

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability**  
**April 2014 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 22, from 5:30-8 pm

**Location:** Humanim, 1701 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21213

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability, Annual Sustainability Town Hall and April 2014 Commission Meeting

**Opening Remarks:**

- Cheryl Casciani addresses attendees, welcomes Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
- Mayor Rawlings-Blake addresses attendees, emphasizes importance of resilience in Baltimore

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Activities

**Discussion:**

- The Annual Town Hall is an open event. The 2014 Town Hall was hosted with the intent of helping Baltimore residents reduce their risk and vulnerabilities to natural hazards.
- Attendees participated in entry/exit surveys to indicate previous preparedness measures.
- This was the premiere event for the Turtle mascot.
- Children participated in a series of activities in a “Kid Zone.” Activities included posters and coloring, a memory match game that used images of emergency supply kit materials, planting seeds, a “pin-the-gear-on-the-turtle” game, and healthy food art activities.
- Upstairs, adults moved through a series of preparedness zones:
  - **Wall of hazards:** As attendees arrived they would pass by a wall of posters that identify the natural hazards facing Baltimore City. These posters provide details about each hazard event, including the history of those hazards in Baltimore and anticipated changes due to climate change.
  - **Make a Plan:** Attendees were provided with a checklist upon arriving at this station. This checklist included information on how family members can contact one another and get back together; and identified important places in Baltimore communities.
  - **Build a Kit:** Attendees were given free disaster supply items to fill their emergency kit. Volunteers explained why each item is important and how it can be used in the event of an emergency. Items in the kits include: first aid kit, battery powered radios, flashlights with batteries, manual can opener, sanitary bags, handheld fan with batteries, emergency whistle, emergency window notification card, and a water container. Attendees were also provided with a recommended list of additional items to place in their kit when they return home, such as food, water, blankets, visuals aids, copies of important documents, and cash.
  - **Help Each Other:** As they entered this area, attendees found large maps of specific regions in the city. Attendees could work with community planners and volunteers to identify neighborhoods assets and possible short-comings. Attendees could visit booths and tables from Baltimore partners, including
    - Blue Water Baltimore
    - CERT
    - Baltimore Health Department
    - American Red Cross
    - Department of Public Works
    - Urban Agriculture and Schools

- TreeKeepers and Forestry
- Recreation and Parks
- MEMA
- FEMA
- Bikes
- Baltimore Energy Challenge
- Parks and People Foundation
- Additional activities and areas included:
  - The Annual Sustainability Report
  - A photo booth opportunity for pictures with the Turtle.
  - “Tell Your Hazard Story” Video Booths
  - Opportunities to sign-up to become a Climate Ambassador or Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) leader
  - Food and Drinks

**Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, May 20th, 4PM.