Commission finds necessary or appropriate.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That after enactment of this Ordinance, a copy of it and of the Sustainability Plan adopted by it be sent to the Mayor, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Department of Finance, Health Department, Baltimore City Heritage Area, Baltimore Housing (Department of Housing and Community Development/Housing Authority of Baltimore City), Law Department, Department of Legislative Reference, Mayor's Office of Minority Business Development, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, Department of Planning, Police Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Transportation, the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, the Enoch Pratt Free Library System, the Baltimore City Public School System, and the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is enacted.

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