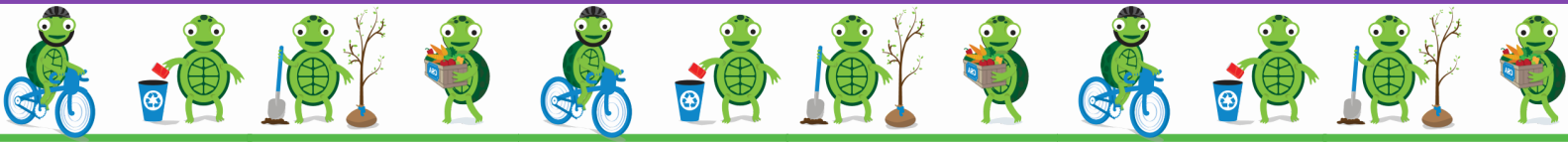


annual report 2021



**Baltimore Office
of Sustainability**
People · Planet · Prosperity



BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY 2021 ANNUAL UPDATES

12 MILLION

Thin plastic bags prevented from entering the environment.



170,000

Recycling carts distributed to eligible Baltimore households by DPW.



124,350

Food boxes distributed by Community Resiliency Hub partner organizations as part of the COVID-19 relief effort.



55,000

Reusable bags distributed.



49,980

Individuals engaged by BOS.



33

Green Schools



15

Resiliency Hub partners



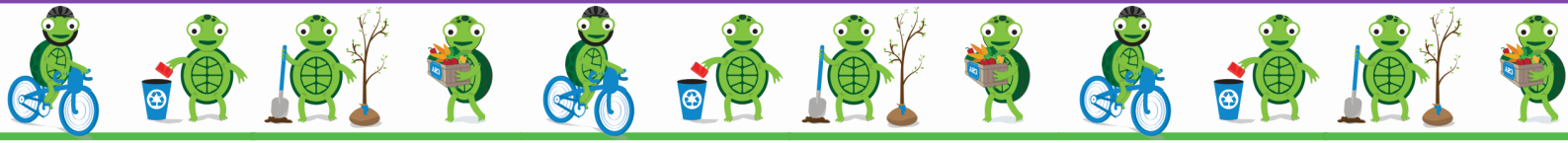
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New outdoor learning spaces



REFERENCES

*Based on metrics and data tracked by the Baltimore City Government.



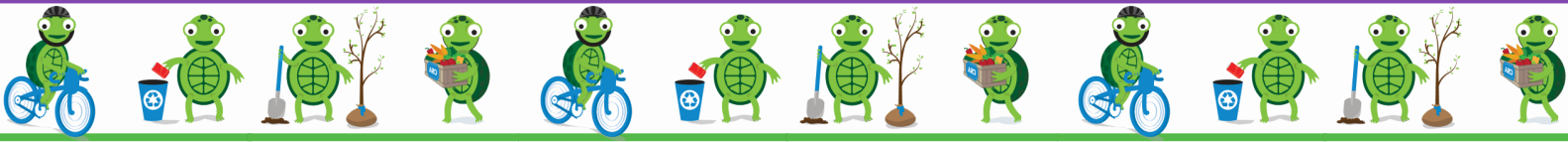
BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The update to Baltimore’s 2012 Climate Action Plan is currently underway! The CAP Update is a multi-year process that aims to address climate inequities in our city while outlining an implementable path to ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Our process will address the historic lack of accessible language in climate change conversations, which can often limit inclusivity and participation in climate-related planning processes. As climate change disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color in Baltimore City, it is imperative that our engagement strategy is built for those communities and that it meets them where they are. Engagement approaches for the CAP Update include a Resident Advisory Council to ensure the equitability of the planning process, various climate focus groups comprised of subject-matter experts, an alliance of climate communications contributors, and various meetings, workshops, outreach events, and interactions with Baltimore residents across the city through social media, surveys, and information dissemination efforts. In total, the engagement process aims to achieve 6,000 unique, high-quality engagements in the development of the next Climate Action Plan, which will be released in 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

In Mayor Scott’s Term 1 Action Plan, action 176 calls for the city to “Establish a Sustainability and Resiliency Subcabinet to improve the long-term sustainability, preparedness, and environmental practices of the city.” BOS launched the Subcabinet in September of 2021, chaired by City Administrator Christopher Shorter. The Subcabinet currently consists of 6 working groups – Buildings, Climate, Heat, Flooding/Infrastructure, Transportation, and Waste. Each working group meets periodically to explore ways to advance sustainability and resiliency goals outlined in existing city plans and find creative solutions to address resource gaps.



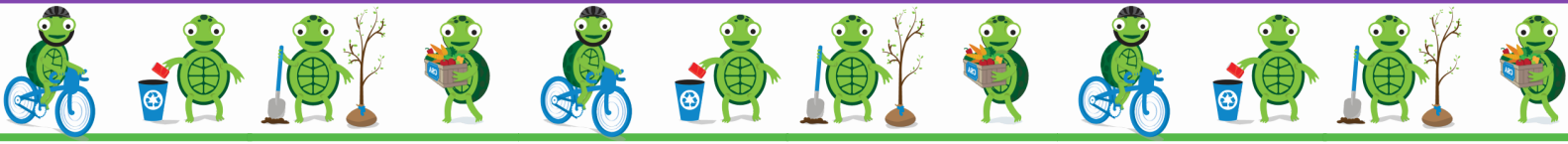
BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DPW RECYCLING CART DISTRIBUTION

On February 11, 2021, Mayor Brandon M. Scott and the Department of Public Works (DPW) announced a plan to distribute new, recycling carts to households across Baltimore City. The five-month distribution process, starting in September of 2021, provided curbside-eligible City households with a free 65-gallon rolling, lidded recycling cart. Over 170,000 recycling carts were distributed to City residents. The new recycling carts have two wheels for easy maneuvering and a lid to keep recyclables tidy and prevent debris blowing in the wind. The extra space makes recycling easier for residents while providing more room for storage – a true win-win for residents. DPW partnered with the Recycling Partnership, Baltimore Civic Fund, and Closed Loop Partners to launch the program and replace households' existing recycling bins. Free recycling cart distribution addresses a key recommendation in the City's Less Waste, Better Baltimore Plan, the 2019 Sustainability Plan and Mayor Scott's goal of increasing rates of household recycling across the city.

PLASTIC BAG BAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Citywide Comprehensive Bag Reduction Act took effect on October 1, 2021, banning thin plastic bags and applying a fee to alternative bags including paper, thicker plastic and compostable bags. In partnership with the Baltimore City Health Department, BOS distributed over 55,000 bags to communities across the city, through community events, city schools and at more than 30 grocery stores. On December 4th, the office hosted a bag distribution event, providing 25K bags to community-based partners who serve high-need communities. Based on preliminary data, nearly 12 million thin plastic bags have been prevented from entering our environment!

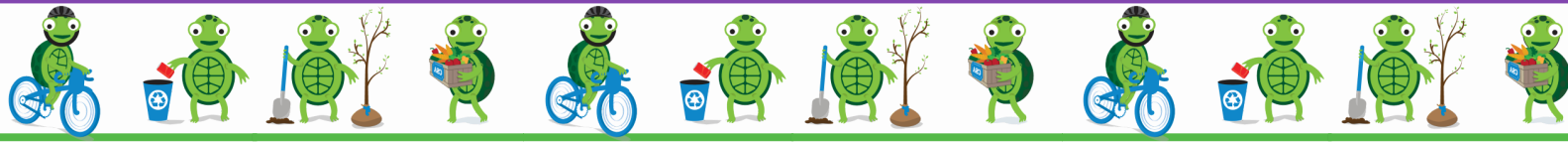


BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OUTDOOR LEARNING

In fall 2020, with funding support from BGE and Constellation, we launched the Baltimore Outdoor Learning Program to support the creation of new outdoor learning spaces at City Schools. After requesting letters of interest from Principals and performing an equity assessment, we selected eleven schools to work with, of which nine either have received or will be receiving \$10,000 each (the other two had their own sources of funds). Throughout 2021, we worked closely with local landscape architecture firms and university programs, City Schools staff, the Baltimore City Permits Office, and staff/student teams to provide schools with design and visioning expertise, connections to contractors, assistance with the permitting process, support in applying to additional sources of funding, and professional development for teachers about effective outdoor learning. All schools have now completed designs and budgets, four have completed installation of their new outdoor learning spaces, and the rest are in various stages of acquiring supplies, receiving permits, and raising additional funding in order to be able to afford large site elements like pavilions and shade structures. Schools in the program have leveraged additional support from groups such as Heart of America, the Baltimore Ravens, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Parks & People Foundation, Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, BGE, the Whole Kids Foundation, the Golfer's Charitable Trust, the Greater Baybrook Alliance, Civic Works, and others to bring their outdoor learning visions to life.



BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

The meetings of the Commission on Sustainability often bring together thought leaders on key sustainability issues, leading to unexpected collaborations. 2021 saw several tangible products of such meetings:

- Following a meeting on resiliency and disaster preparedness spurred by Commissioners Mia Blom, Earl Johnson, Inez Robb, and Dr. Nicolette Louissant, the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Emergency Management jointly sponsored a Mayoral Fellow who researched preparedness training best practices and developed a community survey to learn what Baltimore communities want to see in an accessible preparedness training program.
- The Commission's Transportation work group brought a Johns Hopkins University / Baltimore Transportation Equity Coalition team to a Commission Meeting, where the team received advice from Commissioners that improved their report on investment priorities for Transit Equity & Environmental Health in Baltimore.

In addition, Sustainability Commissioners collaborate with the Office of Sustainability to support sustainability efforts across the city with their subject matter expertise:

- 3 members of the Commission are serving on the Office of Sustainability's Climate Action Plan resident advisory council.
- Co-chair Mia Blom served on the interview panel for the Sustainability Manager.

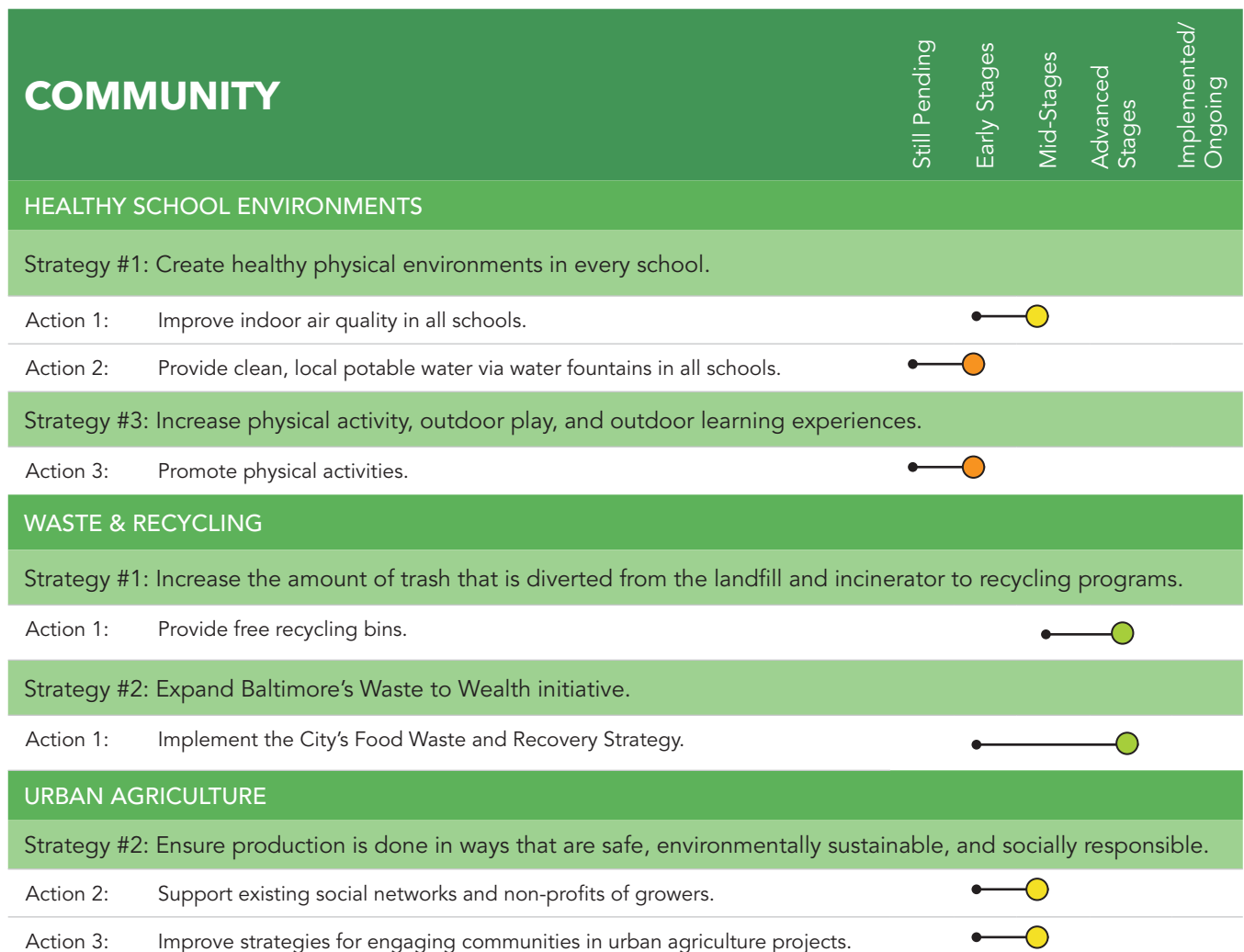
As the Commission is being renewed with new appointments, it is forming new teams that will focus on specific goals of the Sustainability Plan, complementing the work of the Office of Sustainability.

We have also been active in legislative work. The Commission submitted 17 letters of testimony to the Maryland State Legislature in support of legislation that will forward the implementation of the 2019 Sustainability Plan and submitted testimony for 2 city council bills.

Sustainable Strategies and Actions Implementation

The Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses all three legs of the sustainability stool – social equity (people), environmental stewardship (planet), and economic health (prosperity). The Plan was designed to lay out a broad, inclusive, and community responsive sustainability agenda. The Plan articulates strategies, actions, and measures of success across 5 core themes and 23 topic areas. Each topic area includes two to four strategies, and each strategy includes a list of recommended actions to support implementation of the strategy. There are 243 actions listed in the Plan, and we report on the implementation status of each action on an annual basis.

The charts below share the implementation status of the 34 strategies and actions that advanced in status during 2021. A black dot is used to show the status of the action at the beginning of the year, and a line is used to show how the action advanced in status during the course of the year. Strategies advancing to early stages, mid-stages, or advanced stages are noted by orange, yellow, or light green. A green check mark indicates that the strategy has been “implemented and/or is ongoing.” In 2021, three additional actions reached implemented/ongoing status, bringing the number of actions implemented from the 2019 Sustainability Plan to a total of eight.



HUMAN-MADE SYSTEMS

Still Pending
Early Stages
Mid-Stages
Advanced Stages
Implemented/
Ongoing

TRANSPORTATION

Strategy #2: Enact policies that promote city and regional priorities for pedestrians, transit, and alternative forms of transportation.

Action 1: Implement Baltimore's Complete Streets Ordinance.



CLIMATE & RESILIENCE

Still Pending
Early Stages
Mid-Stages
Advanced Stages
Implemented/
Ongoing

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Strategy #1: Review regulatory codes and implement collaborative programs to protect vulnerable residents, such as in neighborhoods with high percentages of seniors, low-income residents, and non-English-speaking immigrants.

Action 1: Enhance City floodplain regulations and building codes.



Strategy #2: Develop plans and systems to increase community resilience.

Action 2: Apply an equity lens to hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Strategy #1: Improve efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Action 1: Update the Climate Action Plan.



Action 2: Establish a Climate Change Advisory Committee.



Strategy #2: Modify operations and policies in City government to reduce emissions.

Action 1: Set an ambitious reduction target.



Action 3: Update codes.



Action 4: Work with community members and organizations to develop strategies to mitigate harm to, and to also increase the benefits accrued by the communities from climate actions.



Strategy #3: Create new programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Action 1: Develop outreach campaigns focused on actions to reduce emissions.



Action 2: Commit to being a "Carbon Neutral City".



CLIMATE & RESILIENCE - CON'T		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/Ongoing
CLEAN AIR						
Strategy #2: Assess and monitor how air quality varies across the city to identify neighborhoods in greatest need of improvement, and increase community awareness of how air quality impacts the health of children, the elderly, low income communities, and communities of color.						
Action 1:	Partner with researchers.					
Action 3:	Adopt a policy or plan for eliminating use of pesticides and toxic chemicals.					
Strategy #3: Develop and support programs that can improve indoor air quality for those most impacted.						
Action 2:	Increase inspections, enforcement, and hazard remediation in rental properties.					
NATURE IN THE CITY						
PEOPLE AND NATURE						
Strategy #3: Improve and grow our natural systems and support increased management of them by residents, communities, organizations, and city government.						
Action 2:	Identify creative methods for increasing conservation easements.					
Action 4:	Explore the development of a management plan that would identify existing and future threats to our natural resources.					
NATURE FOR NATURE'S SAKE						
Strategy #1: Increase restoration, creation, and maintenance of habitat for native species on public and private land; ensure it is done in culturally competent ways with early and frequent engagement.						
Action 1:	Expand habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.					
Strategy #2: Encourage and increase sustainable land management policies and practices on public and private land, taking into account the context of surrounding neighborhoods and the impacts to residents.						
Action 1:	Complete Forest Management Plans for the largest forested parks.					
Action 2:	Implement invasive species management for plants and animals.					
Strategy #3: Increase the acreage of maintained and protected land.						
Action 1:	Develop workforce training programs for residents to restore and protect natural resources that lead to resident employment.					

		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/Ongoing
TREES AND FORESTS						
Strategy #1: Plant and establish more trees ensuring equitable planting distribution.						
Action 1:	Continue prioritizing, planting, and caring for trees.					
Action 2:	Expand the call-to-action to plant and care for trees.					
Strategy #2: Assess and manage the city's tree canopy for long-term health.						
Action 2:	Create and implement plans to reduce harm to trees.					
Action 3:	Develop unified, long-term strategies to increase support and funding for managing forests.					
Action 4:	Develop and implement policy to manage parks after construction projects.					
Strategy #3: Preserve the city's existing tree canopy.						
Action 4:	Investigate a mechanism for monitoring long-term forest protection.					
WATER IN THE ENVIRONMENT						
Strategy #1: Increase safe connections to public waterways, and awareness of how litter and pollutants enter them.						
Action 2:	Increase education and pursue progressive actions to reduce pollutants entering our waterways.					
Strategy #3: Ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water.						
Action 3:	Promote assistance programs for low-income residents and seniors.					
ECONOMY						
LOCAL ECONOMY						
Strategy #3: Ensure historically underrepresented groups' share in the City's prosperity by strengthening the capacity of and purchasing from small, minority-owned, women-owned, and cooperatively owned businesses.						
Action 4:	Create and adopt an economic plan.					

Baltimore Office of Sustainability Current Staff

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Valerie Bloom, Youth Sustainability Coordinator
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Amy Gilder-Busatti, Environmental Planner
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Quentin Klein-Alfano, Climate Action Plan Outreach Intern
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Kas Tebbetts, Climate Community Engagement Fellow

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Anika Richter, Youth Sustainability Coordinator

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