

**Commission on Sustainability**  
**August 18, 2021**  
**4:00pm – 6:00pm**  
[WebEx Link](#)

**AGENDA**

- € Welcome
- € Approval of June 2021 Minutes
- € Updates:
  - Commissioner Updates:
  - Office of Sustainability Updates
- € **Introduction to Regenerative Design Principles:** Miriam Avins, Co-Chair, Commission on Sustainability introduced attendees to the concept of a circular economy to anchor the meeting.

**Guest Speaker/Presenters:**

- € **Defining the Circular Economy:** Ashima Sukhdev, Programs Lead North America, Ellen MacArthur Foundation provided an in-depth overview of circular economy examples globally and here in the U.S. The presentation highlighted EMF's work to circularize materials flows in urban cores, allowing cities to capture the value of materials which often end up in landfills, incinerators or dumps. EMF promotes the idea of a circular economy and works with key actors including businesses, governments and academia to design more circular processes for plastics, textiles, food and other organic materials. Their work help support the necessary financial, policy and data needs to operationalize circular processes. Examples of the circular economy in action include technology to make food last longer, which helps to prevent wasted food, refill and reuse stations for common household cleaners and a manufacturing plant, Caterpillar, which has been remanufacturing products as a cost saving measure since 1970. Cities in the U.S. who have made significant investments in CE include Charlotte, NC, Boulder, CO, Cleveland, OH and San Francisco, CA.

According to EMF, cities consume over 75% of natural resources, produce over 50% of global waste, and emit between 60-80% of greenhouse gases. City governments have a crucial role in creating and enabling the conditions needed for a circular economy to emerge and thrive.

- € **Circular Economy Models:**
  - Urban Trees & Jobs: Bryant Smith, Baltimore Tree Trust (BTT): Baltimore Tree Trust shared their vision for "Planting the Future" - a model of local environmental stewardship and inclusive economic growth. BTT's approach to circular economy includes not only an intentional process to reutilize wood from trees, at the point which they are planted, but a robust workforce development component. Trees planted by BTT further local workforce development goals. Programming at BTT include several initiatives and services:

- Trees for Public Health
- Neighborhood Foresters Initiative
- Forest for the Future
- Corporate Greening Day
- Consulting
- Concrete removal
- Stump Grinding
- Maintenance and watering
- Reutilization Initiative: Shaun Preston, Camp Small, Department of Recreation and Parks
- Carbon Smart Wood: Marisa Repka, Co-Founder, Cambium Carbon
- € **Advancing Local Enterprises**: Andy Cook, Made in Baltimore, Baltimore Development Corporation
- € **Public Comment**

Recordings of past meetings are archived here --> <https://livestream.com/accounts/17371294>

**Next meeting:** September 22, 2021, 4:00-6:00 via WebEx

*\*Note – this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month\**