



City of Baltimore

2012 Annual Sustainability Report



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
MAYOR



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

SUSTAINABILITY: meeting the current *environmental, social, and economic needs* of our community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet these needs.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE BALTIMORE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, adopted as City Council Ordinance on March 2, 2009, was developed as a direct result of the vision, hard work, and creativity of over 1,000 Baltimore citizens and organizations. The Plan offers a broad, community-responsive sustainability agenda that articulates the type of community Baltimore wants to be – a community that invests in the quality of life of its people, the health and resilience of its environment, and the long-term success of its economy.

We are pleased to report that in 2012, Baltimore – the City government, businesses, institutions, community organizations and citizens – made important progress towards our Sustainability Plan goals. The annual report that follows provides specific measurements for and stories about the 29 Plan goals. Among the highlights in this year's report are the following:

Energy usage across all sectors – City government, schools, and residential was down in 2012. City government reduced its electric kWh usage by over 4% in 2012, and reduced its natural gas usage by over 15%. City schools reduced their natural gas usage by over 27%. Residential electricity usage in the City decreased 13.1% from the 2007 baseline. Savings from these efforts across the City will help work toward achieving our energy reduction goals, as well as our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. These savings also reflect cost savings for City government, schools and residences – all of which can be used for further energy retrofits or to help stabilize energy costs.

Baltimore, through the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, continues to be a leader in the country on innovative practices to increase access to healthy food in “food deserts,” which are areas of the City that are more than ¼ mile from a supermarket. Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) transactions at farmer's markets, which enable low-income residents to use their EBT cards for fresh produce from local farms continues to grow. EBT transactions increased from 1,656 in 2011 to 3,294 in 2012,

representing total sales of \$54,948. In addition to the increase in EBT sales at farmer's markets, the number of public market vendors with healthy carry-out menus has increased from 4 in 2011 to 24 in 2012. These increases continue to show that we are working across the City to increase healthy food access.

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Mayor Rawlings-Blake holding a basket of fresh, local veggies!

In 2012, the Office of Sustainability, completed the development of Baltimore's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP identifies 37 actions geared to reducing building energy usage, generating renewable energy, increasing sustainable modes of transportation, developing open green space, and creating a more livable, healthier City. Reducing building energy use, which comprises 79% of the City's greenhouse gas emissions, will help curb the effects of climate change.

As you read through this year's report, you will note that we have made some changes, and have included some new features and redesigned other elements. Our newest feature is our partnership with the Jacob France Institute Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, and incorporating data from their Neighborhood Vital Signs, into our report. Featured on page 56, this new addition provides readers with a neighborhood view of key sustainability indicators. We will be expanding this partnership, and look forward to including additional information in the 2013 Annual Report.

As we have said many times, it takes action from everyone to achieve the ambitious goals we have set. Many of the partners who are working to advance the Sustainability Plan are listed along with their web addresses for more information at the end of the report. Both the "Steps you Can Take" and "Partners List" have been re-designed and we hope that these can provide the reader with clear information on how to become involved, and who to contact.

While this report continues to tell the story of progress in our City, we recognize the sample endeavors included here do not represent an exhaustive list. There are doubtless many additional organizations accomplishing

valuable work throughout Baltimore, and we look forward to recognizing those efforts. We encourage all entities in Baltimore to share their success stories of how they help to achieve the city's sustainability goals at our website www.baltimoresustainability.org.

Thank you to the countless individuals and organizations that took action this past year to improve the quality of life and sustainability here in Baltimore. We look forward to continuing our work with you to increase our quality of life, and grow Baltimore.



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