

<b>Baltimore Commission on Sustainability</b> <b>January 25, 2011 Meeting Report</b>
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**Date:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 from 4-6 pm

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

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability January 2011 General Meeting

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) – Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Jake Ruppert, Ali Smith, Tom Stosur, Ed Whalen  
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy

Presenters: Ken Strong, Alice Kennedy & Alex Haworth

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes from November 2010 meeting are approved without amendment
  - Motion made by Peter Doo, second by Ed Whalen
- Chair Report
  - Annual Report Production Plan
    - Alice is lead, will need some help from Commissioners, have raised \$7500 from Abell Foundation and BCF and have an outstanding request for \$5,000 more.
    - Have started to consider the feature success stories for each chapter:
      - Cleanliness: Work of Baltimore Green Space with City Housing Department and mapping of potential sites for community managed open space
      - Pollution Prevention: Waterfront Partnership's lead on the Healthy Harbor Initiative
      - Resource Conservation: the Climate Showcase Communities program with JHU
      - Greening: presence of EBT machines at some farmers markets
      - Transportation: Zip Car
      - Education & Awareness: Asphalt removal in school yards
      - Green Economy: Barclay deconstruction project
    - Last year Sarah asked Commission members to pull together small groups around some of the individual goals, Alice will reach out about this again.
  - February Meeting – will review goals for 2011, Alice and Beth are preparing them;
  - Anne Draddy is no longer with Tree Baltimore, and is now at Department of General Services with Ted.
  - Status of water legislation – local and state, unlikely to see fee bills at state or local level, tough budget climate to ask for fees, election year in City. Will focus on community organizing, a new organizer has been hired by Water Alliance.
  - Environmental literacy requirement at state – would like to send a letter from the Commission. Lots going on at the City level, Goal #1, Education & Awareness “Turn Every School Into a Green School”, Alice meets with School Greening Network convened by City Schools, BoS has co-sponsored the Schools Sustainability Challenge last year and again this year and we believe that there support at the local level to have a locally designed environmental literacy requirement and that BoS can have a role in shaping it.

- Discussion around requirements, impact on school systems
  - Cheryl to follow up with State Board, Chesapeake Bay Trust
  - Alice to follow up with Michael Sarbanes
  - Draft Letter will be circulated to Commission and vote will be taken by email
- Staff Report
  - Introducing Abby Cocke, Environmental Planner, filling Brett Buikema's position, she will be focusing on Food with Holly, Schools Challenge, Enforcement of Critical Area
  - Landscape Manual coming along – public review mid February
  - City of Baltimore won an award from USGBC Maryland chapter, Innovation Award for Green Building Standards
  - Baltimore Food Policy Initiative
    - Holly Freishtat now in Office of Sustainability
    - Public Markets
      - Conducting public market food assessment in partnership with Center for Livable Future
    - Food Access – Transportation
      - Met with Dept of Transportation to discuss concept of Food Circulator
      - Create a map identifying low income housing and food retailers
    - Farmers Markets
      - Change of State Farmers market policy prohibiting first year markets to accept federal nutrition assistance (SNAP, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Coupons)
      - Farmers Market Assessment report will be completed in March
      - Next Steps: Baltimore Farmers Market and West Marc EBT machines
    - Urban Farming in Food Deserts
      - CLF fellows researched RFQ and lease agreements from cities across the nation that are leasing vacant land for urban farming
      - RFQ will be released in late Feb/early March
      - Know your farmer, know your food initiative
    - Community Food Advocates (CFA)
      - Partnership with Civic Works/Real Food Farm – hosting AmeriCorps
      - Modeling program after BNEC
      - Goal: recruit CVA from local communities to aid in mobilizing Baltimore City neighborhoods to engage in efforts to expand food access
    - Schools
      - Healthy Food in Motion – partnership with UME, part of Get Fresh Baltimore media campaign
      - Developing concept of Healthy Food Challenge for schools
    - Media
      - Summary: 34 media hits in 9 months
      - Recent medial feature story for Christian Science Monitor in February issue, Urban Farm Magazine March/April Issue
      - Get fresh Baltimore – Mayor will have a PSA on FOX 45 during Superbowl
    - Fund Development & Organization Capacity
      - Submitted budget for 1 FTE position for Food Policy Director through outcome budgeting process
      - Submitted grant for 95K to Kaiser
      - BFPI is now housed within Office of Sustainability

- Future grants: Abell and Krieger for programmatic expenses, Farmers Market Promotion Grant for Healthy Food Hubs in Public Markets
- Community Energy Savers Grants – second Round deadline pushed back to April 15, 2011
- Schools Challenge - \$35,000 in funding, grant applications coming in, will finalize awardees in next week.
- Keith Losoya received a \$19,000 grant to run a composting pilot in 8 schools
- Presentations
  - Baltimore City Weatherization Assistance Program – Ken Strong
    - Production & Workforce Development -total AARA weatherized units in 2010 was 1,051 with approx. \$5.6 million in AARA funds expended
      - Energy Star refrigerator replacement will begin in 2011 adding greater energy savings to weatherized homes. Some additional jobs will be created as a result of adding this service. Est. 2 FTE positions will be created in refrigerator replacement.
      - At the end of 2010, the City, with State support, conducted a training laboratory at Westport homes to boost the productivity and the quality of weatherization contractors
      - End of 2010, two new weatherization contractors became active with the City – Northeast energy and Comprehensive Housing Associates, Inc.
      - Two vacancies as City weatherization auditors will be filled early in 2011
      - Recent state monitoring and quality control visits have yielded positive reports concerning the quality of Baltimore City's weatherization services and program.
    - Deferral and Creative Problem-Solving: Baltimore City, not unlike other urban areas has a great many houses that cannot be weatherized due to roofing, plumbing, furnace and structural problems. Unlike most local weatherization agencies, Baltimore City is assertively working to creatively overcome these obstacles.
      - Heating System replacements – The City is in the process of tapping Energy Efficiency Block Grant (\$400,000), Maryland Energy Assistance Funds (\$320,000), Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (\$250,000) and MEA (\$277,000) for a total of \$1,247,000 to replace approx. 250 heating systems. Many of these cases involve families with no heat and have both green and healthy benefits to the families we serve.
      - Coordinated Housing Rehabilitation and Weatherization: City has been coordinating housing rehabilitation, weatherization and healthy home improvements. Through the City's Office of Rehabilitation Services and Neighborhood Housing Services, approx. 90 homes are in the pipeline for coordinated services that also involve the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, Baltimore City Health Department, Rebuilding Together Baltimore, Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge. A Living Cities Case Coordinator manages these service arrangements.
      - In 2011, \$1 million from Constellation Energy will be made available for roofing repairs and furnace replacements in homes that are

weatherized by the City, the utility or by healthy homes organizations like the Coalition

- In 2011, the State is providing \$500,000 to the City in a pilot program to coordinate lead abatement and weatherization through single auditors and single contractors.
- Green, Healthy and Sustainable Homes:
  - The City has pledged to weatherize over 75 homes in 2011 that will be receiving healthy homes improvements (asthma reduction, lead paint abatement) in a coordinated way through the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning.
  - The Baltimore City Health Dept. is providing funding to ensure that every home weatherized by the City in 2011 receives integrated pest management as a complementary service
  - Case coordination is essential to the success of approaches to green, healthy and sustainable homes. One case coordinator will be funded through the Constellation Energy Group program. A second case coordinator will be jointly funded by the City and the Coalition, focusing on healthy home improvement for children. A proposal is pending with Abell Foundation for a third case coordinator to work with landlords and rentals.
  - Seniors are a top DOE priority. The City has pioneered the coordination of senior fall/injury prevention with weatherization in 2010. Funding arrangements are being made to continue that pilot in 2011.
- New Initiatives
  - The City is exploring the nexus between foreclosure prevention, weatherization and healthy homes. The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning is an equal partner in that exploration.
  - Plans for 2011 include a more rigorous study of actual energy savings to families served in various categories as well as control group that we cannot serve. Some families in the study will be receiving intensive home energy conservation education through the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge.
  - A new City initiative is focused on converting City-owned vacant houses into rehabbed, occupied and valuable ones (Vacants to Value). The City is looking at integrating green, healthy and sustainable homes practices into rehab work and into assistance to neighbors of the vacant properties.
  - The City is organizing a field trip to Philadelphia to study their green, healthy, and sustainable housing programs. Well developed workforce development and training program from which we can learn.
- Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge – Alice Kennedy & Alex Haworth
  - Pilot Launched in 2009, in 8 neighborhoods: Roland Park, Mt. Washington, Fulton Avenue, Park Heights, CARE, Reservoir Hill, Ten Hills and NOGLI.
  - Pilot results found an average energy reduction of 6.6% for BNEC participants, with Park Heights showing a reduction of 12.8%. The success of the pilot allowed for an aggressive expansion plan to be developed.
  - In June 2010, the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge (BNEC) underwent several major staffing changes. Reed Schuler left the position of

Program Coordinator and Alice Kennedy, who had been BNEC's Community Liaison, assumed the this position on June 7th, 2010.

- The qualitative data that the Corpsmembers provided in the neighborhood reports and exit interviews was used to help shape operations for BNEC's expansion.
- BNEC Phase 2 Plan focuses on:
  - Stimulating and supporting community efforts
    - Continue to support 8 pilot neighborhoods
    - Add 12 new neighborhoods
    - Work with Communities of Faith
  - Embedding information and resources into existing networks and institutions
    - Work to build energy efficiency education into MEAP
    - Build curricula and programs with City Schools
    - Support WAP in delivering energy efficiency education to clients
    - Work with health groups to expand collaboration on health/energy efficiency
    - Support social services groups, helping to connect clients to resources
  - Providing direct outreach and support to residents
    - Conduct outreach at city-wide events
    - Hold public energy efficiency education events
    - Expand BNEC website
- Summer interns were assigned to three core areas to assist in program planning for Phase 2 implementation. Our summer interns also were BNEC's field outreach team at 6 public city-wide festivals.
- In July of 2010, BNEC partnered with the City's Department of General Services, to have 10 YouthWorks members work with BNEC. The students ranged in age from 14-18 and had little to no exposure to energy conservation or sustainable practices.
- Beginning in the early fall of 2010, BNEC began assembling a new and expanded team that included a full time Assistant Program coordinator, two 1700 hr AmeriCorps volunteers, two 675 hr positions, and an AmeriCorps VISTA
- Expansion neighborhoods: Greater Greenmount Community, Coldstream Homestead Montebello, Belair-Edison, Lake Evesham,
- Patterson Park, Hampstead Hills, Westport, Union Square, Hanlon Park, Garwyn Oaks, Howard Park
- BNEC has developed a Home Energy Conservation visit procedure and form that will enable us to provide individual energy saving recommendations and assistance to participants.
- This model will be expanded and put into use with the city's Weatherization and GHHI pilot program to provide home energy counseling to 250 high usage recipients of energy assistance.
- As part of its expansion goals BNEC now provides energy saving kits to all homes that successfully go through weatherization. This kit includes a specialized document detailing best practices for living in weatherized home and achieving maximized energy savings.
- BNEC and WAP are both members of the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) Learning Network. Using BNEC's WAP program as a model, BNEC will work with the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning and GHHI, to

develop a comprehensive program to provide educational information and materials to every GHHI home.

- BNEC has begun targeting and assisting Baltimore city residents who are receiving financial assistance through the Maryland Energy Assistance Program. 290 Energy Assistance clients have received our energy saving kit and taken the BNEC pledge.
- As recipients wait to be processed for Energy assistance our AmeriCorps volunteers are able to counsel recipients about free programs and low cost/no cost energy habits to help families reduce their monthly utility costs. This service enables households to stretch their financial assistance further, lower their bills and move towards energy independence.
- BNEC is a main partner for the Schools Sustainability Challenge, working with over 30 schools to provide energy efficiency education.
- BNEC has created an entire line of print and online materials from postcards to door hangers to a monthly newsletter “Watt’s New”.
- Several projects in process:
  - “Rap the Gap” – collaboration to produce a rap video incorporating energy efficiency tips and behavior change.
  - Hardware Store “Conservation Corners”
  - Enoch Pratt Library Sessions
  - Energy Resource Booklet
  - LIVE Baltimore Education Series
  - Website Redesign & Launch
  - Senior Housing Engagement
  - Retrofit Baltimore
  - Smoke & CO Alarm Installations – 150 from BCFD
  - Revised BNEC Buying Guide
  - Support of independent teams

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor