



# Baltimore Office of Sustainability

People • Planet • Prosperity



The **Office of Sustainability** develops and advocates for programs, policies and actions by government, citizens, businesses, and institutions that improve the long-term environmental, social, and economic viability of Baltimore City.

# Baltimore Sustainability Plan

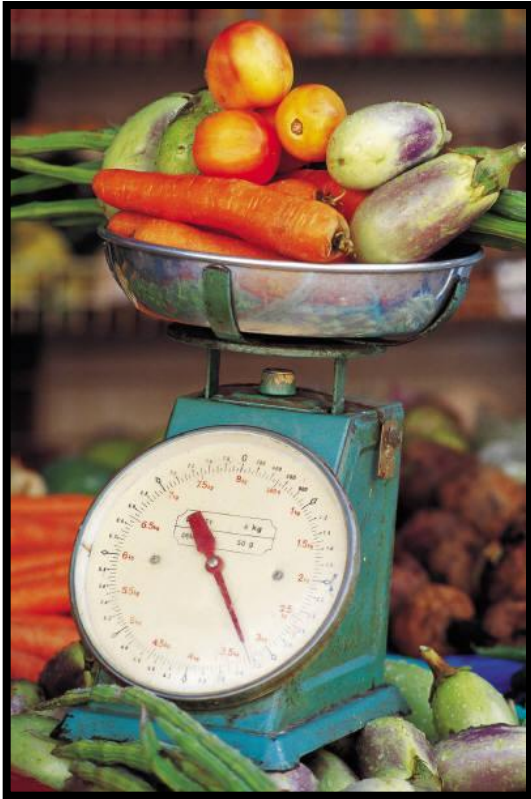
1. Cleanliness
2. Pollution Prevention
3. Resource Conservation
4. Greening
5. Transportation
6. Education & Awareness
7. Green Economy

29 Goals

131 Strategies



# Greening Goal #2: Establish Baltimore as a leader in sustainable, local food systems



- Strategy A: Increase the percentage of land under cultivation for agricultural purposes
- Strategy B: Improve the quantity and quality of food available at food outlets
- Strategy C: Increase demand for locally-produced, healthy foods by schools, institutions, super-markets and citizens
- Strategy D: Develop an urban agriculture plan
- Strategy E: Implement Baltimore Food Policy Task Force recommendations related to sustainability and food
- Strategy F: Compile local and regional data on various components of the food system

# Baltimore Food Policy Initiative

*Goal: To increase access to healthy and affordable foods in Baltimore City food deserts.*



## Activities:

Mapping food needs

Working with vendors to stock healthy food

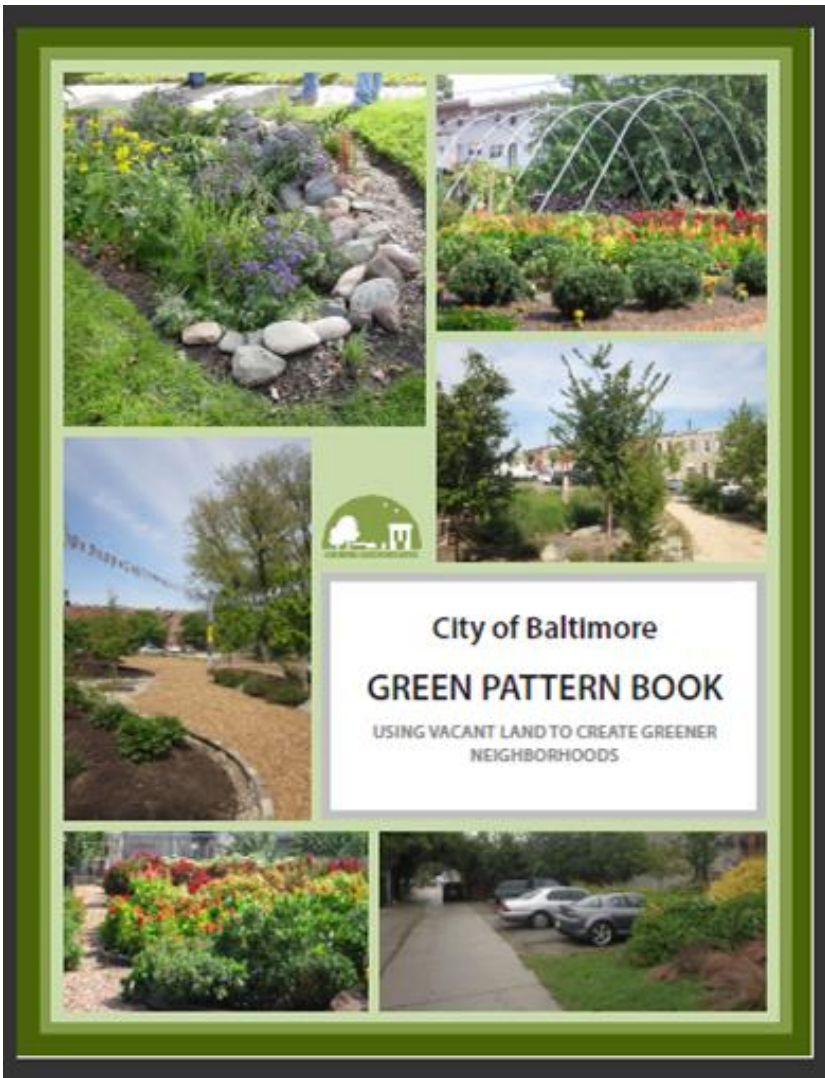
Promoting EBT at farmer's markets

Healthy eating campaigns in City Schools

## Learn more:

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/BaltimoreFoodPolicyInitiative.aspx>





The Green Pattern Book is a tool to support the greening of vacant land by City agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations, and individual residents by creating a 'common language'.

This document includes information on:

- **Visioning**
- **Site selection**
- **Guidelines**
- **Resources**

# How Do We Grow a Green City?

Promoting eight different green “patterns” for re-using vacant land:

- Clean and Green
- Community Managed Open Space
- Urban Agriculture
- Green Parking
- Stormwater Management
- Urban Forests
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mixed Greens





**Homegrown Baltimore:  
Grow Local, Buy Local,  
Eat Local**

# Zoning and Permitting

- Community-managed open spaces and urban agriculture will be recognized uses under Baltimore's new Zoning Code
- CMOS: permitted in most districts
- Urban agriculture: conditional in most districts
- A straight-forward process for standards and community acceptance
- Learn more: [www.rewritebaltimore.org](http://www.rewritebaltimore.org)



# Land Assessment



**Conditions sought:**

**Contiguous**

**One acre or larger**

**City-owned**

**Flat**

**Open to the sun**

**No short to mid term development plans**

***Approximately 35 acres identified – most need a lot of prep and outreach!***

# Pre-Qualification Application

<http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/homegrown-baltimore-grow-local>

- Minimum qualifications:
  - At least 1 year of experience
  - Sustainable management plan
  - Openness to community involvement
  - Financially sound proposal
- Terms:
  - Rolling deadline to apply
  - 5-year leases (with 2-year notice to vacate), terms based on farm type
  - \$100/year
  - Funding available to help with initial capital costs



# Results So Far

- Received 12 responses so far, of which 6 have been qualified
- First lease with Big City Farms and Strength to Love II for 1.5 acres in Sandtown-Winchester
- Second lease with Real Food Farm for 1.5 acres in South Clifton Park
- Third lease in progress for 2.5 acres in East Rosemont















# Animal Husbandry

- 4-10 chickens on most properties
- Up to 50 chickens on farms and community gardens with an approved management plan
- 2 bee hives on most properties, scales up with land size, no upper limit
- 2-24 rabbits on most properties
- 2-6 dwarf, miniature, and pygmy goats on most properties

# Other policies

- No permits required for hoop houses
- Water access via Housing Department
- In order to receive a permit, must have an approved Soil Safety Plan
- Urban agriculture tax credit under review by City Council
- Aquaculture allowed, regulated by the State
- Rooftop gardens and farms allowed

# Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local

*Baltimore City's Urban Agriculture Plan*



Adopted November 2013 by the Baltimore City Planning Commission

[www.baltimoresustainability.org/homegrown-baltimore-grow-local](http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/homegrown-baltimore-grow-local)

- Context
- Land Assessment
- Policy Context
- Current Activities
- 25 Major Recommendations: Land, Water, Soil, Capital, Support
- Buy Local, Eat Local
- Appendices of relevant city code

# Recommendation 3b: *Develop Soil Standards.* (Short-Term)

## Highlights:

... user-friendly print materials ... training should be offered ... without scaring people away from growing food ... clear, accessible resources ...

## Key Partners

- **Governmental:** Baltimore Office of Sustainability
- **Academic Institutions and Nonprofit Organizations:** Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, University of Maryland Extension, Community Greening Resource Network

## Indicator

- Creation of guidelines and standards for testing and managing contamination
- Incorporation of new guidelines into gardener and farmer training programs

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# The City of Baltimore's Soil Safety Policy for Food Production

- Introduction
- Applicability
- Site Assessment
- Soil Testing & Analysis
- Best Practices
- Remediation
- Soil Safety Plan Submission Guidelines
- Appendix A: Additional Resources
- Appendix B: Soil Testing Laboratories



[www.baltimoresustainability.org/homegrown-baltimore-grow-local](http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/homegrown-baltimore-grow-local)

# Recommendation 3c: *Provide Soil Testing.* (Mid-Term)

## Highlights:

... accessible and affordable ... testing services locally .... standardizing testing results ... consistent information about the state of Baltimore's soils ... paired with recommendations and resources for mitigation

## Key Partners

- **Academic Institutions:** University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University
- **Private sector:** Explore other private labs in the area that could do the testing

## Indicator

- Availability of in-state soil testing and contaminants screening

# EPA Brownfields and Baltimore City Urban Agriculture

- Guidance from EPA staff
- At Perlman Place, trainees from the EPA-funded Center for Green Careers did a Phase I and found no contamination
- Twelve acres in south Baltimore
  - Baltimore Development Corporation's Community-Wide Assessment funds for Phase I
  - Potential contamination discovered
  - EPA will do a Targeted Brownfields Assessment for Phase II
  - Working out right of entry
- 2014: Applied to CWA for urban agriculture, denied
- 2015: Applied to CWA for GGI, pending