

# Baltimore City Commission on Sustainability



Monthly Meeting  
August 21, 2024; 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm



“...toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable city.”

# Agenda

## **Welcome Updates**

- Office of Sustainability Updates
- Roll Call
- Commission Updates

**Recognition of Plans:** Role of the Commission

**Climate 101 Briefing:** Air Quality Monitoring

**Energy & Economy:** Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

**Public Comment**

**Next Meeting:** September 18, 2024; **4:30 – 7:30 pm**

**In-Person** at Montgomery Park Business Center



# Sustainability Updates

Conservation Corps  
Member

**Gaile Mallon**

*Community  
Engagement &  
Environmental Literacy*

Reimagine Middle Branch  
Resiliency Manager

**Natalie Cohen**

*Climate Adaptation*



# 2023 Annual Report Released!

## annual report 2023



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

10 | Climate & Resilience

## Climate & Resilience

### Climate Action Plan Update

With robust input from communities, the BOS undertook a vigorous process to update the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), initially developed in 2012. This ten-year plan is a roadmap to reaching a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 over 2007 levels. It will also play a vital role in helping us reach our goal of carbon neutrality by 2045.

Baltimore's carbon neutrality goal aligns with goals set in the Paris Agreement, a promise made by nearly 200 countries around the world to work together to fight climate change and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. Each country or jurisdiction decides what they can do to help reduce their GHG emissions. It is a global effort to keep our planet and people safe. Similarly, under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, the State of Maryland aims to reduce emissions 60% below 2006 level by 2031 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

Baltimore's CAP Update contains five focus areas: Electricity, Buildings, Transportation, Waste, and Nature-based solutions that remove carbon.

Every three years, BOS commissions a study of GHG emissions to identify the greatest sources of pollution in Baltimore. Buildings, including the energy used to power, heat and cool them are the greatest source of pollution, followed by transportation and waste that goes to landfills or incinerators. The CAP Update prioritizes actions that address the greatest sources of GHG emissions and nature-based climate solutions that help alleviate the impact of emissions while providing community benefits for the public like increasing public health and economic prosperity, creating jobs, and providing more opportunities for the people who live, work, play, learn, grow and age in Baltimore to connect as they play their parts in making the City more climate resilient, equitable and sustainable.

### Greening the City Fleet

This year, Mayor Scott signed City Council Bill 21-0159 into law, which will help facilitate a transition to zero emissions vehicles for the City's administrative 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. Reports by peer municipalities indicate there are significant long-term cost savings in having an all-electric administrative fleet due to lower fuel and operations costs.

City agencies have already begun piloting EVs as part of their fleet operations, including some funded as part of the Maryland Energy Administration's Smart Energy Communities Program. Recently, a Ford Mach-E was delivered for the Comptroller's Office, an all-electric cargo van has been purchased by DPW as the vehicle for their GROW Center program, and 19 more EV purchases were made by the Department of General Services Fleet Division.



Above - Bill signing event establishing an EV goal for the City's administrative fleet. Photo by J.J. McQueen.

### Additional Accomplishments

#### Neighbors:

- The Department of Planning (DOP) is working to make the zoning code more easily digestible to non-practitioners.
- A new Equity Coordinator position has been created with DOP to establish equity measures and assist with improving equitable community engagement with residents.

#### Environmental Literacy & Healthy School Environments:

- In SY 2023-24, the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) Curriculum Management Plan identified environmental literacy content as part of the Integrated Curriculum.
- DPW launched the EcoWarriors competition to encourage school communities to take sustainable actions.
- BCPSS began offering assistance to small, black-run nonprofits and companies navigating BCPSS procurement system.
- The Baltimore Tree Trust lead tree care workshops for 30 BCPSS grounds staff.

#### Healthy School Environments:

- HVAC projects were completed at 12 schools.
- A BCPSS environmental compliance manager participated as an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Fellow with the US Green Building Council'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.

#### Urban Agriculture:

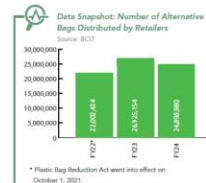
- The DOP Food Policy Division partnered with Morgan State University and the Aspen Institute to launch Open Access Baltimore, a free online portal for food entrepreneurs to utilize resources for capital, permitting, licensing, and training.

Community | 7



#### Waste & Recycling:

- City Council Bill # 23-0466 Recyclable Materials and Yard Waste – Disposal was introduced. For the purpose of prohibiting the disposal of recyclable materials and yard waste in a landfill or an incinerator.



#### Data Snapshot: Plastic Bag Reduction

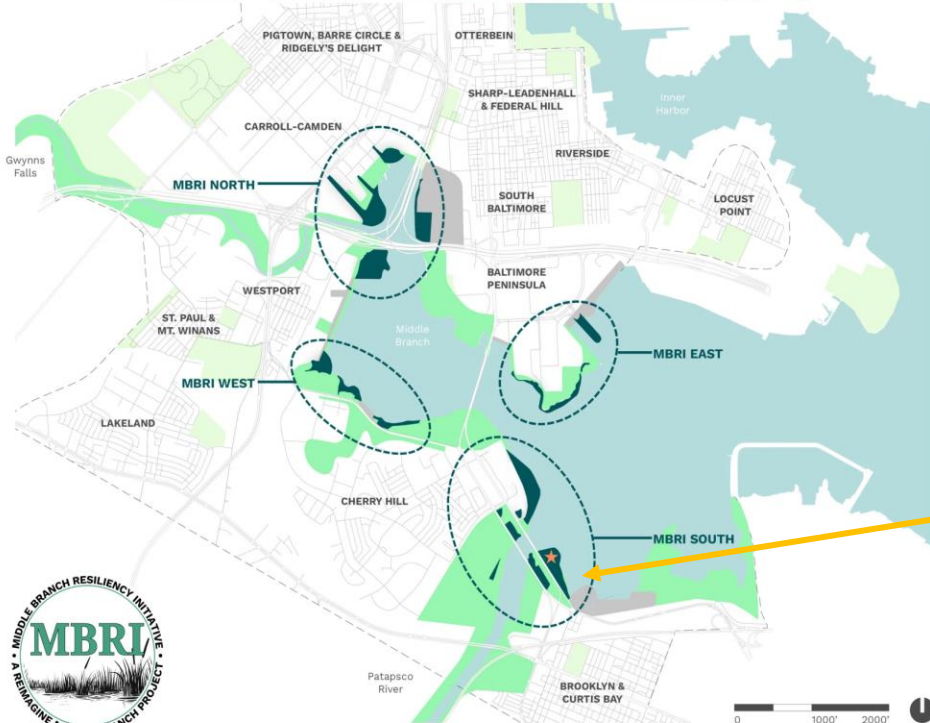
Act 311 Complaints and Citations Issued  
Source: Open Baltimore

Year	311 Complaints	Citations Issued**
FY22*	31	25
FY23	28	12
FY24	30	-

• Plastic Bag Reduction Act went into effect on October 1, 2021.  
\*\* Environmental Citations reported through March 2023.

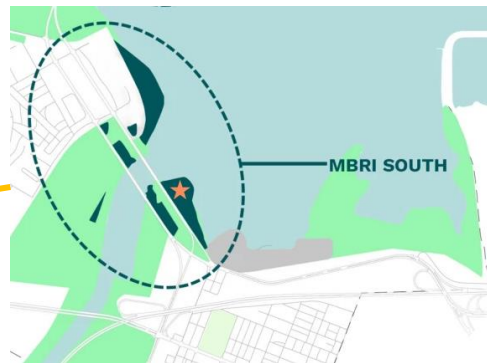
# Reimagine Middle Branch Updates

## MIDDLE BRANCH RESILIENCY INITIATIVE (MBRI)



## Wetland Restoration Project

- Where: Hanover Street Wetlands
- Start Date: August 2024
- Goals:
  - Create 10 acres of wetlands south of Medstar Harbor Hospital



# BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY 2024 MEETING TOPICS



Baltimore Office of Sustainability  
People · Planet · Prosperity

July 17

Energy & Economy:  
Overview of Legislation

August 21

Energy & Economy:  
Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

September 18

Energy & Economy Site Visit

October 16

Climate Action Planning: Waste

November 20

Climate Action Planning: Transportation

December 18

Climate Action Planning Site Visit



## Sustain B'more

August 2024 | Issue 51

### Green Healthy Smart Challenge Grants for Schools, Sustainability Highlights, Funding & Job Opportunities and more!

Dear Baltimore Office of Sustainability Friends,

This summer has been a hot one!

At the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, we love to visit farmers markets and enjoy the beautiful forests, parks and the waterfront during the summer. While we're enjoying some more moderate summer temperatures today, throughout the summer, we've seen people struggle and some of our cherished iconic events cut short by soaring temperatures and powerful storms that demonstrate the impact of climate change. Tragically, as a city and a community, we've experienced the loss of lives due to extreme heat.

In the midst of a summer marked by extreme weather, we urge everyone to be aware of the resources available and precautions we all can take to stay safe and to share with others in need. Baltimoreans can register for city's emergency alert notifications through [B'MORE Alert](#). Residents may also call 311 or visit the Department of Health website for additional updates and cooling center activations (<https://health.baltimorecity.gov/coderedinfo>) to get more information about whether an extreme heat or air quality alert has been activated.

We'd also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community partners whose diligent work has helped keep people safe and healthy in communities across Baltimore during extreme weather event, including the [Community Resiliency Hubs](#) and the City's cooling centers.

Much summer lies ahead, and we wish you a happy and safe season.

Happy Reading!  
Baltimore Office of Sustainability Staff





## 2024-2025 GREEN, HEALTHY, SMART CHALLENGE

Schools in Baltimore City can apply for support for student-led environmental sustainability and greening initiatives.

Amounts range from

**\$1,300 - \$1,800**

- Schools *not* designated as a Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Green School are eligible to apply for up to \$1,300.
- Schools designated as a MAEOE Green School are eligible to apply for up to \$1,800.
- Applicants will receive an approval or denial outcome letter in early-mid November

*Applications will be accepted from **August 19th to October 21st***

Scan the QR code or go to the URL below to submit your application  
<https://forms.gle/dNTKSUNuVaXiwzn5A>



Questions? For more information or help with your application, please contact Ebony Smith at [ebone.smith@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:ebone.smith@baltimorecity.gov).



**BALTIMORE CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## Turtle Tip of the Month

### Turtle Tips: Summer Energy Reduction

Summertime can lead to increase use of energy and energy bills. Here are a few tips to reduce your energy consumption.

1. **Natural light:** On cooler or more moderate heat days, draw back your curtains to let the sunshine in to light your home.
2. **Use fans:** Most fans require less energy than air conditioning. You can use less air conditioning if you use fans to circulate cool air while you operate your air conditioner.
3. **Sign up for an energy savings program:** Most utility providers offer programs that can help you reduce the energy used in your home with smart thermostats and other resources. Contact your provider to inquire.
4. **Enjoy the outdoors:** Switch off your television or computer and head outside to enjoy some adventures in your neighborhoods or walkable parks.



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# Funding Updates & Opportunities

## Federal Funding

- Safe Streets and Roads For All Grant
  - Due: August 29, 2024
- EPA Community Change Grants
  - Due: November 21, 2024
- Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program
  - Due: November 30, 2024
- Direct/Elective Pay Incentives



# Funding Updates & Opportunities

## Non-Federal Funding

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
  - Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway
    - Outcome 5 Proposal due Sept 18, 2024
    - Outcome 1-4 due Dec 13, 2024
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
  - Outreach and Restoration Grant Program
    - Due: Aug 29, 2024
  - Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities
    - Due: Oct 24, 2024
  - Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant



# Federal Funding Opportunities

## EPA Community Change Grant

Up to *\$20 million* in funding

Track 1 & 2

Rolling deadline until November 21, 2024

Funding can support NBS, housing, transportation, energy, resilience, hubs++

## Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

Up to *\$350,000* in funding

Assessment Project Applications due April 30, 2025

Planning Project Applications due April 30, 2025

Development Project Applications due November 30, 2024

Funding can support research and surveying, community engagement, or engineering and permitting projects

## Direct/Elective Pay

- Allows non-taxable entities to obtain up to 40% in tax credits
- Eligible investments: renewable energy, energy generation, EV purchases, carbon capture technologies
- The city to incorporate clean energy projects into the capital planning/purchasing

**Contact:** Dan Goldberg,  
[daniel.goldberg@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:daniel.goldberg@baltimorecity.gov)

# Thank You!



## BALTIMORE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW

Email: [sustainability@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:sustainability@baltimorecity.gov)



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