

annual report 2024



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

About Us

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability acts as a resource, catalyst, and an advocate in creating an equitable and resilient Baltimore. We integrate environmental integrity, social equity, and economic prosperity into plans, practices, and policies. Our aim is to provide innovative solutions to our city's challenges while engaging, inspiring and collaborating with all sectors of Baltimore.

We define sustainability as “meeting the current environmental, social, and economic needs of our community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet these needs”.

The Baltimore Sustainability Commission was created by the City Council in 2007 to oversee the implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The Commission is comprised of 20 members appointed by the Mayor and one City Council member appointed by the City Council President. The Commission is made up of members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry.

As we implement the 2019 Sustainability Plan, we will expand our expertise and collaborate deeply with government, community, non-profit and institutional partners and make sure that implementation is inclusive, equitable and innovative.



Message from the Sustainability Commission

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability was honored to serve as dedicated and engaged partners with the Baltimore Office of Sustainability in 2024. Throughout the year, Commission meetings and events fostered productive discussions, expanded climate literacy, and recognized the meaningful work underway across Baltimore to make the city more sustainable and resilient.

The year began with new faces and updated priorities. The Commission welcomed two new commission members – Phil Costa and Morgan Grove. Both are experienced with implementing sustainable practices in their professional roles as well as partnering with organizations across Baltimore to increase the impact of their work. In February, the Commission voted to adopt the 2024 Climate Action Plan, which will guide City and community actions toward carbon neutrality by 2045.

Commission members and staff worked together early in the year to plan out a full year of meetings and events aligning with Baltimore’s sustainability goals. The schedule was organized around quarterly themes: Policy & Legislation, Neighbors & Communities, Energy &

Economy, and Climate Action. The schedule brought our meetings to locations around the city, and the themes provided opportunities for collaborations including:

- An April meeting at Open Works in Greenmount West, including a tour of the maker-space and a panel discussion with organizations leading community development work in the Johnston Square neighborhood.
- A joint meeting with the Planning Commission in May at Unity Hall in Bolton Hill
- A joint event with MDE and MEA at Montgomery Park that provided building energy performance information and networking opportunities, and
- A December meeting hosted by the Baltimore Convention Center, featuring the climate action efforts of large event and hospitality venues.

As always, the highlight of the year was the annual Sustainability Open House which took place at the new Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center in Cherry Hill.



Above: Phil Costa and Morgan Grove were appointed to the Commission on Sustainability by Mayor Scott. Photo by J.J. McQueen.
Right: Commission member Lisa Ferretto shares paper pinwheels with Turtle at the Open House. Photo by BOS Staff.



Community

Adoption of Long-Term Plans

Two important plans to guide the future of Baltimore were rolled out in 2024.

“Our Baltimore, Your Baltimore”, the City’s first Comprehensive Plan since 2006, was adopted by the City Council November 2024. The focus of ‘Our Baltimore, Your Baltimore’ is the spaces, places, and neighborhoods that make Baltimore home. The plan is intended to guide equitable neighborhood development over the next 10 years and beyond. The purpose of Our Baltimore is to advance policies that support current residents and make Baltimore an inviting place to live.

The Department of Public Works’ Solid Waste Management Plan is a regulatory plan submitted to the Maryland Department of Environment to map operational needs, constraints and improvements for waste management within the city for the next 10 years. The plan consolidates goals for managing the solid waste stream, assesses the existing solid waste collection systems, current and future disposal capacity needs, and how zero waste strategies like reuse, recycling, and composting are to be implemented.



Above - Mayor Scott joined DPW for the relaunch of weekly recycling for all households.- Photo by J.J. McQueen

Spotlight on Environmental Literacy

The Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge (GHSC) is a small funding award program, administered by the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability, that supports student-led sustainability projects in Baltimore City Public Schools. During the 2023–2024 school year, 29 teams received funding to implement initiatives that promote environmental awareness, healthy living, and school greening.

One of those teams, the Green Team at James McHenry Middle School, is leading environmental change through collaborative leadership and the implementation of a myriad of hands-on initiatives. Formed in Fall 2024, the Green Team includes 6th–8th grade students committed to promoting sustainability and environmental awareness. Meeting weekly, the team welcomes new members throughout the school year, encouraging ongoing student involvement and fresh ideas. Their first project—a sharing table—offers a space where students can leave or take uneaten, packaged food items, reducing waste and supporting their peers. This simple yet impactful initiative promotes a culture of reuse and responsibility and may expand to include items like clothing or school supplies.

Looking ahead, the Green Team plans to launch school beautification projects such as planting gardens and green spaces. These efforts aim to educate students on the benefits of green infrastructure, pollination, and food systems, with potential interdisciplinary connections to science coursework. The team also intends to strengthen recycling efforts throughout the school by providing more bins, conducting audits, and educating classmates on proper sorting. Plans to collect e-waste and host themed Recycling Week activities are also underway.

By combining creativity, leadership, and environmental action, the James McHenry Green Team is fostering a culture of sustainability that will benefit the school and community for years to come.



Additional Accomplishments

Neighbors:

- Baltimore Votes, fiscally sponsored by No Boundaries Coalition, developed a Ballot Question Voter Guide for the 2024 election.
- The Mayor’s Office of Children & Family Success launched ‘Bmore This Summer’, a summer youth engagement strategy centered around providing events, opportunities, and resources for young people to enjoy themselves in a safe environment outside of school hours.

Environmental Literacy:

- Eight City schools became certified or renewed certification; a total of 32 schools are certified Green Schools.
- The Green Healthy Smart Challenge awarded funds to 29 school green teams in SY 2023-2024, and 72 schools took part in the 2024 Eco-Warriors Program led by DPW.

Waste & Recycling

- A waste working group led by DPW’s Office of Waste Diversion is engaging procurement staff to incorporate sustainable materials management into the procurement process.
- Weekly recycling returned to all households after many months of scaled down service.

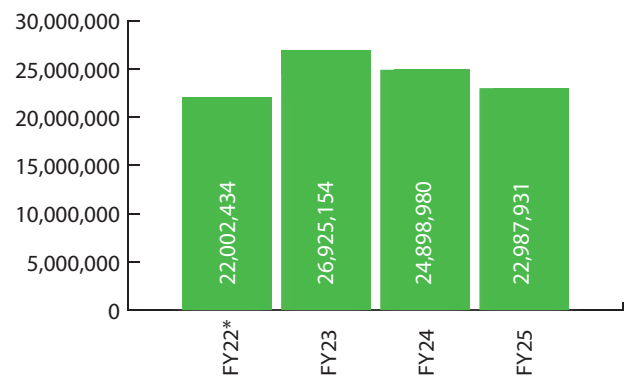
Urban Agriculture

- Backyard Basecamp farm in Baltimore now offers courses and hands-on learning as part of the Community College of Baltimore County’s new Credit Certificate program in Urban Farming through the Sustainable Horticulture Program.
- The Farm Alliance hosted 13 field days and classes with over 200 attendees, building skills, connections, and community knowledge. They engaged over 500 community members in 48 cooking demos at member farm sites and held their third annual Community Day at the Black Butterfly Teaching Farm.



Data Snapshot: Number of Alternative Bags Distributed by Retailers

Source: BCIT



* Plastic Bag Reduction Act went into effect on October 1, 2021.



Data Snapshot: Plastic Bag Reduction Act 311 Complaints and Citations Issued

Source: Open Baltimore

Year	311 Complaints	Citations Issued
FY22*	31	25
FY23	23	13
FY24	20	16
FY25	15	15

* Plastic Bag Reduction Act went into effect on October 1, 2021.

Human-Made Systems

New Policies and Investments Increase Affordable and Sustainable Housing

Baltimore made strides toward creating more sustainable and fair housing for residents in 2024. A few examples include awarding \$29.8 million through the City's Housing Accelerator Fund and expanding Baltimore City's Rental Assistance Program. The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) announced the expansion of the Housing Plus Program to provide 36 additional permanent supportive housing units, for a total of 50 dwelling units in conventional housing developments owned by HABC, for eligible households and individuals experiencing homelessness. Baltimore ordinances are requiring more new buildings or additions partially financed by the City to include cool roof features. The City's electricity procurement complies with the MD Renewable Portfolio Standard, meaning that it sells and buys Renewable Energy Credits which can also create revenue for Baltimore. Approximately 200 City buildings are benchmarked in Energy Star Portfolio Manager, and municipal buildings that are undergoing renovations or upgrades have received energy audits to ensure efficient use of energy.

Ordinance 24-308, Inclusionary Housing for Baltimore City, requires many newly constructed market rental projects and rental projects that are substantially rehabbed or converted from a non-residential housing use that receive a major public subsidy or benefit from significant land use authorization to make 10% of units Inclusionary Units for a



30-year period where tenants earning 50% or less of the median income tenants pay below market rate and not more than the maximum affordable rent established by HUD. Inclusionary housing creates affordable units as part of a market rate project by requiring the creation of units when a project receives a benefit from the city such as a tax credit or a grant. Also, Governor Moore announced a \$50.8 million investment over 5 years to create more affordable housing and rehabilitate vacant buildings through the Baltimore Vacants Reinvestment Initiative.

Community-based organizations broke ground or opened new sustainable and affordable housing projects in Baltimore in 2024. Hope Village, an organization that aims to end housing insecurity for low-income working people by turning vacant land into communities of brand-new, detached affordable homes, had 23 units constructed in the Oliver community. South Baltimore Community Land Trust completed several permanently affordable housing units and broke ground on an environmental justice center. Enterprise Community Development broke ground on the Greens at Irvington Mews II and Park Heights Place, which will offer 140+ energy-efficient, affordable homes for seniors and formerly homeless veterans. The two projects expand Enterprise's affordable housing footprint in Baltimore which includes 18 communities serving 2,100 residents.





Additional Accomplishments

Neighborhoods:

- The Just Communities Act was signed into law by Governor Wes Moore during the 2024 Legislative Session. Effective July 1, 2024, this Act authorizes the governor, on recommendation by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary, to designate areas as Just Communities based on specific criteria including a history of redlining, exclusionary zoning, high imprisonment rates, and unequal exposure to environmental or health hazards.

Buildings:

- The City Council approved the City's adoption of the 2021 editions of the International Building Code, International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, International Energy Conservation Code, and International Green Conservation Code.

Transportation:

- The Maryland Transit Administration hosted open house meetings for the Baltimore Red Line to share potential route alignment options and to gather community input. The Maryland Transit Administration announced light rail as the project's transit mode.
- Baltimore's City Council passed CCB 24-0544 – Zoning – Harford Road Overlay District, intended to promote mixed-use development, improve the pedestrian experience, and increase transit access and ridership along Harford Road.

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Lower Left: Members of the City Council joined Mayor Scott for the signing of Ordinance 24-308, Inclusionary Housing for Baltimore City. Photo by J.J. McQueen

Upper Right: New detached affordable homes at Hope Village in Oliver. Photo by HCD Staff.

- DOT awarded E-Bike vouchers valued at \$750 for Baltimore City residents and up to \$2,000 for income-qualified Baltimore City residents. At least 50 percent of the vouchers were reserved for income-qualified residents, ensuring equitable access to the benefits of e-biking. An application period was open in the fall and then selected through a lottery and vetted for completeness and program compliance.
- The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Maryland Department of Transportation signed a memorandum of understanding prioritizing the resources and capacities of the two departments to accelerate the construction of development that catalyzes dense, mixed-use and mixed-income development within a half-mile of transit stations, also known as transit-oriented development.
- The City will invest \$44 million into its sidewalks and curb ramps over the next four years. This will include \$8 million for FY 25 and \$12 million for each of FY26, 27, and 28. Additionally, the City will appoint an ADA coordinator that will focus solely on maintaining the pedestrian rights of way.
- DOT has created a dedicated funding source for "Quickbuild" traffic safety interventions at high-crash locations around the City. Each year, DOT analyzes geographical crash data from the prior three years to identify intersections and corridor segments of concern. From these analyses, coupled with analyses pertaining to equity need and interference or connections with planned projects, DOT selects multiple locations for Quickbuild safety interventions.

Noise:

- Baltimore's City Council passed CCB 23-0367 – Prohibition – Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment, banning their use for City agencies and commercial landscaping companies, and phasing out residential use from 2025-2027.

Climate & Resilience

Community Preparedness Outreach and Resources

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been moving the needle of preparedness through planning, outreach, and action. In 2024, OEM completed the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which includes three critical additions to the pre-existing planning protocols. The Base Plan, National Response Framework, and Threat Annexes were added to ensure that the City is operating in alignment with Federal and State methodologies, as well as ensuring that there is sufficient attention being considered for a variety of nuanced crises that can impact Baltimore.

OEM provided community outreach and preparedness events for every zip code. They delivered educational and resource materials throughout the year, with intentional focus on access and functional needs, animal sheltering, and multi-language accessibility. As part of a direct inclusive approach, 46 residents were certified in the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program, preparing them to assist their communities in a time of a crisis. CERT trainings teach residents basic first aid, response protocols, and set expectations for residents who are willing and able to step up during tumultuous times. Trainings were offered quarterly, and all trainings were filled to capacity.



State and Legislation in Support of GHG Reductions



In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly passed key energy legislation including the WARMTH Act (HB397) or Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat, the Brighter Tomorrow Act (SB783) and updates to Maryland's EmPOWER (HB864) program. These legislative wins will spur the development of renewable energy projects, nudge government toward new technologies which support faster permit approvals for solar installations and better align existing programs with a statewide goals to reduce emissions. The WARMTH Act requires local utilities to explore the feasibility of geothermal energy infrastructure projects in low-income communities across the state. Geothermal is a carbon-free renewable energy option that can heat and cool buildings while leading to cost savings. The Brighter Tomorrow Act will create a new solar access program which providing up to \$7,500 for eligible households to install solar and requires local governments to provide streamlined permit approvals for solar energy projects.

Left: Joey Henderson, Director of OEM, awards certificates to participants completing the CERT program.

Above: Rooftop solar installation. Photo by Grid Alternatives. Next Page: Opening of the Pratt Free Market at the Southeast Anchor Library. Photo by DOP Staff.



Additional Accomplishments

Community Preparedness:

- The Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project (DP3) Update was completed and adopted.
- A \$7.3 million FEMA grant was awarded to support solar + battery storage for up to 16 Resilience Hubs.
- The City's Extreme Heat Working Group was selected as one of ten cities to be awarded \$20,000 through the NOAA Extreme Heat Tabletop Exercise Challenge.

Energy:

- Solar panel arrays installed on the roof of Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School are providing power to approximately 150 low- to moderate-income households in East Baltimore. Participating families will receive a 20-25% discount on BGE electricity costs.
- The Baltimore City Parking Authority was awarded the DOE SOLVE IT Prize of \$80,000 to support education and engagement on EV adoption across the city.
- The Parking Authority reports 145 existing publicly accessible EV chargers on city-owned land. Of these, 14 are DC fast chargers and the remaining are level-2 chargers.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Clean Air:

- USDOT has awarded more than \$11.5 million toward first-ever zero-exhaust-emissions locomotives at the Port of Baltimore. In total, three older, higher-emission locomotives will be replaced with new battery electric locomotives and a battery charger. CSX will use the battery electric locomotives in its Curtis Bay terminal.
- \$147 million was awarded to the Port of Baltimore in 2024 through the Clean Ports Program to decarbonize the port as it aims to achieve zero emission goals. The program will support the procurement of 213 new Zero Emission vehicles and equipment and the associated charging infrastructure.

Food Systems:

- The Food Policy & Planning Division (FPP) of DOP released the 2024 Baltimore City Food Environment Brief and updated the Healthy Food Priority Area map, the first update since 2018. Findings included:
 - In Baltimore City, 16.2% (94,472) of residents live in HFPAs.
 - In 2018, 23.5% (146,077) of residents lived in HFPAs. (Since 2018, Baltimore City's population has declined by 5% (36,452 residents).
- The FPP Division of DOP released the 2024 Baltimore City Food Environment Brief and updated the Healthy Food Priority Area map, the first update since 2018.
- FPP concluded the 4th cohort of Resident Food Equity Advisors, comprised of 14 HABC residents enrolled in SNAP, with a focus on improving online SNAP and digital equity.
- The Enoch Pratt Free Library launched the new Pratt Free Market, a free grocery store located inside the Southeast Anchor Library in the Highlandtown neighborhood. The Pratt Free Market is stocked with produce, dry goods, paper goods, and more available for free to those in the community who need it.



Nature in the City

Community Catalyst Funds Support Community Engagement with Forests

In 2024, four Baltimore organizations were awarded funding as part of a federal Inflation Reduction Act-supported grantmaking program through the Maryland Forest Service. The Baltimore awardees include: Audubon Mid-Atlantic – Baltimore Program, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, Baltimore Green Space, and Temple X Schools. These groups are all doing vital work to support community engagement with our forests.

Audubon Mid-Atlantic will be working with the Department of Recreation & Parks – Forestry Division to develop a transferable model for community-based forest stewardship in Lakeland Park. Baltimore Green Space is enhancing outreach and engagement programs centered on community forest patches. Both of these efforts are also supplemented by the Environmental Offset Grants Program managed by the Office of Sustainability.

The other two awards will support management of forests and urban wood reutilization. The Department of Recreation & Parks – Forestry Division was awarded funding to increase the capacity of the natural areas management unit. Temple X Schools is providing career training and forestry-based education for City residents around urban wood reutilization.

Swimmable Harbor Celebrated with a Splash

On Sunday June 23, 2024, Waterfront Partnership hosted the '2024 Harbor Splash.' This was the first public swim event in the Inner Harbor in over 40 years and allowed 150 swimmers to take the plunge. This event is demonstrated success of Waterfront Partnership's Healthy Harbor Initiative. The goal of this program is to, "transform the waterfront into an environmental, recreational, and educational amenity that is swimmable, fishable, and thriving with wildlife."

Waterfront Partnership collects water quality samples from five sites across the Inner Harbor Monday through Friday during the water recreation season. Samples are taken to a lab where they are analyzed according to the EPA's Recreational Water Quality Criteria. With this data, Waterfront Partnership creates a 'Healthy Harbor Report Card' that tracks water quality progress and is updated annually. Monitoring efforts have shown that water quality in the Inner Harbor generally meets the Maryland beach standard for swimming if there has not been a rain event within the past 48 hours.

Below: Mayor Scott and others enjoy a swim in the harbor at the 2024 Harbor Splash. - Photo by J.J. McQueen.





Additional Accomplishments

Nature for Nature's Sake:

- The Department of Recreation & Parks – Forestry Division has completed Forest Management Plans for Gwynns Falls Leakin Park, Herring Run Park, Druid Hill Park, and Cylburn Arboretum and is now implementing these plans to manage and restore City forests.
- In May, Governor Moore signed the Biodiversity and Agriculture Protection Act into law. The law will help farmers, park managers, and property owners who are battling many of the roughly 300 known invasive plants impacting gardens, parks, forests, and waterways. The law will create a path to prohibit more of these harmful plants from being propagated and sold within our state.

Trees & Forests:

- Mayor Scott signed the “Tree Removal on City Property” bill into law, codifying existing City policies protecting street and park trees.
- A fire swept through Camp Small on December 5th, burning through most of the material stored at the City’s wood recycling facility. The charred wood has found a new life through regional projects, including a wetland restoration project in the Middle Branch.
- Baltimore Tree Trust established a new Park Heights nursery focused on increasing the supply of native trees for planting in Baltimore.

People & Nature:

- Baltimore Tree Trust established a literary magazine exploring the relationship between people, trees, and green space in Baltimore.
- Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks was awarded \$1.5 million to fund the renovation of a campground at Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. The campground, including tent sites, a pavilion, restrooms and an amphitheater, will be renovated to create ADA-accessibility, and enhance opportunities to interact with nature in Baltimore City.

- Governor Moore signed legislation to create a task force that will oversee establishing Gwynns Falls State Park, to be managed as a ‘Partnership Park’.

Green Infrastructure/Water in the Environment:

- The Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative launched the Reel Rewards program that promotes sustainable fishing practices while controlling invasive species in the Middle Branch. Local fishers can receive \$30 per invasive fish head submitted as a part of this initiative. Species include the Northern Snakehead, Blue Catfish, and Flathead Catfish.
- DPW has completed GIS mapping of stormwater best management practices and green stormwater infrastructure sites throughout the city.
- In August, the National Aquarium opened the Harbor Wetland, a free outdoor exhibit located between Piers 3 and 4 in the Inner Harbor. The new 10,000 square foot wetland is the result of a series of floating wetland pilots, that started with a 200 square foot wetland in 2010.

Below: The National Aquarium’s Harbor Wetland.
Photo by BOS Staff.



Economy

Small Business Support

Following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) established three Business Recovery Centers in Maryland to support small businesses affected by the incident. These centers provided assistance with low-interest disaster loan applications and offered information on the programs available to help businesses navigate the recovery process. SBA Customer Service Representatives were available to help business owners complete disaster loan applications, submit documents for existing applications, and receive updates on their application's status. This opportunity was eligible to small business applicants in the declared area, who were able to apply for a federal Economic Injury Disaster Loan of up to \$2 million to help overcome temporary loss of revenue stemming from the bridge collapse.

The Baltimore Workforce Funders Collaborative helped launch sector-specific training hubs, while federal grants boosted apprenticeship programs across construction and logistics. One key federal grant was given to Baltimore's DiPole Materials for \$100,000 dollars to design low-cost, versatile, and effective biodegradable nanofiber filters to clean indoor air during wildfires.

New and Returning Cultural Offerings

Despite the uncertainty in Baltimore's arts and culture scene in 2024, a vibrant mix of new and returning exhibits, pop-ups, festivals, and community-driven projects underscored the city's immense creative talent. Creatively Black Baltimore opened at Harborplace as the region's largest pop-up dedicated solely to Black artists, celebrating their impact through a dynamic two-year exhibition. Meanwhile, the second-annual BRUSH Mural Festival unveiled ten murals along Pratt Street, created by 20 artists.

Across town, the York Road Free Music and Arts Festival, sponsored by the York Road Improvement District, brought free music, art, and neighborhood pride to Greater Govans, while the BMI Fashion Market Pop-up highlighted local and sustainable fashion. Additionally, the Baltimore Youth Arts' Bus Wrap Project, used photography, writing, and design to raise awareness around youth mental health.

Below: A new mural was unveiled at the Baltimore Convention Center. - Photo by J.J. McQueen



Local Economy

Workforce Development

Arts & Culture



Additional Accomplishments



Above: A presentation of the Downtown RISE 10-Year Vision.

Below-right: "Diversity in the Arts" grant awards event.

Photos by J.J. McQueen

Local Economy:

- Downtown RISE: A Strategic Action Plan and Downtown RISE: A 10-Year Vision were released.
- The Baltimore Economy Dashboard, a digital tracking tool used to track Baltimore's economic progress, was launched.
- The Baltimore BASE Network distributed ARPA funds of more than 8.5 million dollars to over 490 small businesses throughout Baltimore (88% being BIPOC owned and 70% were women or non-binary owned).
- BRED (Baltimore Roundtable for Economic Development) hosted a free 3-part series on the topic of real estate to help cooperatives and cooperative centered communities and collaborated with Latino Economic Development to support twelve worker-owned co-ops starting up in Baltimore.

Workforce Development:

- The QUEST grant was introduced in 2024 to assist individuals who were incarcerated for 180 days or more, with workforce training through Civic Works.

- Wood Reuse Corp is a partnership between the Baltimore Tree Trust (BTT) and BCRP-Forestry Division's Camp Small Program to train BTT employees at Camp Small's wood reuse facility. The goal of this partnership is to expose Baltimore City Residents to career pathways in urban forestry and specifically wood reclamation and reuse towards wood product development.

Arts & Culture:

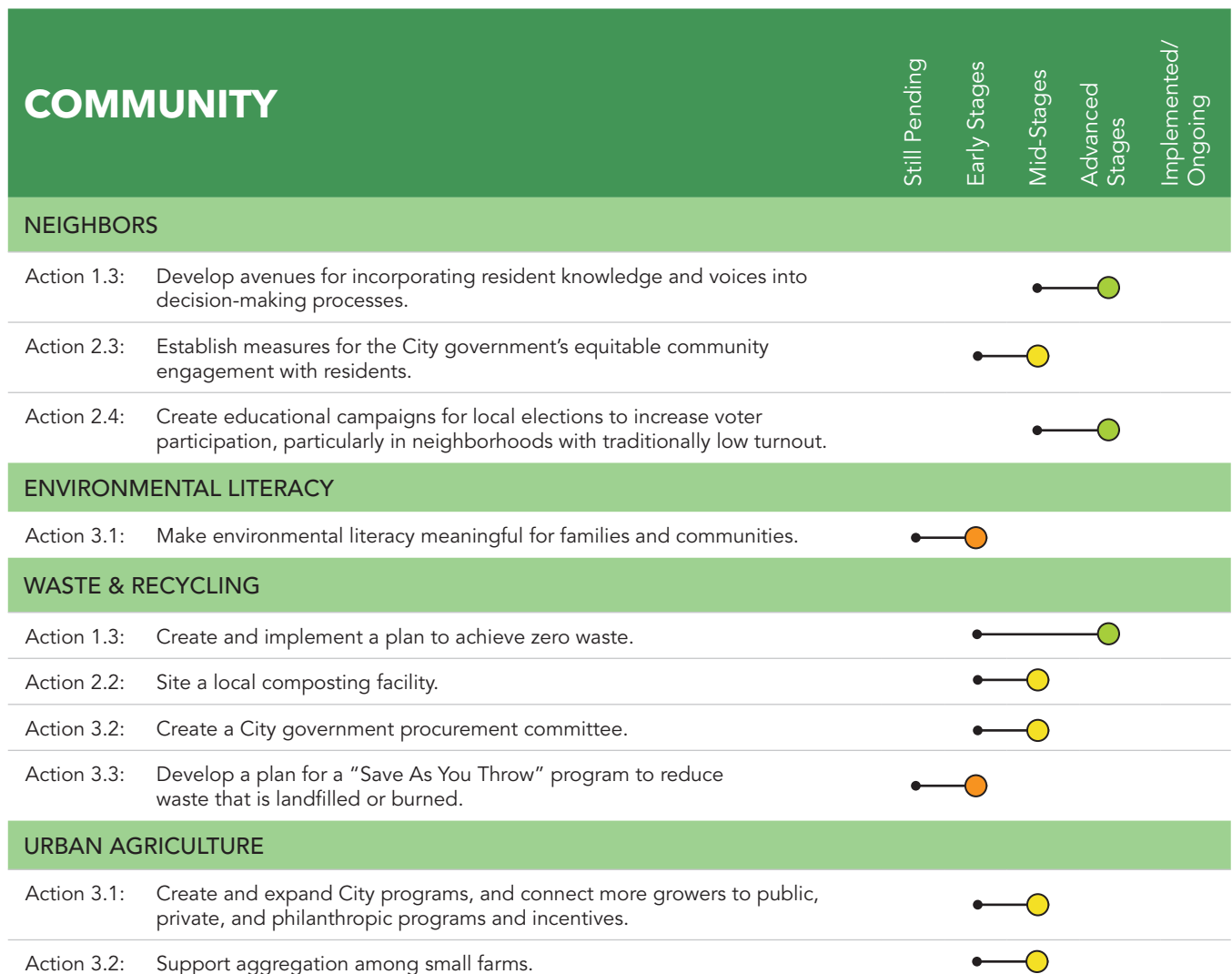
- The Baltimore Museum of Art announced its commitment to sustainability goals including curating a number of exhibits focused on the environment.
- Governor Wes Moore announced that the Maryland Historical Trust, a division of the Maryland Department of Planning, received a \$50,000 federal grant to support a project to document places related to the Civil Rights Movement in Baltimore City. The funding was made possible through the African American Civil Rights grant program under the Historic Preservation Fund.
- United Way of Central Maryland awarded \$3.6 million in ARPA - funded "Diversity in the Arts" grants award. The grant is aimed at supporting diverse and marginalized arts and cultural institutions across the city.



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 five 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 that follow will allow you the opportunity to review the strategies and actions, and easily get an idea of where each action stands in implementation. Actions that advanced in status during 2024 are indicated with a black line that shows how the action advanced in status from 2023 to the end of 2024. A gray circle indicates that a strategy is “still pending,” and the green check mark indicates that the strategy has been “implemented and/or is ongoing.” A strategy may fall somewhere in between, and will be noted by orange, yellow, or light green. We update these charts every year to demonstrate our progress.



HUMAN-MADE SYSTEMS		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/Ongoing
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY						
Action 1.2:	Explore tools to ensure significant new development projects support existing residents and minimize resident displacement.		●			●
Action 2.2:	Facilitate the transfer of vacant, abandoned properties to owners who have capacity to rehabilitate them.		●			●
Action 3.3:	Increase financial resources (and increase awareness of them) to assist low-income households to become homeowners.		●		●	
BUILDINGS						
Action 3.3:	Evaluate existing utility and city-wide energy- and water-savers programs to further advance incentives and efficiency		●	●		
Action 4.3:	Support the development of holistic, neighborhood-wide, deep energy retrofit projects.		●	●		
TRANSPORTATION						
Action 1.2:	Support a dedicated funding source for public transportation and safety improvements.		●		●	
Action 2.2:	Create and implement a Pedestrian Master Plan.		●		●	
Action 2.4:	Alter traffic signal timing citywide.			●		●
Action 3.1:	Develop and maintain transit hubs.		●		●	
Action 3.2:	Create more efficient public transit options.		●		●	
Action 3.3:	Eliminate parking subsidies and mandates, and offer employee incentives.		●		●	
NOISE						
Action 1.1:	Create new regulations to bring the noise ordinance in line with best practices.		●	●		

CLIMATE & RESILIENCE		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/ Ongoing
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS						
Action 2.1:	Develop a post-disaster plan.	●————●				
ENERGY						
Action 1.2:	Seek increased financing for energy programs.	●————●				
Action 2.1:	Increase the supply of clean, renewable electricity.	●——●				
Action 2.3:	Increase electric vehicle adoption.	●————●				
Action 2.4:	Adopt a goal for electric vehicle charging stations.	●————●				
Action 3.1:	Review current building codes and regulations, and adopt a residential green building code.	●————●				
Action 3.5:	Set a goal to reduce petroleum consumption and increase use of alternative fuel vehicles and equipment in the city government fleet.	●————●				
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS						
Action 2.3:	Update codes.	●————●				
CLEAN AIR						
Action 1.3:	Work with the Port of Baltimore.	●————●				
Action 2.1:	Partner with researchers.	●————●				
Action 2.2:	Integrate information about unhealthy air quality days into community preparedness workshops.	●——●				
Action 3.2:	Increase inspections, enforcement, and hazard remediation in rental properties.	●————●				
FOOD SYSTEMS						
Action 1.1:	Integrate food system priorities across government.	●————●				
Action 1.2:	Implement equitable food policies.	●————●				
Action 2.1:	Reduce acute food insecurity.	●————●				
Action 2.3:	Support equitable food systems.	●————●				

NATURE IN THE CITY		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/ Ongoing
WATER IN THE ENVIRONMENT						
Action 1.1:	Connect more people to water in safe ways.					
Action 2.1:	Increase restoration of riparian corridors, and other innovative habitat restoration.					
Action 2.2:	Remove invasive species along waterway buffers.					
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE						
Action 2.3:	Create a database of green infrastructure sites.					

ECONOMY		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/ Ongoing
LOCAL ECONOMY						
Action 1.2:	Grow cooperative business models.					
Action 2.2:	Build the capacity of Made in Baltimore.					
Action 3.2:	Continue to align Baltimore City's MBE/WBE certification with the State's.					
Action 3.3:	Promote increased access to alternative sources of financing and technical assistance.					

ECONOMY		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/ Ongoing
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT						
Action 1.1:	Expand green job training programs for the unemployed, underemployed, and those facing barriers to unemployment.		●		●	
Action 1.3:	Ensure wrap-around services and are built into green training programs.		●			●
Action 1.4:	Ensure green jobs are part of a job-matching tool.	●				●
Action 2.2:	Promote city government workforce training programs that lead to jobs.			●	●	
Action 2.3:	Collect common data points on green job seekers using the Mayor's Office of Employment Development's standard assessment tool.	●	●			
Action 3.2:	Develop funding opportunities to support long-term engagement.	●			●	
ARTS & CULTURE						
Action 1.3:	Support and expand youth arts programs.		●		●	
Action 3.1:	Seek a dedicated fund for art, such as a grant making program.		●		●	
Action 3.2:	Equitably distribute funding to artists ensuring broader cultural representations.		●		●	
Action 3.3:	Create and support spaces for discourse and engaging people through art-making.			●	●	

Commissioners & Staff

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability

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Jared Lyles, Co-Chair
The Honorable Regina Boyce
Donzell Brown
Phil Costa
Gary Crum
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Inez Robb
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The Honorable Stephanie Smith
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