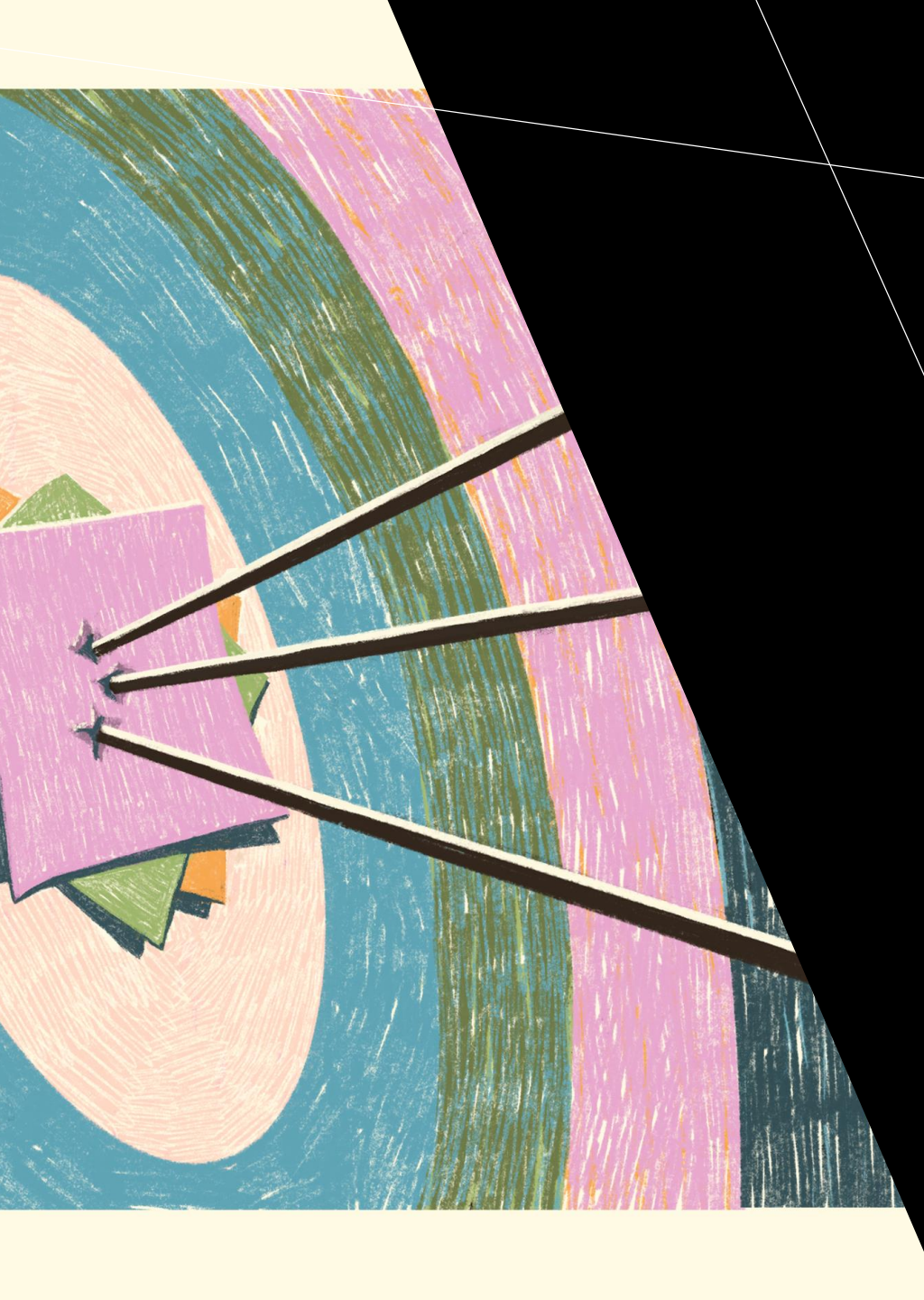


The top-left portion of the image features a complex, abstract pattern of thin, black, overlapping lines. These lines form various geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, some of which are nested or intersected by others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The lines are thin and black, set against a plain white background.

**THE CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS NOW ACT
OF 2022**

IN MARCH 2022, THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE PASSED THE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW ACT, WHICH CALLS FOR MARYLAND TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS BY 60% (COMPARED TO A 2006 BASELINE) BY 2031

AND FOR THE MARYLAND ECONOMY TO REACH NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2045.



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS TASKED WITH DEVELOPING PLANS FOR ACHIEVING THESE TARGETS, WITH DEADLINES SET FOR 2023 AND 2030.

IT PROMOTES A TRANSITION TO 100% ELECTRICITY FOR HEATING AND WATER HEATING IN NEW AND EXISTING BUILDINGS.

THE ACT DEDICATES FUNDING TO CLIMATE-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS AND CREATES A CLIMATE TRANSITION AND CLEAN ENERGY HUB TO FACILITATE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION EFFORTS.

THE MOST AMBITIOUS

- About ½ of states have adopted GHG reduction targets
- Impact of the 60% reduction has not been modeled or studied
- Maryland Department of the Environment was required to submit a draft plan for achieving the 2031 goal by June 30, 2023, and adopt a final plan by December 31, 2023.
- The Act preserved existing requirements that the plan could not increase costs for manufacturers, must be cost-effective and have a net positive impact on the economy, compared to a “no-action scenario”.

NEW BUILDINGS

- Suggesting new buildings rely solely on electricity going forward
- new building codes would be based on the “fastest and most cost-efficient methods” MDE would “assess the availability of technology”, and include “recommendations regarding cost-effectiveness measures”.

EXISTING BUILDINGS

- A covered building is a commercial or multifamily residential building with a gross floor area of 35,000 square feet (not including a parking garage).
- Excluded from the category are historic buildings, schools, manufacturing buildings, agricultural buildings and commercial kitchens.
- Owners of covered buildings must report their “direct greenhouse gas emissions” to the Department of the Environment beginning in 2025.
- The Department of the Environment is required to develop “energy performance standards” for covered buildings that will achieve a 20% reduction in direct emissions (as compared to 2025 levels for average buildings of similar construction) by January 1, 2030, and net-zero emissions by January 1, 2040.
- The General Assembly also provided that the net-zero requirement would automatically expire in 2029 unless the legislature took action to reaffirm the mandate.
- The Department was further instructed to “provide maximum flexibility to the owners of covered buildings to comply with building energy performance standards”.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Carve outs for designed to reduce impacts on “underserved” or “overburdened” communities.

Underserved Community is defined as - a community with high poverty, high nonwhite population or low English proficiency. An overburdened community is a census tract with high levels of air pollution, traffic, lead paint, superfund sites, animal feeding operations, etc. Also included are areas lacking broadband coverage or experiencing higher levels of certain health conditions. The Act requires the Commission on Environmental Justice to establish goals for the percentage of state funding that will be used for these communities and to develop strategies for reducing GHG and “co-pollutant” emissions in those communities.

THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- (1) Just Transition Employment and Retraining,
- (2) Energy Industry Revitalization,
- (3) Energy Resilience and Efficiency, and
- (4) Solar Photovoltaic Systems Recovery, Reuse and Recycling Working Groups. Each of the four new working groups are required to have members of the Senate and House, cabinet level officers (or their designees) as well as numerous representatives of industry and environmental groups.

STATE PROCUREMENT

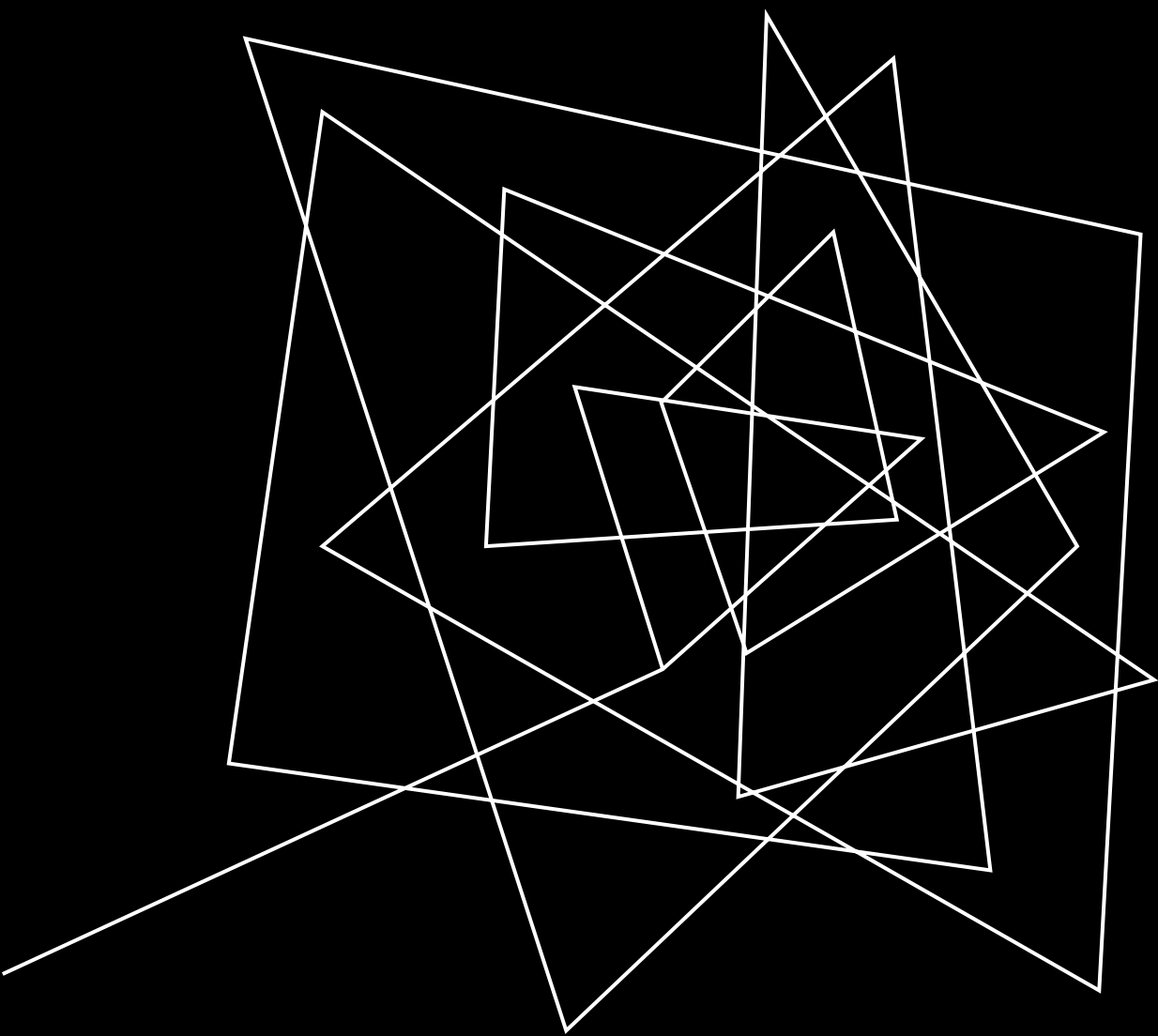
- Starting on January 1, 2030, at least 75% of all electricity supply purchased by Maryland for state facilities must come from no- or low-carbon energy sources.
- The Act requires the state to increase the purchase of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) for the state fleet. From 2023 to 2025, a quarter of the purchases of passenger cars must be ZEVs and the percent climbs to 100% by 2028. Similar targets are set for light-duty vehicles with slightly later deadlines.

NUCLEAR AND BIOFUELS

- The Energy Resilience Working Group includes three representatives of the nuclear energy industry.
- The state procurement section mandates the purchase of low- or zero-carbon electric supply — striking the word “renewable” from the definition. Similarly, the new energy performance standards must include special provisions for biofuels and the new building codes must consider the use of low-carbon biofuels, such as biodiesel.

FUNDING

- \$500k For Healthy Soils
- \$5,000,000 / yr for GHG reduction programs
 - 40% is for LMI communities
 - \$1.5M For the Chesapeake Conservation Corps
 - Some subsidies were also refocused to reduce GHG consumption.



QUESTIONS?



2023 Sustainability Accomplishments & Annual Report

Commission on Sustainability
March 20, 2024



"...toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable city."

Commission on Sustainability: Duties

Article 5, Subtitle 34

Sustainability Plan -

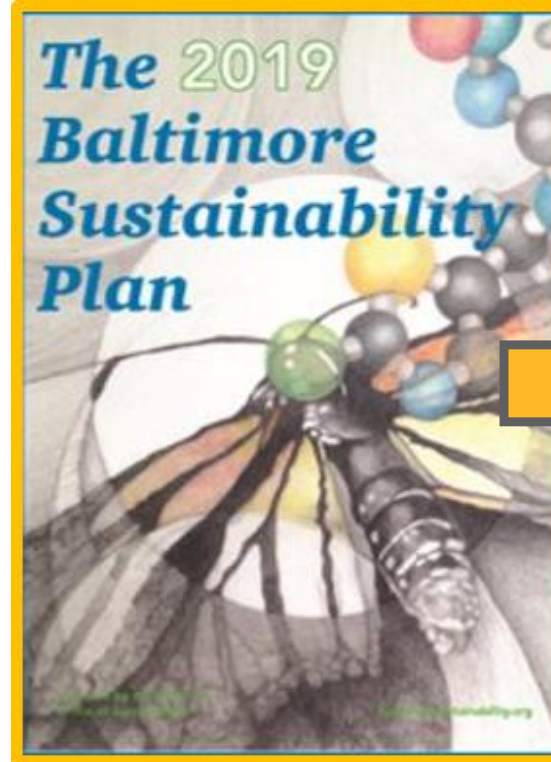
"The Commission shall prepare a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan and, from time to time, recommend appropriate amendments to the Plan."

Annual Reports -

"The Commission shall report annually to the City Council on its activities."

Commission Staff -

"The Department of Planning (Office of Sustainability) will provide staff for Commission in the development and implementation of the Plan."

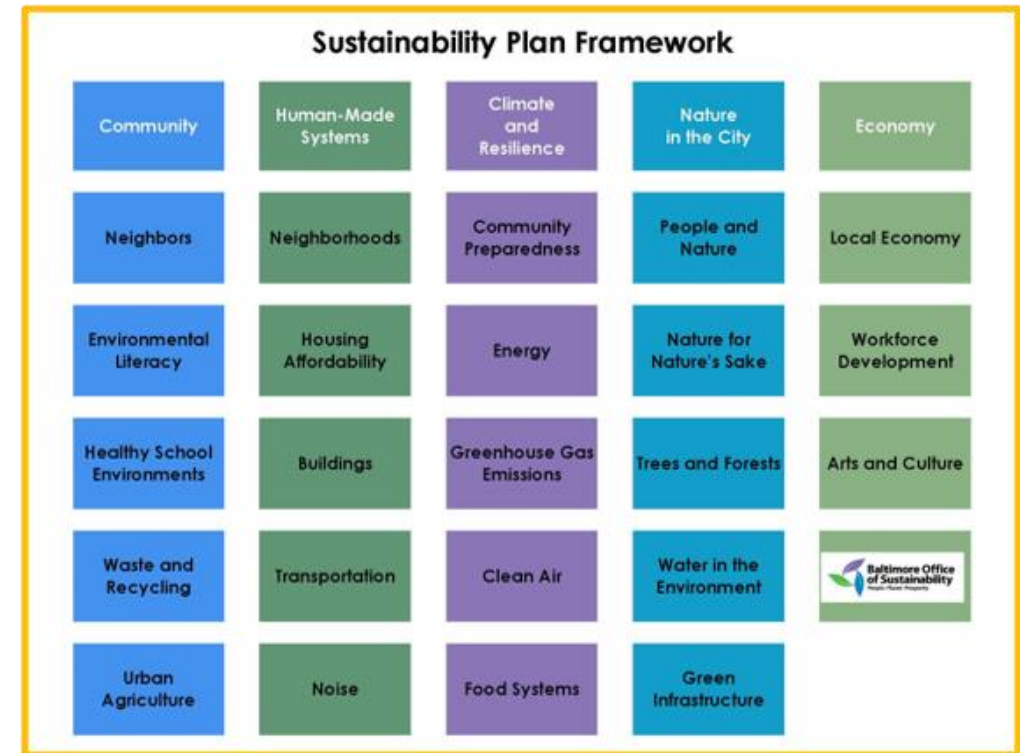


2019 Sustainability Plan Framework

Five Themes:

Community, Human-Made Systems, Climate and Resiliency, Nature in the City, and Economy

- 23 topics ranging from Food to Affordable Housing to Neighbors
- 70 strategies with 244 actions
- 78 measures of success



Sustainability Plan Annual Reporting Commitment

"Achieving the goals set forth in the Sustainability Plan will require the creativity, commitment, and participation of all of us. No single entity alone—not the government, nor any one person or community— can transform Baltimore into a more sustainable and equitable city. We can only do it together. There is a role for every resident, community organization, business, faith-based organization, and institution in making this vision for Baltimore a reality."

"Advancing the goals of this plan requires more than just a commitment to act, it requires a commitment to be held accountable. A way for us to reach our equity goals is to ensure that we are learning from our failures and our successes. Tracking our progress and monitoring our ability to advance equity and sustainability goals are essential responsibilities of the plan."



2023 Annual Report Outline

Annual Report Content

- Cover
- About Us
- Executive Summary
- Message from the Commission
- **Community**
- **Human-Made Systems**
- **Climate & Resilience**
- **Nature in the City**
- **Economy**
- 2024 Sustainability Agenda
- Sustainable Strategies & Actions
- Commissioners, Staff, & Acknowledgements
- Back Cover

6 | Community

Community

Community-Led Placemaking in the ROW

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) re-branded its application process for public projects taking place on roadways, sidewalks, alleys, and other public thoroughfares maintained by the City (the "Right-of-Way" or ROW) as the Community-Led Placemaking Program, updating the guidelines to be clearer and more user-friendly with the goal of enhancing the impact and reach of this opportunity for activating public spaces at the neighborhood level. ROW projects are a great way to bring communities together and to increase the beauty and safety of our shared spaces.

One such project completed in 2022 was a re-design of four crosswalks surrounding Johnston Square Elementary School in east Baltimore, where concerned community members had observed high levels of speeding and of cars not yielding to pedestrians. The Rebuild Johnston Square neighborhood organization and the Made You Look Initiative (a project of graduate students from the Maryland Institute College of Art's Center for Social Design to use public art for traffic calming) came together to design large, colorful, eye-catching murals for the crosswalks, which were then painted by volunteers, while DOT installed new curb bump-outs to further slow cars down and give pedestrians safer places to stand.



Neighbors Environmental Literacy Healthy School Environments Waste and Recycling Urban Agriculture

Community | 7



Additional Accomplishments

Neighbors:

- Youth Grantmakers (YG), a permanent, youth-led grantmaking body, launched its inaugural cohort. YGs allocated \$525,000 in resources to support Baltimore City youth ages 16-24.

Environmental Literacy & Healthy School Environments:

- 203 teachers received professional development sessions on systemic professional development days covering best practices for outdoor learning, schoolyard gardens, and the National Aquarium's "What Lives in the Harbor" program.
- 35 schools received updated, more efficient and effective HVAC systems, representing 21% of the school system.
- As of 2022, all City public schools designated a Wellness lead who is responsible for increasing student physical activity with support provided by the district in the form of new resources and lesson plans.
- The EPA's Clean School Bus Program rebate competition awarded over \$9.4 million from in federal funds to Baltimore City Public Schools to help the district purchase 25 electric school buses that will accelerate the transition to zero emissions vehicles and produce cleaner air in and around schools and communities.

Waste & Recycling:

- In fall 2022, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works hired its first Zero-Waste Manager to advance zero waste infrastructure across the city, enhance recycling, and support waste diversion efforts.
- GRASS Baltimore, a new glass reuse cooperative venture, received both private and state grant funding and launched operations in southwest Baltimore.
- An estimated 20 million single-use plastic bags were prevented from entering our environment through the use of alternative bags throughout Baltimore City in 2022.

Neighbors Environmental Literacy Healthy School Environments Waste and Recycling Urban Agriculture

Data Snapshot:
Baltimore City Public Schools with Local, Potable Water from Drinking Fountains
Source: BCPS

40 Schools

Due to concerns about possible lead contamination from old pipes, Baltimore City Public Schools ceased using the water fountains in almost all its buildings in 2002, instead using water coolers throughout the system, which creates significant expense and environmental impacts from trucking. As of 2022, thanks to new construction, renovation, and updated drinking fountains, 40 city public schools now have clean, local, potable drinking water from fountains.

Data Snapshot:
Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) Recycling Rate (2011-2021)
Source: MDE



Year	Recycling Rate (%)
2011	28
2012	20
2013	18
2014	19
2015	18
2016	18
2017	24
2018	24
2019	22
2020	15
2021	22

After 2012, ash from incinerated waste was no longer considered a recyclable material for use as a landfill cover material; this reduced the City's MRA defined recycling rate. In 2020, recycling pickup was suspended, reducing the MRA recycling rate.

Neighbors Environmental Literacy Healthy School Environments Waste and Recycling Urban Agriculture



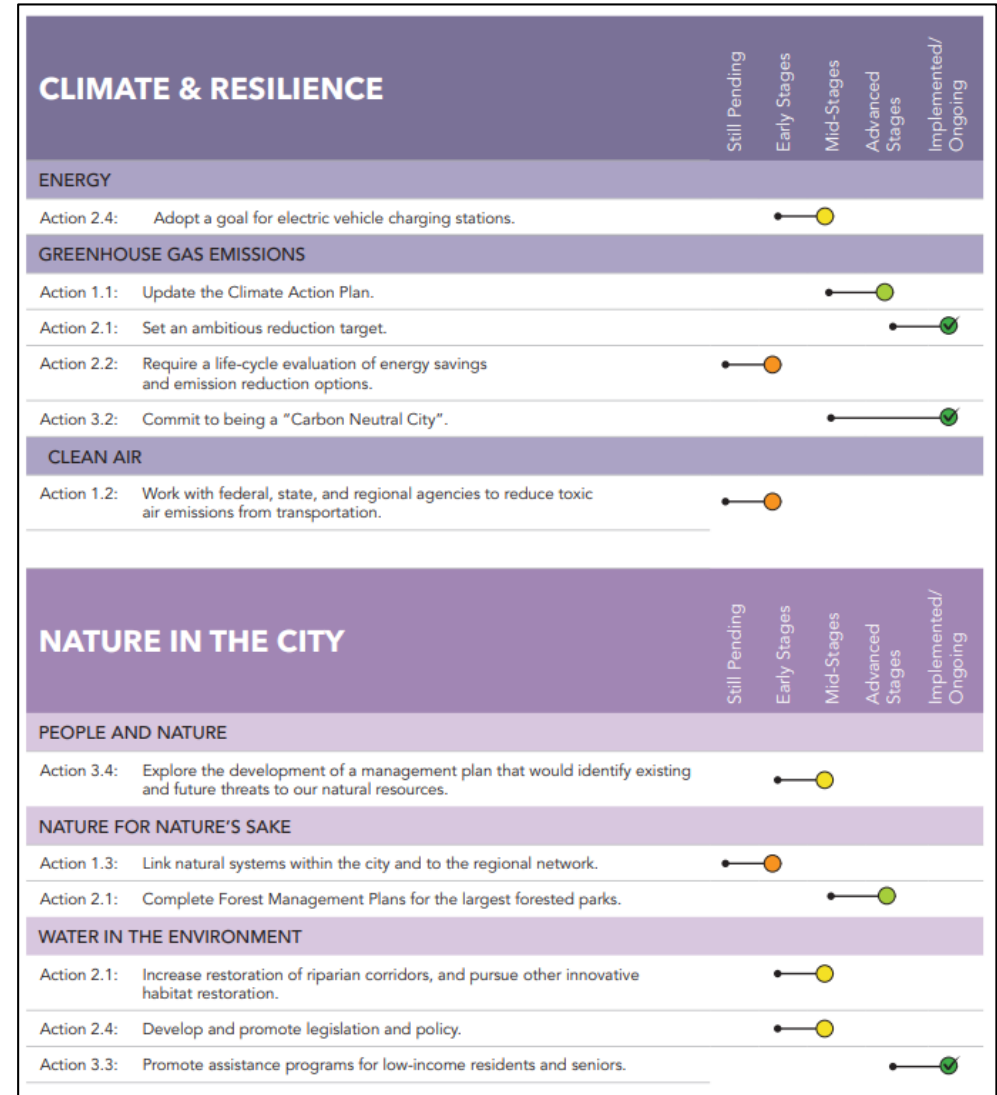
Status of Strategies and Actions

2022 Annual Report

- 110 actions, or 45%, reached mid-stages of or beyond
- 82% of the actions reached early-stage or beyond
- 11 actions reached 'completed' status

2023 Annual Report (preliminary)

- 130 actions, or 54%, have reached mid-stages of or beyond
- 88% of the actions reached early-stage or beyond
- 21 actions reached 'completed' status



Accomplishments: Community

Neighbors –

- Department of Planning is working to make the zoning code more easily digestible to non-practitioners.
- Introduction of FreeBmoreWiFi, which will be expanded to service all recreation centers.
- A new Equity Coordinator position has been created in the Department of Planning to establish measures and assist with improving equitable community engagement with residents.

Environmental Literacy –

- In SY 2023-24, the Curriculum Management Plan identifies environmental literacy content as Integrated Curriculum.
- DPW Launched EcoWarriors competition to encourage school communities to take sustainable actions
- Assistance offered to small, black-run nonprofits and companies navigating BCPSS procurement system
- 30 grounds staff attended tree care workshops led by the Baltimore Tree Trust

Heathy School Environments –

- HVAC projects were completed at 12 schools.
- Env. compliance manager participating as an IAQ Fellow with USGBC's Center for Green Schools and staff attended an IAQ training and are developing an IAQ plan.
- **All 155 BCPSS schools have a Community Site Coordinator/Site Specialist.**
- 25 electric school buses to added to the school system's fleet, funded through the EPA Clean School Bus Program rebate competition.



Accomplishments: Community

Waste & Recycling –

- EPA has awarded DPW with a SWIFR grant to support construction of a compost facility co-located with the proposed east side transfer station currently in development.
- CCB # 23-0466 Recyclable Materials and Yard Waste – Disposal introduced: “For the purpose of prohibiting the disposal of recyclable materials and yard waste in a landfill or an incinerator”.

Urban Agriculture –

- \$1.5 million grant agreement with the Farm Alliance of Baltimore (FAB) to build out the infrastructure of the Black Butterfly Teaching Farm in Farring-Baybrook Park.
- DOP Food Policy Division partnered with Morgan State University and the Aspen Institute to launch Open Access Baltimore, a free online portal for food entrepreneurs to utilize resources for capital, permitting, licensing, and training.
- DOP's Food Policy and Planning Division facilitated a contract growing partnership between the Farm Alliance of Baltimore and The Common Market, a produce box vendor.



Accomplishments: Human-Made Systems

Neighborhoods –

- **The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) is pursuing the creation of a Historic Conservation District program in response to communities that are interested in historic designation that is less stringent in design review requirements than the current local historic district designation.** Once a draft of the program is approved by CHAP, staff will work with the Mayor and City Council to introduce enabling legislation.
- **Affordable Housing Trust Fund - ongoing, yearly funding for new construction and preservation of existing rental housing rentals; Housing Accelerator - \$30 million for affordable housing rental units; Developer Incentive Program - revitalization of formally vacant houses located in Impact Investment Areas for households earning no more than 80% of the area median income.**
- CCB 22-0204 passed in 2023 - establishes a fee structure for repeated substantiated 311 service requests to fine the owner of a vacant structure for repeated service requests.
- City Council held informational hearings on recommendations from a 30-day review of strategies to eliminate vacant and abandoned properties.

Housing Affordability -

- Landmark agreement to combat vacant and abandoned properties, which calls for strategic public investment to redevelop a minimum of 37,500 properties, with a clear plan to address as many as 45,000 properties. The Scott administration pledged city investment of \$300 million over 15 years to spark the project.



Accomplishments: Human-Made Systems

Buildings –

- In 2023, an ordinance was enacted that requires newly constructed buildings and additions partly financed using City funds to adhere to specified cool roofing requirements (with certain exceptions).
- The State of Maryland has adopted the 2021 edition of IBC, IRC, IECC, IgCC & IEBC for (I) COMAR 09.12.50 Model Performance Code & COMAR 09.12.51 Maryland Building Performance Standards, (II) COMAR 09.12.57 International Green Construction Code and (III) COMAR 09.12.58 Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code Regulations.
- In 2023, the Baltimore SHINES program led by Civic Works completed 98.55 kW of solar installs for 17 Baltimore residences.

Transportation –

- DOT is undertaking a Transit Gaps Study.
- MTA re-started planning for the Red Line.
- U.S. Department of Transportation awarded Baltimore City a \$9.9 million Safe Streets for All grant, slated for demonstration projects for the City's implementation of Complete Streets.



Accomplishments: Climate & Resilience

Community Preparedness –

- **2023 DP3 Update adopted.**
- \$7.3 million FEMA grant awarded to support solar + battery storage for up to 16 Resilience Hubs.

Energy –

- EV goal established for City fleet - by 2030, all procurements for the City’s administrative fleet – comprised of light-duty, standard-occupancy vehicles, including sedans, small pickups, and SUVs – will be required to be zero emission vehicles, mostly likely all electric.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions -

- **Climate Action Plan Update completed.**



Accomplishments: Climate & Resilience

Clean Air –

- **Baltimore City’s Code Red Extreme Heat program has established a coordinated approach to providing Code Red alerts and cooling relief to vulnerable populations during periods of severe heat in the summer months.**
- US Dept of Energy awarded City Schools the highly selective Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (CLASS) Prize which provides \$100K and 140 hours of technical assistance.

Food Systems –

- DOP's Food Policy & Planning Division executed a \$450,000 grant agreement with MedStar Harbor Hospital to implement their Food Rx program, which provides patients with produce to improve diet -related health outcomes.
- Food Resilience was incorporated into the 2023 Disaster Preparedness Plan update.



Accomplishments: Nature in the City

People & Nature –

- Masonville Cove Connector is a spur of the Greenway Trail Network that will provide access to Masonville Cove wildlife refuge and environmental education center for residents of Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Curtis Bay and other areas. This is being built by the Maryland Port Administration and they are currently conducting public outreach around South Baltimore on several schematic design options.
- Temple X Schools is working with the US Forest Service to map forests and worship centers in Baltimore and identify opportunities for stewardship. This is connected to the USFS's ongoing STEW-MAP project.
- The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is managing the Patapsco Regional Greenway, which will be a 40-mile trail that would run from Carroll County through Ellicott City along the Patapsco River and connect to Reimagine Middle Branch trails and the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network at Reedbird Park. BMC is working to close the missing links along this proposed path including the last mile within the city limits.

Nature for Nature's Sake –

- In 2023, BCRP experienced both gains and losses in protected park land. A few parcels in Port Covington will be dedicated as public parks. A portion of Clifton Park was sold to Morgan State University.
- Maryland State Forest Conservation regulation update (SB 526) passed in 2023 re-established forest banking as a mitigation option for local programs and will allow Forest Conservation credit for restoration of degraded forests.



Accomplishments: Nature in the City

Trees & Forests –

- BCRP-Forestry is working on an updated recommended street tree species list, adjusted for climate change considerations and is also working with researchers to develop a metric to help increase tree diversity at local level.
- Council Bill 23-0465 (Tree Removal on City Property) introduced in 2023.

Water in the Environment –

- The Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force was established under state law to make recommendations to modernize the governance of the Baltimore region's water and wastewater utilities to help ensure residents efficiently, equitably and sustainably receive high-quality services.
- E. coli bacteria and cryptosporidium (parasite) contamination experienced in parts of Baltimore in 2023.

Green Infrastructure -

- DPW has developed standard specifications for green infrastructure projects. They are expected to be fully completed in 2024.
- Ghost Rivers project in Remington tells the story of underground/buried streams through art and signage installations.



Points for Further Discussion

- **Do Commission Members have thoughts on priorities to share in Message from the Commission?**
- **Is anything missing?**
Please share additional accomplishments!
- **What are the biggest accomplishments to highlight?**
Share your thoughts on the top accomplishments.
- **How can we better balance sharing good news with the commitment to transparency and accountability?**
Share your thoughts on how we might share successes while acknowledging shortcomings or failures.



Thank You!



@sustainbmore



@Baltimore City Office of Sustainability



@baltimoresustainability



@SustainBmore

BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW

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