

Baltimore City Office of Sustainability

Commission on Sustainability Meeting
August 18, 2026



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

Agenda

Welcome

Updates

- Office of Sustainability Updates
- Commission Updates & Roll Call
- Committee Updates

Commission Business: Discussion of Future Meeting Planning

Progress on Big, Audacious Commitments: Revisit the 2019 Sustainability Plan Commitments

- Commitment to Transparency: Baltimore Sustainability Annual Reporting
- Commitment to Collaborate: Farm Alliance of Baltimore
- Commitment to be Accountable: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA-JFI)

Closing: Calls to Action & Announcements

Office of Sustainability Updates

Updates

- Green Healthy Smart Challenge Grants Program
- Sustainability & Resiliency Subcabinet Updates
- Annual Report – coming soon
- Newsletter



The poster is for the 2026-2027 Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge. It features the Baltimore Office of Sustainability logo (a stylized leaf) and the City of Baltimore seal (a shield with a tower). The text is in a mix of bold and regular fonts. At the bottom, there are two illustrations: one of two children looking at a magnifying glass over a tree stump, and another of three children planting seedlings in a garden bed.

  **BALTIMORE CITY**
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-2027
GREEN, HEALTHY, SMART
CHALLENGE

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

\$2,000 - \$2,500

- Schools not designated as a Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Green School are eligible to apply for up to \$2,000.
- Schools designated as a MAEOE Green School are eligible to apply for up to \$2,500.
- Applicants will receive an approval or denial outcome letter in late October

*Applications will be accepted from **August 3rd to October 2nd***

Scan the QR code or go to the URL below to submit your application
bit.ly/ghscSY27

Questions? For more information or help with your application, please contact Ebone Smith at ebone.smith@baltimorecity.gov.



Office of Sustainability Updates

2026 TREEBALTIMORE SUMMER GATHERING



THURSDAY AUGUST 27TH
5:30-8:30 PM
CYLBURN ARBORETUM

*All are welcome to join this free, fun-filled event
as we gather to celebrate our city's trees.*



RSVP
[TREEBALTIMORE.ORG/GATHERING](https://treebaltimore.org/gathering)



Commission Updates

Lightning Round: Commission Member Share-out

- Opportunity for Commission Members to share timely updates or information
- Limited to one item and one minute
- Share links in the chat



Commission Roll Call

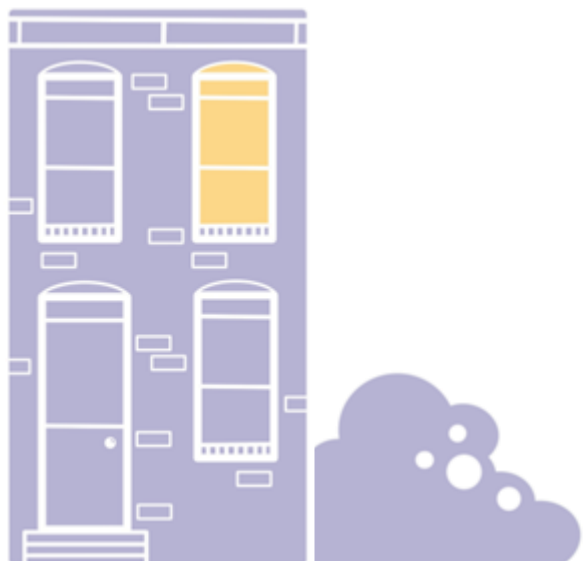
Sustainability Commission Roll Call:

Jared Lyles & Morgan Grove, Co-Chairs
Baltimore Commission on Sustainability



Committee Updates

- Legislative Committee
- Events Committee
- Resource Development Committee



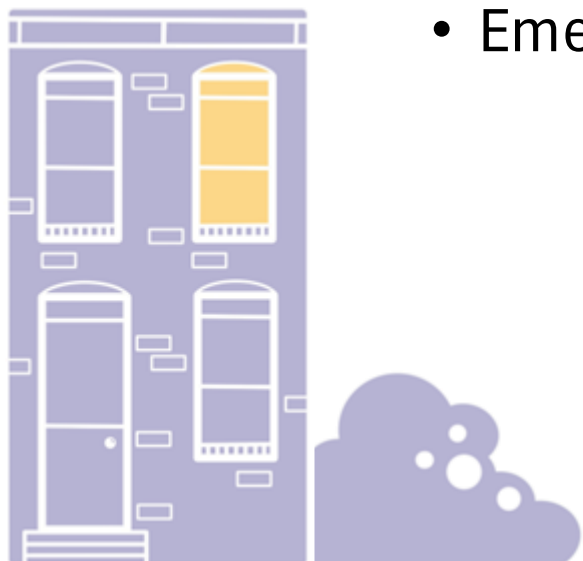
Legislative Committee

- Staff: Ava Richardson
- Co-Chairs: Jenn Aiosa, Derek Baumgardner, Bernat Navarro
- Last Meeting: August 3rd
- Next Meeting: August 3rd at 4:00 pm
- Updates
 - Electrify Baltimore Coalition overview
 - Review of Legislative Recommendations from Adopted Plans
 - Discussion on legislative strategies and recommendations



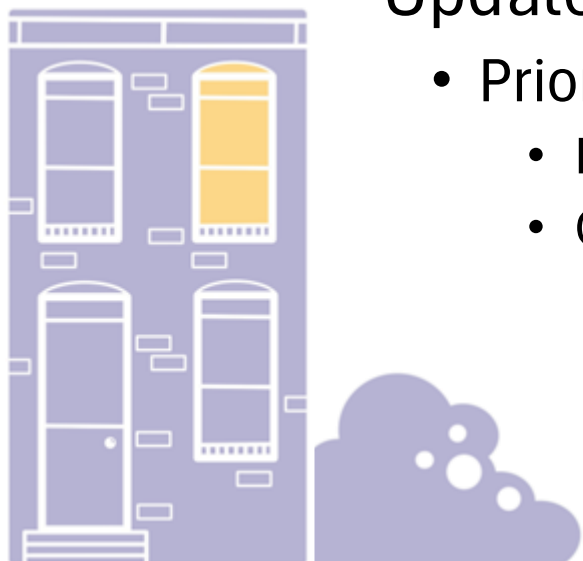
Events Committee

- Staff: Ebone Smith & Natalie Cohen
- Chair: Phil Costa
- Updates:
 - October In-Person Meeting
 - TreeBaltimore Gathering
 - Emergency Preparedness Events and Trainings (CERT)



Resource Development Committee

- Staff: Valerie Rupp & Amy Gilder-Busatti
- Co-Chairs: Morgan Grove & Jeffrey Holland
- Last Meeting: June 20th
- Next Meeting: September 19th (tentative)
- Updates:
 - Priority items from last meeting for further evaluation
 - BLUECRAB
 - Opportunities & Constraints for City Agencies



Agenda

Updates

Office of Sustainability Updates
Commission Updates & Roll Call
Committee Updates

Commission Business: Discussion of Future Meeting Planning

Progress on Big, Audacious Commitments: Revisit the 2019 Sustainability Plan Commitments

Commitment to Transparency: Baltimore Sustainability Annual Reporting

Baltimore Office of Sustainability Staff

Commitment to Collaborate: Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Denzel Mitchell, Executive Director, Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Commitment to be Accountable: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA-JFI)

Amanda Phillips de Lucas, Director, BNIA-JFI

Closing: Calls to Action & Announcements

Commission Business: 2026 Meetings

3rd Quarter: Progress on Big, Audacious Commitments

July 21 –
A Baltimore Where
Everyone Thrives
(Virtual)

August 18 -
Revisiting the 2019
Sustainability Plan
Commitments
(Virtual)

September 15 -
Climate
Communications,
Climate Literacy, &
Behavior Change

4th Quarter: Economic Prosperity & Sustainability – How to Achieve Both?

October 20 -
Why Climate
Resilience is
Central to
Economic
Prosperity

November 17 -
An Equitable
Economy Focused
on Accessibility &
Inclusion
(Virtual)

December 15 -
Community
Building and
Networking

2027 Planning Process

- Factors to consider in setting strategic priorities
 - Priority actions from adopted plans
 - Equity planning & implementation
 - Environmental code updates & program implementation
 - Implementation of projects, programs, and initiatives
 - Communications & community engagement
- Complement related efforts
 - Committee efforts
 - Sustainability & Resilience Subcabinet activities
- Structuring Meetings Around Themes & Topics
 - Timeliness
 - Briefing Requests

2027 Tentative Meeting Dates

1st Quarter

January 19

February 16

March 16

2nd Quarter

April 20

May 18

June 15*

3rd Quarter

July 20

August 17

September 21

4th Quarter

October 19

November 16

December 14
or December 21

Agenda

Progress on Big, Audacious Commitments: Revisit the 2019 Sustainability Plan Commitments

Commitment to Transparency: Baltimore Sustainability Annual Reporting

Baltimore Office of Sustainability Staff

Commitment to Collaborate: Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Denzel Mitchell, Executive Director, Farm Alliance of Baltimore

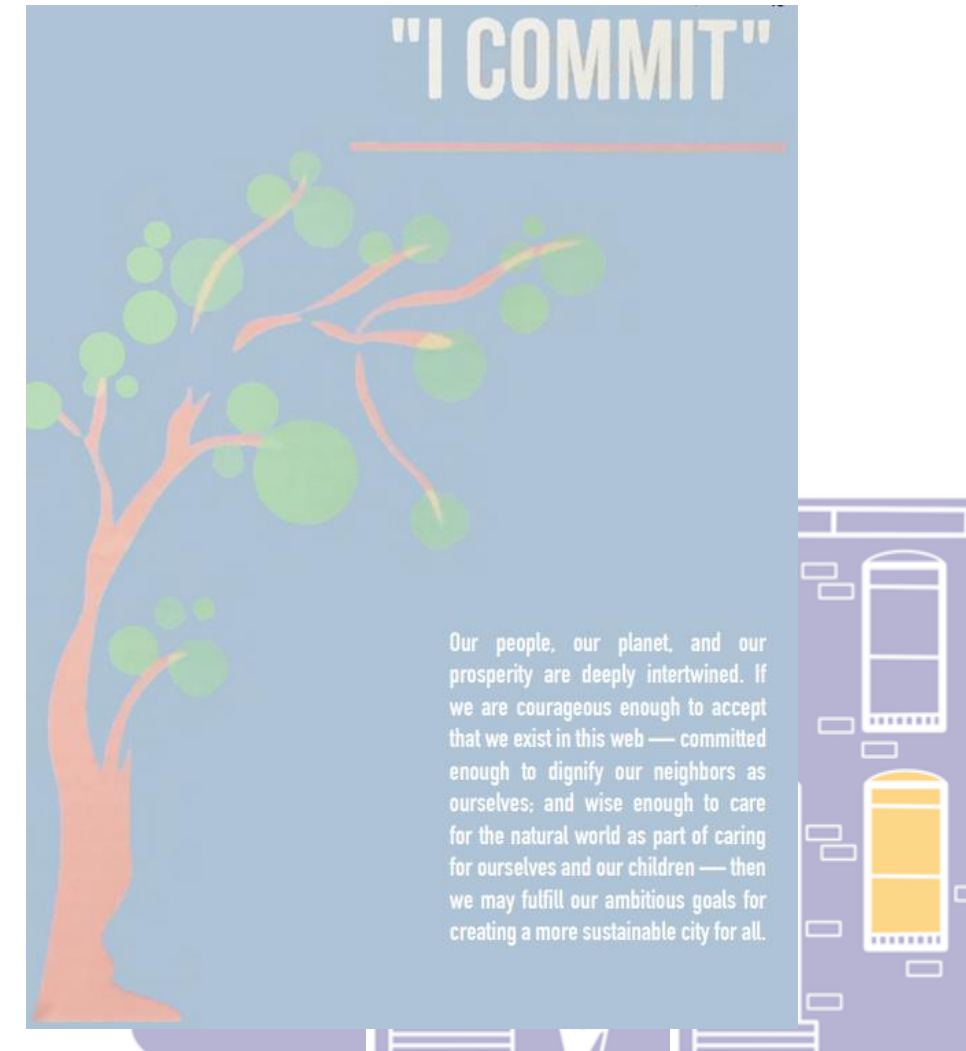
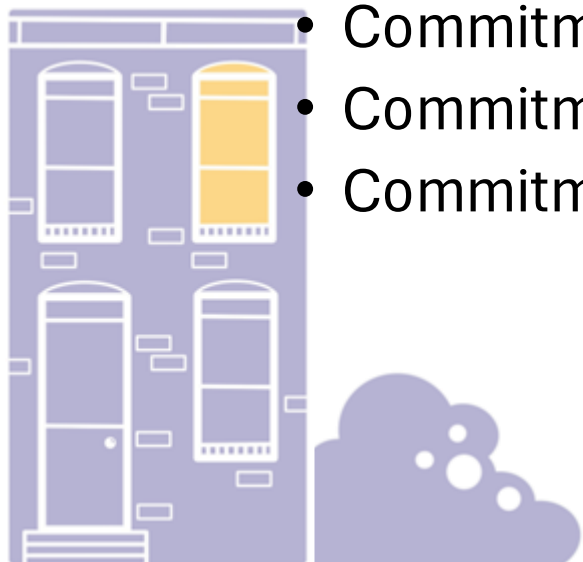
Commitment to be Accountable: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA-JFI)

Amanda Phillips de Lucas, Director, BNIA-JFI

Big Audacious Commitments

2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan

- What we want to achieve:
5 Themes, 23 Topics, 243 Actions
- How we want to engage in this work:
3 Big Audacious Commitments
 - Commitment to Be Transparent
 - Commitment to Collaborate
 - Commitment to Be Accountable



Big Audacious Commitments

How we want to engage in this work: 3 Big Audacious Commitments

- Commitment to Be Transparent
 - We will be honest about our past.
 - We recognize our interconnectedness.
 - We will share power.
- Commitment to Collaborate
 - We commit to thinking and working differently.
 - We commit to working together.
 - We seek to solve multiple problems at once.
 - We support change at the local level.
- Commitment to Be Accountable
 - We actively seek feedback and engagement.
 - We will ask: How are we doing?
 - We will humanize our data.
 - We will speak in terms that are understandable to all.
 - We will care for the natural world.



External Evaluation

LEED for Cities: Gold

Extends the traditional LEED building certification to the jurisdictional and district scale.

Structured, data-driven framework aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to help local governments and community-scale developments track sustainability, resilience, and equity outcomes.

Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP): B Score

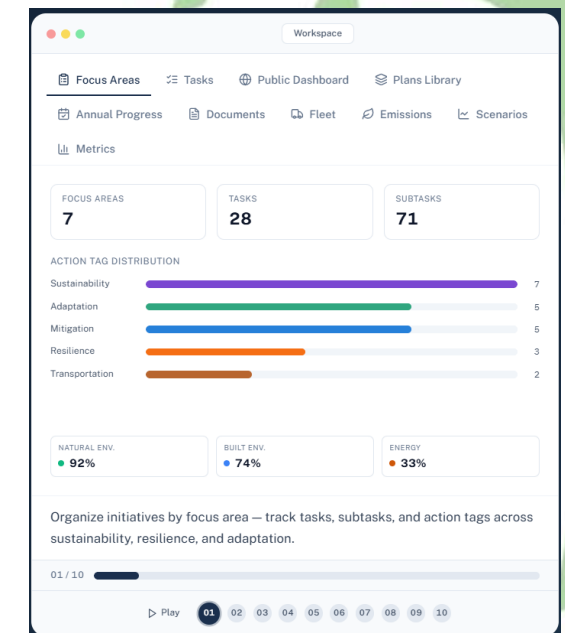
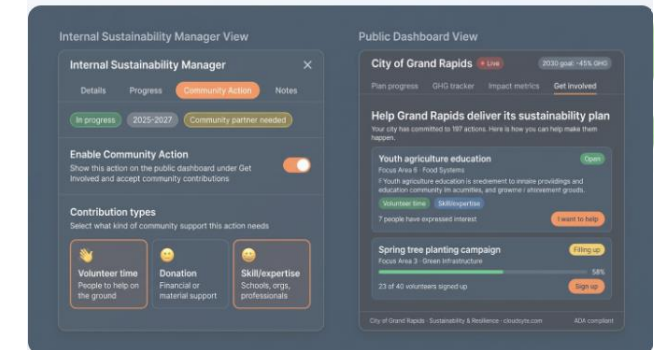
The world's leading environmental disclosure system, helping companies, investors and governments measure, manage and report risk and opportunities across climate change, deforestation and water security through a shared data infrastructure.

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE): Tied for 10th Place

An independent analysis that produces a scorecard that ranks U.S. states, cities, and utilities on their energy efficiency and clean energy policies, providing both rankings and detailed disclosures of performance.

National & International Networks & Diplomacy

Name	Description	Ex. of Involvement
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)	Engages & connects at the local to global levels, shaping policy and sparking action to transform urban environments worldwide. 2500+ cities in network	• ClearPath 2.0 • Race to Resilience Cohorts • Cities Forward • Policy reviews • Learning & exchange platform
Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)	Peer-to-peer network of local government sustainability professionals in U.S. and Canada, advancing equitable, resilient, and sustainable communities.	• CloudSyte Project • Community Resiliency Hub Support Group • Grants • Trainings
CityCDR Initiatives	Working to embed Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) into urban planning worldwide.	• Municipal Playbook: Managing the Logistics of Urban Carbon Removal



Annual Reporting

- Highlight Accomplishments
- Data Snapshots
- Strategies & Actions Implementation Matrix

COMMUNITY		Still Pending	Early Stages	Mid-Stages	Advanced Stages	Implemented/ Ongoing
NEIGHBORS						
Strategy #1: Support the promotion of stronger connections between neighbors and among neighborhoods.						
Action 1:	Build capacity and create opportunities for conversations around racial equity to breakdown biases and increase understanding.					●
Action 2:	Engage, promote, and support voices who may not traditionally be heard.			●		
Action 3:	Develop avenues for incorporating resident knowledge and voices into decision-making processes.			●	●	
Action 4:	Promote resident and neighborhood successes.				●	
Strategy #2: Increase public participation in collective community activities.						
Action 1:	Support resident dialogue and social capital building in neighborhoods.			●		
Action 2:	Expand and elevate the network of low- and no-cost programming in neighborhoods.				●	
Action 3:	Establish measures for the City government's equitable community engagement with residents.		●	●		
Action 4:	Create educational campaigns for local elections to increase voter participation, particularly in neighborhoods with traditionally low turnout.		●	●	●	

Agenda

Progress on Big, Audacious Commitments: Revisit the 2019 Sustainability Plan Commitments

Commitment to Transparency: Baltimore Sustainability Annual Reporting

Baltimore Office of Sustainability Staff

Commitment to Collaborate: Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Denzel Mitchell, Executive Director, Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Commitment to be Accountable: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA-JFI)

Amanda Phillips de Lucas, Director, BNIA-JFI

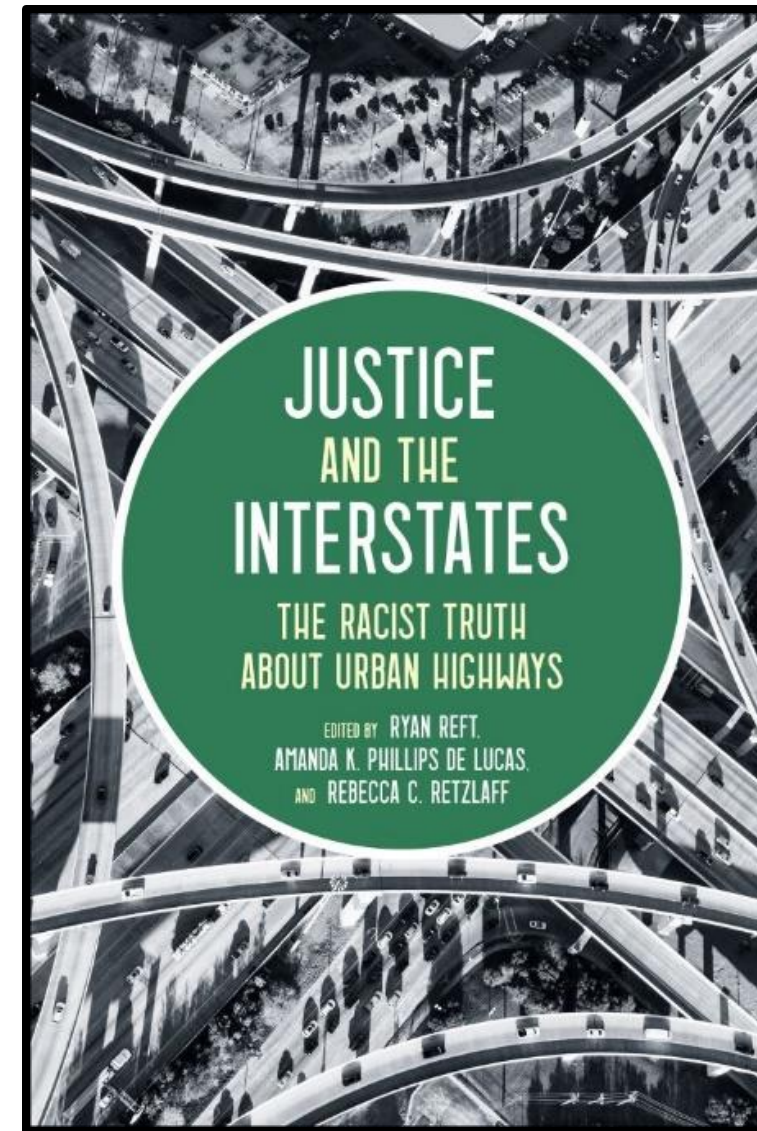
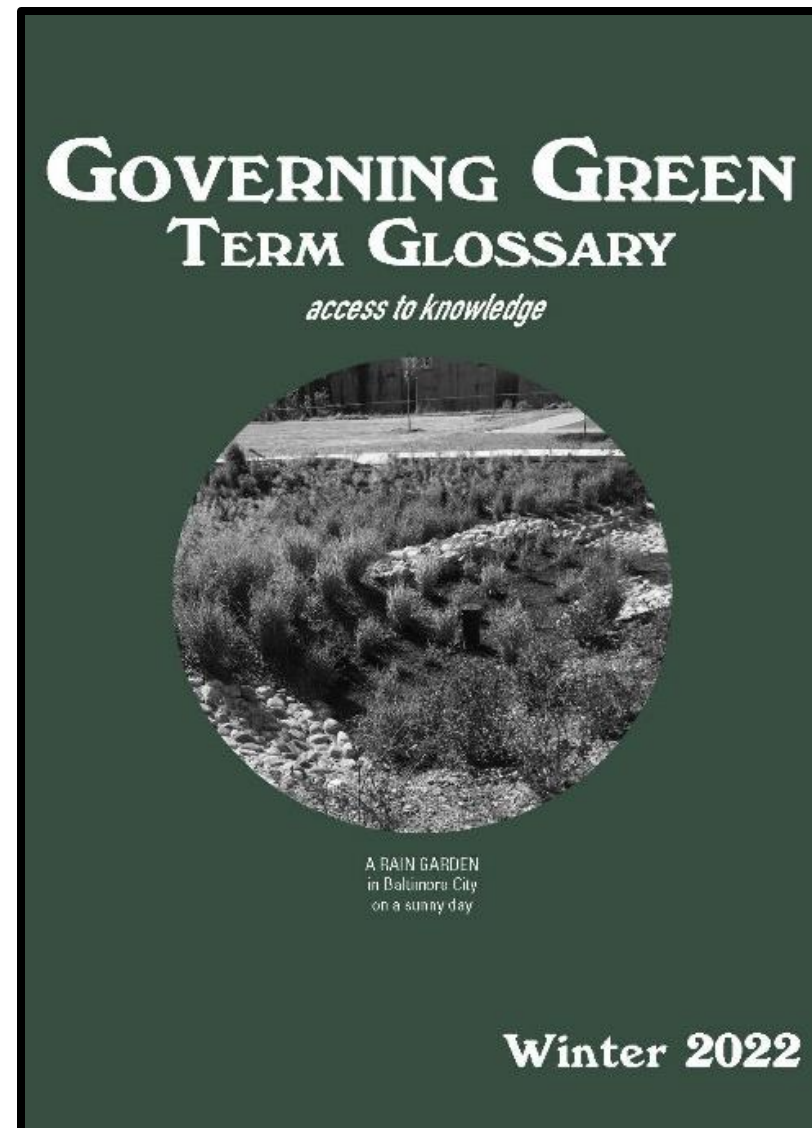
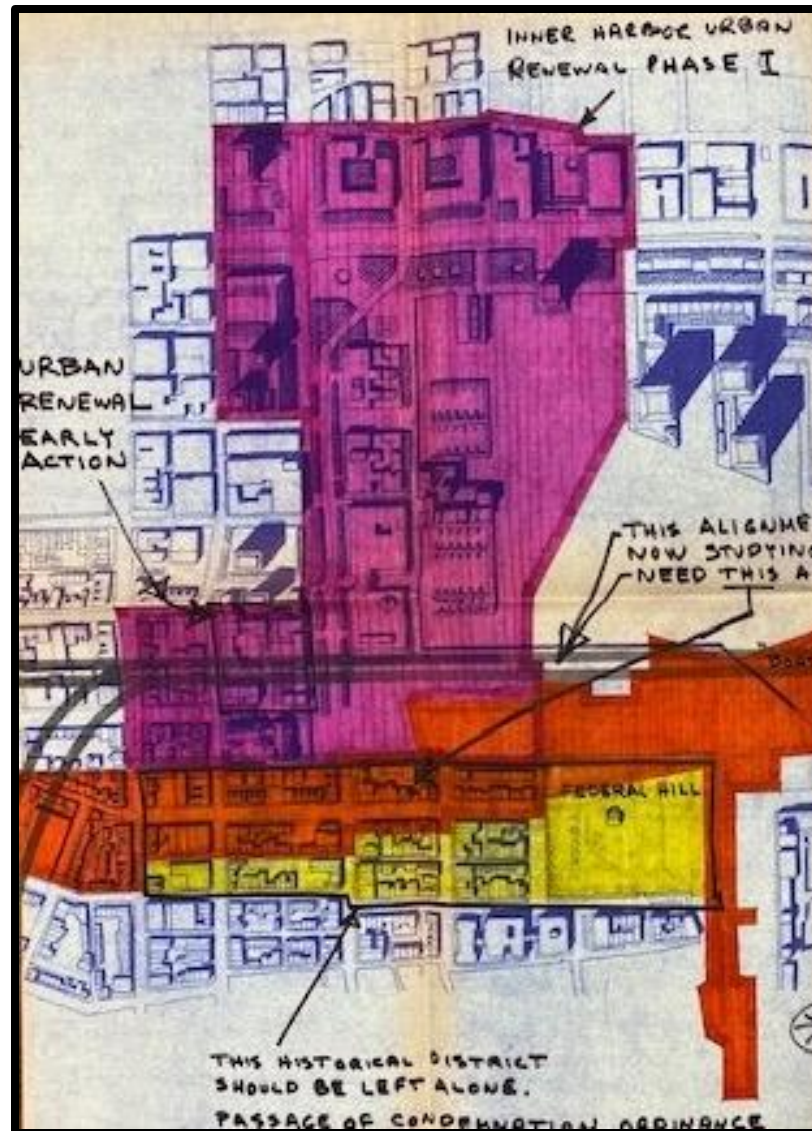


AN INTRODUCTION TO BNIA-JFI

USING DATA TO SUPPORT ACTION AND OUTCOMES

Amanda Phillips de Lucas
Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance
aphillipsdelucas@ubalt.edu

INTRODUCTION – ABOUT ME



- Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Virginia Tech
 - How did communities shape highway planning efforts?
- Postdoctoral Fellowship with Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
 - How do communities perceive green and environmental infrastructure?
- Co-Editor of *Justice and the Interstates: The Racist Truth about Urban Highways*

ABOUT BNIA-JFI

- “One-stop shop” for comprehensive data indicators and training
 - Multiple topic areas
 - Longitudinal Data (2000 - 2024)
- Mission: BNIA-JFI “provides accessible, reliable, and actionable data and indicators about, for, and with Baltimore City and its communities.”
- Member of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership at Urban Institute
 - 30 cities focusing on data democratization
 - <http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org>

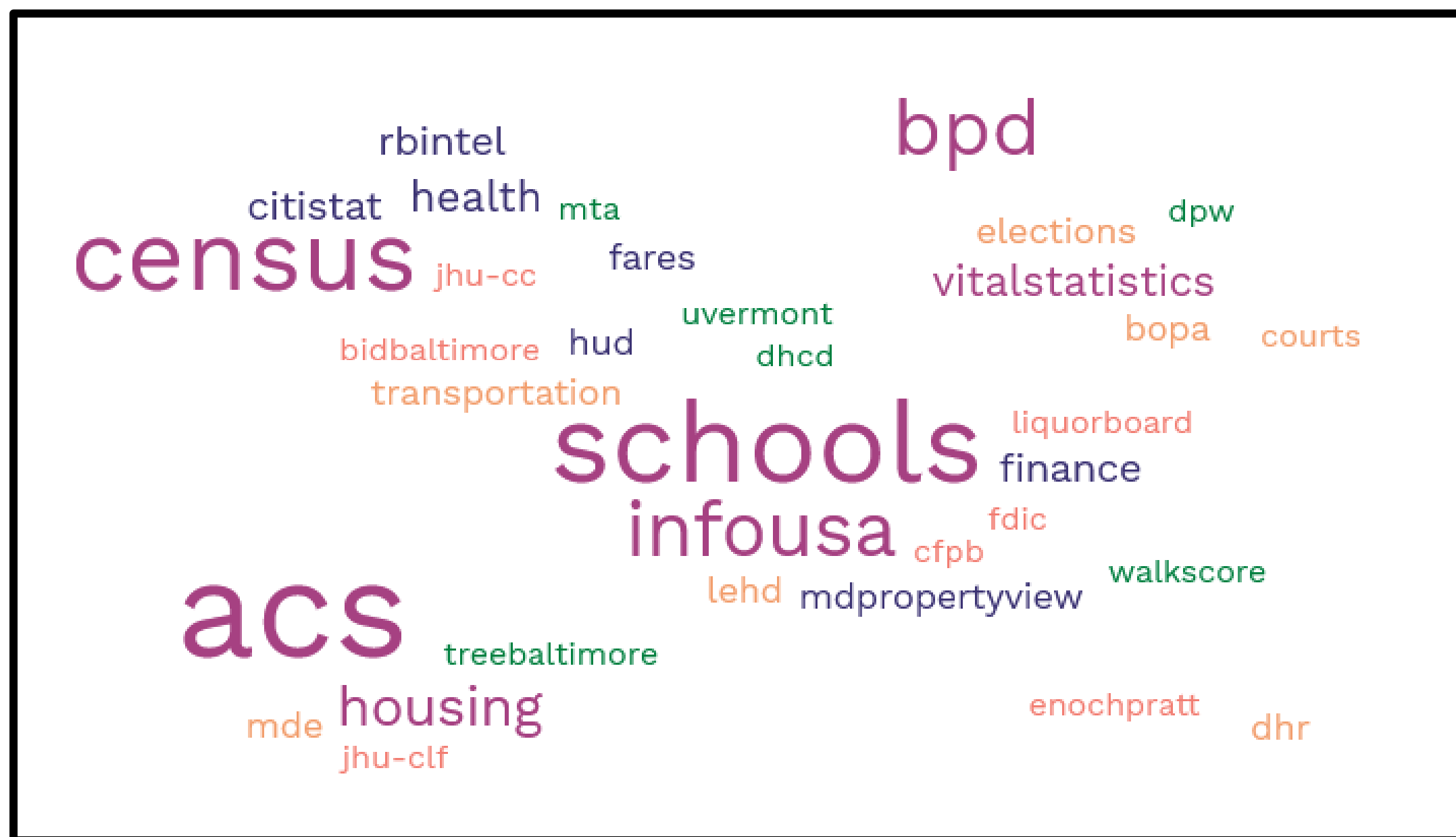
INDICATORS

- Indicators are a measure or set of measures that help to quantify or express progress towards a goal or an outcome
- Indicators are a “knowledge technology” that can be used to quantify, compare, and rank virtually any complex field of human affairs

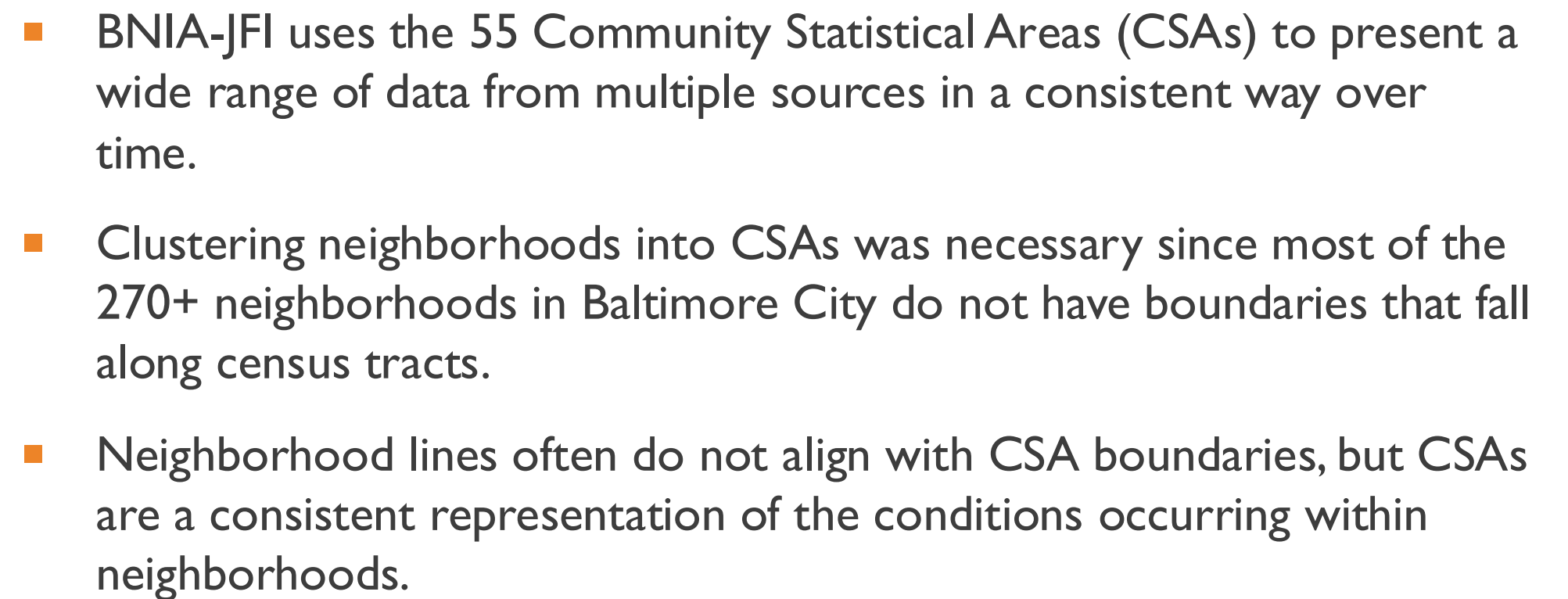
HOW TO USE INDICATORS

- Individual statistics, that when combined, provide a picture of what is happening in a community
 - Labor Force Participation, Median Household Income, Homeownership
- When tracked over time, indicators can provide insight to the overall direction of a neighborhood
 - Are the number of green spaces increasing? Are students graduating from high school?
- Used for setting goals and tracking progress
 - Did an intervention or strategy have its desired impact? How do communities compare to others in the city?

HOW TO USE INDICATORS



MEASURING NEIGHBORHOODS



Natural breaks method used for data classification.
Source: RBIntel

ORGANIZING DATA

- All datasets share three common themes
 - Create equivalences across different cases
 - Develop categories
 - Code individual phenomena into categories

Part I Crime Data

Equivalence

Violent Crime

Property Crime

Categories

Homicide

Aggravated
Assault

Burglary

Auto Theft

Phenomena

ORGANIZATION IS POWER

- How a dataset is organized reflects what is valued
 - When deciding an equivalence, identify what is most important for you to understand
 - Categories allow you sort events, services, programs, and more into buckets
 - Phenomena are individual instances
 - These are what we want to track!
 - These are touchpoints for how people engage with our organizations

People who experienced violence

Equivalence

Health Services

Wrap Around Services

Categories

Therapy

Primary Care

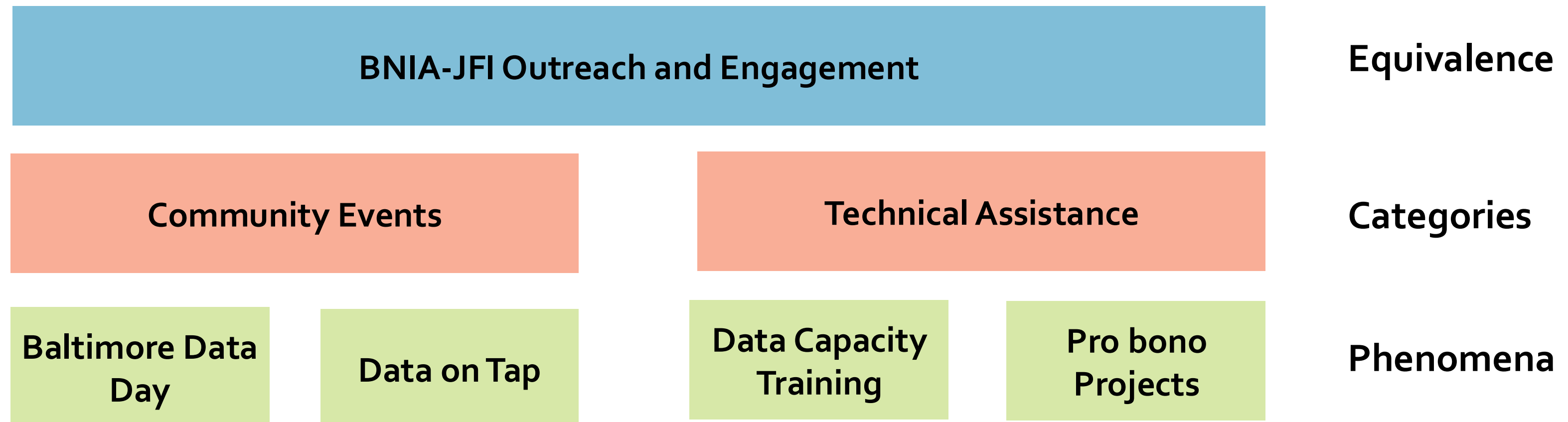
Job Training

**Housing
Support**

Phenomena

A FINAL EXAMPLE

- A well-organized dataset allows you to move quickly to telling a story
 - Example: BNIA-JFI is committed to engaging with local communities and partners to support their data needs. Our outreach falls into two buckets, community events and technical assistance. In 2025, our primary community event, Baltimore Data Day brought 300 people together for a day of knowledge sharing and action-oriented workshops. We also debuted Data on Tap, an evening at Peabody Brewery with the Baltimore Banner. We also provided technical assistance through in person trainings and completed two pro bono projects.



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

Amanda Phillips de Lucas
Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance
aphillipsdelucas@ubalt.edu

Agenda

Updates

Office of Sustainability Updates
Commission Updates & Roll Call
Committee Updates

Commission Business: Discussion of Future Meeting Planning

Progress on Big, Audacious Commitments: Revisit the 2019 Sustainability Plan Commitments

Commitment to Transparency: Baltimore Sustainability Annual Reporting

Baltimore Office of Sustainability Staff

Commitment to Collaborate: Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Denzel Mitchell, Executive Director, Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Commitment to be Accountable: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA-JFI)

Amanda Phillips de Lucas, Director, BNIA-JFI

Closing: Calls to Action & Announcements

**Next Meeting -
Progress on Big, Audacious Commitments:
Climate Communications, Climate Literacy, & Behavior Change
Tuesday, September 15, 2026; 4:00 – 6:00 pm on Webex**

 @sustainbmore

 @Baltimore City Office of Sustainability

 @baltimoresustainability

 @SustainBmore



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



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