

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability**  
**March 22, 2011 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 from 4-6 pm

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

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

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) –Davis Bookhart, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Lynn Heller, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahan, Jake Ruppert, Scot Spencer, Ali Smith, Tom Stosur  
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke, Holly Freishtat

Presenters: George S. “Tad” Aburn, Alice Kennedy & Lorraine Doo

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes from February 2010 meeting are not approved – quorum not present
- Chair Report
  - Peter Doo acted as Chair in Cheryl’s absence.
  - Mentioned that a team will be presenting the Baltimore Green Building Standards at USGBC conference in Washington D.C.
  - Cheryl is working on an op-ed piece and a meeting that included Scot Spencer, Jake Ruppert, Alice Kennedy, Beth Strommen and Helen Szablya took place to discuss framework.
- Staff Report
  - There will be a mandatory ethics training that will be scheduled to occur before one of the upcoming Commission meetings.
  - Financial Disclosure forms are required and must be completed by all Commissioners. These forms must be notarized and are due at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.
  - The RFQ for farm land leasing goes out on Friday.
  - Working with BDC on EPA phase 1 assessment and Brownfields clean up.
  - Updating the flood maps and All Hazards Mitigation Plan.
  - Mayor has taken an interest in household composting, possible bin sales
  - Grand Prix is ramping up. Hired a full time Sustainability Coordinator.
  - Holly: received \$96,500 from Kaiser, submitted to Abell for \$95,000
  - Healthy Food Hub Workshop
  - Food Circulator – food retail shuttles from end of Circulator routes
  - United Way – key initiatives statewide Healthy Food Access
  - Updating Map to use for food deserts
  - Healthy Food In Motion: 1000 kids creating advertisements in buses in June
  - Presenting in Portland on initiatives
  - Annual Report – final stages, will be presenting on key metrics tonight. Release to be April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Presentations
  - The Death of Code Red Days – George S. “Tad” Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
    - For 25 years Maryland has been leading the charge on climate change. We are a step behind California.
    - I am a regulator.
    - Maryland is very aggressive on climate change.

- “Code Red” was born in Maryland in 1994. First state to adopt.
- “Code Red” gets tougher over time. What was code yellow in 2005 is now code red in 2011
- Air pollution levels have dropped dramatically over the past 10 years.
- Maryland is complying with current standards:
  - First time in past 20 years Fine particulate ... state-wide
  - Ozone ... all areas except Baltimore
  - Just one monitor and one day in the Baltimore area (Harford County)
  - Other pollutants ... state-wide
- Tougher standards are on the way
- Every bad ozone day, in the morning hours, a large cloud or reservoir of ozone sits above Maryland waiting to mix down.
  - Based upon real, measured data
  - Ozone levels in the reservoir are routinely measured at 60 to 100 ppb.
  - In the morning, ozone levels at the surface are very low (10 to 20 ppb)
- Around 10:00 or 11:00 – when the nocturnal inversion breaks down - the ozone (and any precursors) in the reservoir mix down to the surface and degrade air quality.
- Since 1990 Maryland has adopted hundreds of air pollution control programs
- Usually work in partnership with other states in the Ozone Transport Commission
- Some notable highlights:
  - The Maryland Clean Car Program
  - Maximum possible mobile source emission reductions
  - Hundreds of manufacturing sector control programs
  - Recent efforts on “Area Sources”
  - Maryland’s Healthy Air Act
    - Adopted as law in 2006
    - A “Multi-Pollutant” control program for power plants
    - Toughest coal-fired power plant control program in the East
    - 2009/2010 initial compliance date
- Over the past 10 years there have been some notable success stories on reducing air pollution transport through federal EPA rules
- The 2003/2004 NOx “SIP Call” as an example
- Dramatic regional power plant NOx emission reductions in the 2003/2004 time frame
- NOx reductions from vehicle standards also – very gradually - occurring in this same period
- The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments have - each year - prevented:
  - 205,000 premature deaths
  - 672,000 cases of chronic bronchitis
  - 21,000 cases of heart disease
  - 843,000 asthma attacks
- Avoided deaths represent a \$1.5 trillion benefit to the economy in 1990 dollars
- Continue to develop new local programs to implement in Maryland
- Continue to work with EPA and push for very deep, multi-pollutant, national reductions from priority source sectors to clean the air, save lives and level the playing field
- Mostly driven by the need to further reduce emissions to meet lower standards that are on the way

- New Initiatives
  - AIM Coatings III
  - Above-ground Storage Tanks II
  - High Electric Demand Days
  - Vehicle Refinishing III
  - Utility (Post CAIR) NOx IV
  - NSR/PM – ERCs
  - ICI Boilers II
  - Natural Gas Compressor Stations
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- 2010 Annual Report Key Metrics – Alice Kennedy, Baltimore Office of Sustainability & Lorraine Doo, Doo Consulting
  - Cleanliness
    - Goal 1: *The decrease in number of service calls is a function of both the level of street cleanliness and the diligence of citizens calling in to report dirty streets in their neighborhoods. The decrease in calls in 2010 is believed to be a result of educational efforts encouraging citizens to utilize proper trash and recycling receptacles and to assist in keeping their neighborhood clean. Street sweeping tonnage is a function of both miles swept and amount of debris on streets.*
    - Goal 2: *In 2010, the city conducted their second annual citizen surveys which included questions about residents' perception of cleanliness both in their neighborhood and citywide.*
    - Goal 3: *These figures represent that average carrying cost of City-owned vacant lots. Based on these figures, the vacant lots alone the City owns can cost upwards of \$8 million annually. This does not include the direct and indirect costs of the many vacant and abandon lots not owned by the City. These lots are Mayor and City Council owned properties that are coded to HCD and maintained out of HCD's budget.*
  - Pollution Prevention
    - Goal 1: *This 2007 baseline of Baltimore City's greenhouse gas emissions represents the most recent emissions inventory and the five largest emitting sectors. This inventory is being updated in 2011 and the updated version will be included in 2011's Annual Report.*
    - Goal 2: *Code Orange and Red day designations are announced when air quality is unhealthy for people to be outside, either because of the heat index, high pollen counts, or pollutants. Code Orange days indicate when it is unhealthy for sensitive groups such as children and elderly populations. Code Red days indicate when it is unhealthy for everyone.*
    - Goal 3: *The Bay Health index rates 15 reporting regions of the Bay using six indicators that are combined into a single overarching index of health. 2009 is the most recent report currently available. Included here are figures for the overall Bay, the Mid Bay, which Baltimore is part of, and the Patapsco and Back Rivers which flow through Baltimore*
    - Goal 4: *EPA's Toxics Release Inventory is a database of information about releases and disposal of toxic chemicals from large quantity generators. This indicator measures total annual releases and disposal in pounds, reported by facilities within Baltimore. Toxic releases and disposal*

*includes many chemicals such as dioxin, chromium, methanol, sodium nitrate and more, which could affect the air, soil and water. The number of reporting facilities varies each year, and the quantities of the chemicals vary greatly year over year. This data however does NOT mean that the public has been exposed to the chemicals - but it is a starting point to evaluate exposures that could be harmful or where caution is advised. To learn more about the chemicals and the disposal process, visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).*

- Resource Conservation
  - Goal 1: *Changes in electricity and natural gas consumption are affected by a variety of factors including weather variations, behavior changes, economic health, technology, and population shifts.*
  - Goal 2: *Numbers not available yet from DPW*
  - Goal 3: *Evaluating Changes from DPW*
  - Goal 4: *Recycling has increased quite dramatically with the introduction of Single Stream Recycling and the One PLUS ONE campaign began offering curbside recycling every week. Over 27 thousand tons collected in 2010.*
- Greening:
  - Goal 1: *While not inclusive of all tree plantings in 2010, these figures represent the planting efforts with which TreeBaltimore was directly involved. In addition to these efforts, many other organizations helped increase Baltimore's tree canopy in 2010. Such as, Parks & People Foundation, which planted 2,075 trees in 2010.*
  - Goal 2: *\* Food Deserts are defined as block groups that are more than ¼ mile from a major supermarket AND 40% or more of their population's household income is below \$25,000 (roughly 125% of the Federal Poverty Level for a family of four). Source for Poverty Measure: US 2000. Distance to a supermarket was measured from the center of each block group, following the street grid to the supermarket.*
  - Goal 3: *This map represents the areas of the city that are not within ¼ mile of school, park or university property which offers open space for recreation and play. The grey areas are industrial areas of Baltimore where there is no residential population. The new percentage is of entire city within ¼ mile of parks, schools, and universities, minus industrial zones area, is 68.65%. According to the 2010 Census, the percent of the population covered by this area is 87.79%.*
  - Goal 4: *Waiting for final information*
- Transportation
  - Goal 1: *This chart represents the number of trips taken on MTA's various forms of public transit statewide for 2008, 2009 and 2010. While there is some monthly variation, the annual total for 2010 shows an increase in ridership from 2009 and 2010's ridership is slightly above 2008's total ridership.*
  - Goal 2: *2010 – Baltimore experienced a 35% increase in bike commuters from September 2009 through September 2010.*
  - Goal 3: *The Ride Share programs in the city and at Johns Hopkins University have grown significantly in just the past two years. Programs such as ZipCar mean fewer unnecessary vehicles on the road, personal saving, and convenience. When the city's Zipcar program was pursuing*

*additional vehicles for the 33rd street and St. Paul area, the community association president was thrilled and put the word out. She got a lot of comments from residents, including one from someone who is a regular user and said: "I've already saved \$6000 in one year. Another new user said that he had friends promoting Zipcar use for several years and finally got to try it. After one time, he became a convert and regular Zipcar participant."*

- *Goal 4: These two maps show travel time to work comparing those who are transit commuters, and those who are not. The travel time to work is measured in minutes, as the amount of time it takes each group of commuters to get to their destination (work). As can be seen in these images, Baltimore area transit commuters require more time to get to their destination than non transit commuters – often 10 or more minutes longer. This may be due in part to the schedule for available transit options in Baltimore, or service issues. This correlates to the rider satisfaction surveys which indicate that the number one complaint for bus riders is the tardiness of the buses. Housing and Transportation Affordability Index*
- *Goal 5: Through the Transportation Improvement Programs for the City of Baltimore (2011 – 2014), Baltimore obtained funding in 2010 from both the State and Federal Governments. The projects range from safety and aesthetic improvements (new sidewalks, lighting, crosswalks, ADA ramps) to expansions to enable more public transportation (e.g. the red line).*
- **Education and Awareness**
  - *Goal 1: Schools within Baltimore which received "Green School" certification by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Baltimore City has 18 certified green schools, or 4.7% of the total schools in Baltimore. 10 are public elementary, 5 public middle, 2 high schools and 1 charter school. Five schools submitted applications in 2010 to be certified green schools – they should get their certification in 2011! There were 14 certified "Green Schools" in Baltimore in 2009*
  - *Goal 2: This is a sampling of community service projects, after-school groups, summer camps, and summer youth job training programs that have an environmental focus.*
  - *Goal 3: Baltimore Green Week (BGWeek), is the annual capstone event of Baltimore Green Work's (BGW) programming. Each April, BGW hosts this weeklong series of educational workshops, lectures and events that offer the public an opportunity to voice their concerns, be educated and take action on issues such as climate change, sustainable food and agriculture, water conservation and efficiency within the home.*
  - *Goal 4: The interactive maps officially launched in June of 2009. The information in the green map grows every day, and the most comprehensive map, Baltimore Regional Green Map features over 330 sites thus far.*
  - *Goal 5: The icons on the map are for: **Sustainable Living** (map green living, business, technology, design, and mobility. May also include the hazards and challenges our community must address.); **Nature** (map places and opportunities to engage with the natural environment - plants, animals, habitat and landscapes – in a sustainable way.) and **Culture & Society** (map cultural and historical sites, other unique elements of place, and the*

*resources that promote equity and involvement in strengthening the sustainability of our world).*

- Green Economy
  - Goal 1: *The preparation for employment begins with elementary and secondary education and continues through higher education and certificate programs. Some students may enter the green jobs sector right out of high school, while others may go on to obtain advanced training and degrees. A broad educational background with varied skills can be utilized across many sectors, including green jobs.*
  - Goal 2: *The Maryland Green Registry is a voluntary, self-certification program offering tips and resources to help organizations set and meet their own goals on the path to sustainability. The Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance supports local businesses and educates the public on the economic benefits of buying local.*
  - Goal 3: Reason to buy local
  - Goal 4: *Smarter Cities, a project of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), identifies cities that are leaders in sustainability and demonstrating innovation, best practices and implementation. Baltimore City ranks 29<sup>th</sup> overall out of 75 cities.*

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor