

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability  
March 25, 2013 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2013 from 4-6 pm

**Location:** Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability March 2013 General Meeting

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) – Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Dana Cooper, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Earl Johnson, Sharon Middleton, Gerie Okwesa, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur,

(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke, Kristin Baja

**Meeting called to order:** 4:06 pm

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes approved February 26, 2013 meeting. moves and seconds.
- Chair Report
  - Welcome
  - Financial Disclosures are due
  - Those who did not make swearing in – there will be another one scheduled
  - Hosting a communications conference for members of government across the State
  - Lynn asked at last meeting about meetings and planning, Lynn imagined that there was a plan, she is correct in that. Every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Marie Louise Bistro, Cheryl, Beth and Alice meet. Everyone is welcome to join us
  - April – Humanim Town Hall – climate is a priority
  - May – Green schools – meeting at 4:00 offsite and then the youth led Greenscape event
  - 51 schools CSSC
  - June – Mary Pat Fannon and Legislative review
  - Lynn – can think of action items related to these topics?
  - Cheryl – use the sub-committee teams to drive agenda and action. Don't aspire to control agenda, but don't want to not have a plan
- Staff Report
  - Kristin Baja – DP3 project
    - Hazard mitigation
    - 4 subcommittees have met twice, developed actions, prioritization process of those actions
    - April 9<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting
    - Town Hall that was scheduled was cancelled – FEMA can't travel due to sequester
    - Now scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at War Memorial 5pm – 9pm
    - How we are going about this process, in terms of combining All Hazards Mitigation Plan and Adaptation – only one other city – Lewes, DE doing this
    - Lots of cities have Climate Adaptation Plans – not ahead in that but ahead on incorporating into All Hazard Mitigation Plan
    - Lynn – does incorporating into All Hazard Mitigation plan mean access to more funding?
    - Kristin – yes – working with MEME there is money available

- Abby Cocke – City Schools Challenge
  - Grants to 49 schools
  - Almost half interacted with us
- Apply funding to standardize system for community and urban farmers dealing with Brownfields in a rational manner and low costs. Use to guide and education the public
- Growing Green Initiative: white paper was submitted to the Mayor’s Office. Distributed to all Department Heads for review. There is a trip planned to Philadelphia with city agencies to meet with Philadelphia to talk about their green infrastructure program
- USGBC Wintergreen Event this Thursday
- Financial Disclosures – distributed to Commissioners. Notary will be available before February meeting to notarize disclosures.
- Holly Freishtat:
  - Updated Food desert map 1 in 4 people live in a food desert in Baltimore.
  - Mayor launched Food Policy Task Force US Conference of Mayors and is co-chairing with Boston
  - Farm Bill – Baltimore City received \$1 billion over the last 5 years from the Farm Bill. Op-ed in Baltimore Sun regarding the bill. SNAP benefits
  - BCC – interviewing new grocery stores
  - JFX Farmers Market will accept SNAP benefits
  - Urban Agriculture Policy Plan
- **PAY AS YOU THROW (PAYT)**
  - Trash Metering, Unit Pricing, Variable Rate Pricing, User-pay - Are all usage-pricing model for disposing of municipal solid waste
  - Users are charged a rate based on how much waste they present for collection
  - Waste is measured by weight or size while units are identified using different types of bags, tags or containers
  - Waste diversion through recycling and composting is considered as part of the programs
  - There are three main types of PAYT programs:
    - Full-unit pricing: Users pay for all the garbage they want collected in advance by purchasing a tag, custom bag, or selected size container.
    - Partial-unit pricing: The local authority or municipality decides on a maximum number of bags or containers of garbage, with collection paid for taxes. Additional bags or containers are available for purchase should the user exceed the permitted amount
    - Variable-rate pricing: Users can choose to rent a container of varying sizes (some programs offer up to five), with the price corresponding to the amount of waste generated
  - **Sustainability & PAYT Programs:**
    - **Environmental:** Communities with programs in place have reported significant increases in recycling and reductions in waste, due primarily to the waste reduction incentive created by PAYT.
    - **Economical:** PAYT is an effective tool for communities struggling to cope with soaring municipal solid waste management expenses.
    - **Social:** Waste collections costs are distributed more fairly among the population, and in proportion to the amount of waste each user generates.
  - A 2003 Reason Foundation study found that PAYT programs resulted in a 17 percent drop in garbage tonnage, with a significant increase in both recycling and source reduction.

- PAYT trash collection makes households more aware of how much waste they put out to the curb each week
- According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, there were 7,095 communities with pay-as-you-throw trash collection in the country in 2006, the last year for which data is available – has to be higher now
- **OAKLAND MODEL**
  - [Green cart](#) - weekly yard trimmings and food scraps recycling
  - [Gray cart](#) - weekly bottles, cans, jars, paper and cardboard recycling
  - Burgundy cart - weekly garbage, film plastics, plastic bags and other non-recyclable materials
  - The Single Family residential program also includes:
    - [Used motor oil and oil filters](#) - weekly collection for recycling
    - [Bulky pickup and recycling](#) (household appliances and other bulky items)
    - [Holiday tree recycling](#) each January
- Without it you will never reach your recycling goal. (If it costs the same to the consumer to throw away trash as to recycle, there is no incentive to recycle.)
- Also: It costs us money to dispose of trash, we make money on recycling. (The cost of managing waste keeps going up, the income of recycling also keeps going up too. We need to be on the right side of that equation)
- City of Baltimore Proposal to the Maryland Public Service Commission Customer Investment Fund
  - “CREATES” *Coordinating Resources to Effectively Align and Transform Energy Services*
  - February 17, 2012
    - Maryland Public Service Commission Conditionally Approves Exelon-Constellation Merger
    - Directs Creation of a New \$113.5 Million Fund for BGE Customers
  - March 27, 2012
    - PSC Sets Deadline for Customer Investment Fund Proposals
    - Commission to Determine Best Implementation of \$113.5 million
    - PSC Chairman Douglas Nazarian said the Commission wants “big ideas with lasting impact.”
  - June 15, 2012
    - City of Baltimore submits its formal proposal to the PSC.
    - Makes the case for why Baltimore should manage funds and directly service our residents
    - CREATES - *Coordinating Resources to Effectively Align and Transform Energy Services*
  - August 7, 2012
    - City of Baltimore testifies before the Public Service Commission, defending CREATES
    - Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
    - Ken Strong
    - Ted Atwood
    - Alice Kennedy
    - Greg Sileo
    - Cheryl Casciani
  - The City of Baltimore is home to the most significant low-income energy needs, costs and challenges in the BGE service territory

- The City administered \$32 million in Energy Assistance benefits to 36,500 Baltimore households during 2011, representing 56 percent of the entire BGE territory's energy assistance recipients
- Baltimore suffers from the largest obstacles to low-income energy efficiency with, for example, half of all applicants for weatherization services being denied due to deteriorated and unsafe housing conditions.
- These challenges lead to unsustainable public costs and repeated energy and financial crises for low-income families.
- *CREATES*
  - *Transform building energy systems to improve efficiency and reduce public costs*
  - *Deliver continuous energy education to prevent new clients from falling into crises*
  - *Transform energy service delivery to stabilize low-income households currently in energy crisis*
- *CREATES breaks down silos that traditionally exist in energy programs*
- *CREATES aligns a wide nexus of energy and non-energy programs into a highly coordinated and integrated system will enable the City to proactively address the core problems that lead to a constant state of energy insecurity*
- *CREATES not only integrates services within the City, but also aligns effectively with strategic community, State and utility partners*
- *CREATES builds upon the City's strong foundation of success over the past three years in aligning energy services and breaking down traditional program silos*
  - Administering the largest Weatherization Assistance Program in the State of Maryland
  - Engaging communities in energy conservation through the nationally recognized Baltimore Energy Challenge
  - Helping non-profits and public facilities lower their energy use and re-invest the savings into services through DGS
  - Serving 17,000 energy assistance customers per year with wrap-around education and self-sufficiency programming through the Mayor's Office of Human Services Community Action Partnership
- *CREATES Key Strategies*
  - Align Services, Maximize Leveraging, Client Education at Every Step, Prioritize Hard Metrics
- *Community Empowerment*
  - The City's community centers and other local, grassroots, community-based organizations such as non-profits, schools and neighborhood organizations serve as the first responders to low-income customers with energy needs. These facilities and their constituent organizations need to be sustained as hubs for energy efficiency education and as conduits to refer and leverage resources within the larger *CREATES* network.
- *Energy Assistance*
  - Financial assistance for low-income utility customers will be transformed from a handout to a portal that directs customers into the optimal levels of education, efficiency and case management requisite to their unique needs.
- *Case Management*
  - Low income customers with complex energy needs require case management to navigate the confusing web of applications, eligibility requirements, constant funding changes and coordination across agencies. *CREATES* will provide

access to the services necessary to stabilize households and avoid future energy crises.

- *Energy Efficiency*
  - Low income customers with significant energy usage require in-home energy conservation and education to help reduce utility bills and progress towards energy affordability. CREATES will combine cost effective programs to provide customers with low tier retrofit installation and energy efficiency education to maximize savings for clients.
- November 8, 2011 PSC Award
  - PSC Awards \$52,876,304 to the City of Baltimore
  - Eight of our proposals funded – Baltimore Energy Challenge, Case Management, Cogeneration, Energy Assistance, Energy Efficiency, Energy Efficiency Plus, Retrofits & Upgrades, Urban Heat Island Mitigation
  - PSC appreciated the breadth and detail contained in the CREATES proposal
  - Especially liked the coordination of individual components to maximize effectiveness and efficiency
- 2012 Annual Report
  - Stories & Highlights
    - 901 Arts Stormwater
    - Energy Office – Back river Solar
    - Baltimore Bike Party
    - Baltimore Farm Alliance
    - Baltimore Tool Bank
    - Chesapeake Compost
    - CIF
    - CAP
    - DOT Sustainability Plan
    - Gather Baltimore
    - HABC
    - Maryland Green Registry
    - Parks & People
    - Power In Dirt
    - Hampden
  - **BNIA VITAL SIGN INDICATORS**
    - Partnership with Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance
    - Incorporating their Vital Signs statistical data into our report
    - New Indicators
      - Walkscore
      - Zero Vehicle households
      - Community Gardens (this is also have an interactive mapping feature)
  - Redesigning “Steps You Can Take” – making more infographic design
  - Redesigned List of Partners & Resources
- Meeting adjourned: 6:00 pm

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 6 PM at Humanim