



Agency Climate Implementation Plan

Maryland Department of Planning

December 2024





MDP CY25 Climate Implementation Plan

Maryland Department of Planning Climate Implementation Plan required by Executive Order, “Leadership by State Government: Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan”

In accordance with Governor Wes Moore’s [Executive Order 01.01.2024.19](#), “Leadership by State Government: Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan,” the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) affirms its commitment to:

- Work to address climate change and ensure a just transition to a clean economy;
- Advance environmental justice by working to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change for underserved and overburdened communities, including the application of [Justice40](#) goals, initiatives, and funding;
- Equitably implement all existing laws, regulations, and policies related to climate change, incorporating robust community and stakeholder engagement and;
- Continue to maximize federal funding opportunities on climate.

MDP hereby submits its Climate Implementation Plan (CIP) to demonstrate its commitment to a whole-of-government approach to addressing climate change and fully implementing Maryland’s [Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#).



Part 1: Agency Actions Under the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

Maryland's [Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) (p. 61) calls on MDP to continue to serve as the state's lead in supporting and accelerating Sustainable Growth in Maryland. Sustainable Growth efforts involve the private sector and various agencies, and commissions at all levels of government within the state.

Sustainable Growth is a strategic approach to land use policy and development practices that equitably consider economic, social, and environmental implications on the well-being of existing and future generations.

A Sustainable Growth approach advances plans and policies that are:

- **Balanced:** equally assesses the benefits and impacts of all three pillars (economic, social, and environmental)
- **Resilient:** adaptable to shocks, stresses, and ever-changing conditions
- **Innovative:** embraces new best practices, methods, and technologies
- **Regenerative:** ensures continual renewal and improvement
- **Place-based:** understands how built systems influence community vitality

Sustainable Growth also minimizes greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from land development by optimizing land productivity within population centers, minimizing the loss of forest and farmland, fostering shorter travel distances for daily mobility needs, and shifting to non-single-occupancy-vehicle travel modes such as transit, walking, biking, and rolling. Sustainable Growth is characterized by compact land use, with neighborhood schools, compatible transit options, walkable streets, mixed-use development, and a wide range of housing choices.

To support and accelerate Sustainable Growth, MDP:

- Provides data analysis and forecasting as part of its technical assistance to local and state governments to promote sustainable growth and land use efficiency. This assistance uses a variety of data sets and analytical tools, such as MDP's



parcel database, U.S. Census information, land use/land cover data, and development capacity analysis.

- Assists local planning departments and commissions as they prepare their comprehensive plans for orderly and compact growth of their communities, protection of their environmental, historical, and cultural resources, and addressing impacts of climate change.
- Supports local governments with infill and redevelopment projects in existing communities, using various planning best practices to help revitalize and attract new development to these areas.
- Encourages local governments to integrate housing development, especially affordable housing projects, with enhanced transit, pedestrian, and bicycle connectivity to jobs and amenities.
- Contributes to various state, regional, and local transportation planning processes through plan and program development to promote integration of land use and transportation and multimodal transportation systems to help reduce GHG emissions.
- Coordinates with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support transportation and community investments (i.e., complete streets programs, transit, [transit-oriented development \(TOD\)](#), and the Sustainable Communities Program) in placemaking and sustainable growth that foster transit and active transportation use and shorter vehicle miles traveled for daily travel needs.
- Develops and maintains online tools, such as the [Transit Station Area Profile Tool \(TSAPT\)](#), created in partnership with MDOT, to facilitate local and business access to data and information needed to succeed with TOD activities.
- Participates in the State's TOD Designation process and supports the implementation of HB12 (2023) – Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act – and HB538 (2024) – Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024 - to help achieve successful TOD around transit stations.



MDP manages or administers policies and programs to support the Sustainable Growth effort, such as the following:

Maryland Sustainable Growth Subcabinet

- Makes periodic recommendations to the Governor regarding changes in state law, regulations, and procedures needed to create, enhance, support, and revitalize sustainable communities across Maryland.
- Facilitates interagency coordination to ensure successful statewide community reinvestment and compact development initiatives are integrated and balanced to achieve multiple benefits that advance equity, economic growth, and environmental regeneration.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Coordinating Committee

- Identifies regional growth and development issues for the Maryland Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and advises on the local impacts of state policies and laws.
- Recommends ways to collaborate on planning between state agencies and local governments and coordinate growth and development among jurisdictions.
- Reviews statewide efforts to implement state plans for transportation and housing.

Sustainable Communities Act of 2010

- Established the Sustainable Communities designation to strengthen reinvestment and revitalization across the state.
- Simplified the framework for designated revitalization target areas in the Community Legacy and Neighborhood BusinessWorks programs.
- Required MDOT to consider Sustainable Communities as it annually prepares the annual Consolidated Transportation Program.

2009 Legislative Suite (HB294/SB273, HB297/SB280 and HB295/SB276)

- Incorporation of the 12 planning visions in local comprehensive plans
- Development of local land use goals
- Consistency of local land use ordinances with comprehensive plans
- Submittal of local annual reports



Priority Funding Areas

- Maryland law directs the use of state funding for major transportation projects, water and sewer plants, economic development, and other growth-related needs toward Priority Funding Areas (PFAs), recognizing that these investments are the most important tool the state has available to influence more sustainable growth and development.

Growth Tier Map Law

- The Sustainable Growth & Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 (the Septics Law) limits the disproportionate impacts of large subdivisions on septic systems on Maryland's farm and forest land, streams, rivers, and Chesapeake and Coastal bays. It also provides a moderate and reasonable approach for planned development using on-site sewage disposal systems.

Maryland Brownfield Redevelopment Assistance Program

- To support redevelopment within population centers, MDP connects local planning jurisdictions and other interested parties throughout the state with brownfield assessment, cleanup, planning, and redevelopment opportunities and identifies technical and financial resources to help navigate the brownfield process.

To support Sustainable Growth planning, MDP gathers, analyzes and annually reports on the status of compact development in Maryland. The compact development statistic is derived through the following calculation: $A + (B \times C \times D)$, where A, B, C and D are defined as:

A - Share of year's multi-family housing in Maryland

B - Share of year's single-family housing

C - Percent of year's single-family housing on parcels within the Priority Funding Area (PFA)

D - Percent of year's single-family housing on parcels within the PFA that are 0.25 acres or less



Table 1: **Compact Development in Maryland.** MDP is working to improve the data quality of sources used to inform the compact development statistic, specifically, by ensuring that more local governments update their PFAs to reflect all locally designated growth areas that meet the PFA criteria and by working to obtain multi-family development data that reflects actual versus proposed construction.

	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2022	2023
Multi-Family Share	23.6%	35.9%	44.2%	54.1%
Single-Family Share	76.4%	64.1%	55.8%	45.9%
Percent Residential Development Inside of PFA	77.8%	82.9%	84.8%	87.9%
Percent <u>Single-Family</u> Residential Development Inside of PFA	70.9%	73.4%	73.1%	73.6%
Percent Residential Development on <=.25 acres in PFA	80.3%	89.7%	92.3%	93.4%
Percent <u>Single-Family</u> Residential Development on <=.25 acres in PFA	71.8%	83.1%	84.1%	82.8%
Compact Development	62.5%	75.1%	78.3%	82.1%



Also, under the leadership and coordination of the Governor's Federal Office, MDP will apply for federal funding to implement actions that support the achievement of Maryland's [Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#). MDP will work closely with local governments, nonprofits, and community-based organizations to ensure Maryland is competitive for federal climate action implementation funds and to build capacity for local-level implementation. MDP will offer support to Maryland's business and private sectors to ensure they are competitive for historic federal investments.

Part 2: Recommending Actions to Address Climate Change

State law (MD Code, Environment, § 2-1305) requires each state agency to review its planning, regulatory, and fiscal programs to identify and recommend actions to more fully integrate the consideration of Maryland's GHG reduction goal and the impacts of climate change. The review shall include the consideration of (1) sea level rise; (2) storm surges and flooding; (3) increased precipitation and temperature; and (4) extreme weather events. Furthermore, each state agency shall identify and recommend specific policy, planning, regulatory, and fiscal changes to existing programs that do not currently support the state's GHG reduction efforts or address climate change.

In compliance with the law, MDP is taking the following actions to more fully integrate the consideration of Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction goal and the impacts of climate change:

- Moving Sustainable Growth Forward:
 - In 2024, MDP supported the passage of legislation that changed the name of the Maryland Smart Growth Subcabinet to the Maryland Sustainable Growth Subcabinet (SGSC), updated the leadership and membership structure of the Subcabinet, and integrated equity and resiliency into the Subcabinet's mission.
 - In 2025, MDP is working to reframe Maryland's [Sustainable Growth Policy](#) (the 12 planning visions) as planning principles to achieve four goals:
 - RELEVANCE: refresh core values to address Maryland's priorities influenced by land use policy, plans and programs.



- CLARITY: use key words and descriptor intents that are understandable by the general public.
- ALIGNMENT: establish a core framework to reduce existing confusion across programs and generate lasting, measurable outcomes.
- SIMPLICITY: make it easier for local jurisdictions to adapt and integrate.
- In 2026, MDP will seek to simplify the local comprehensive planning process and align local plan structures with a re-envisioned Maryland Sustainable Growth Policy.
- MDP is investigating how to best integrate green and sustainable building practices throughout all of its work.
- Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) financial and technical assistance
 - MHT has updated its criteria for [Certified Local Government Program](#) grants (approximately \$100,000 annually) and the [Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program](#) (approximately \$300,000 annually) to include points for projects related to climate resilience and/or in climate-vulnerable areas.
 - MHT will hold two virtual roundtables per year to discuss issues of importance to preservation planners and provide technical assistance, including clean energy and climate resilience.
 - Through a new Resilience Planner position at MDP, MHT will update and increase outreach for its technical resources for integrating historic preservation planning with hazard mitigation, disaster response and recovery, and climate adaptation.
- [Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum](#) (JPPM) operations and maintenance
 - JPPM is managed by MDP and includes more than 500 acres of land and 43 buildings.
 - JPPM will further reduce energy use, use green energy, and carry out other operations and maintenance that reduce or prevent GHG emissions, including:
 - Replace old lighting with new light emitting diodes (LEDs). JPPM has replaced almost all of its lighting with LEDs, including exterior streetlights and many interior office lights. JPPM's [Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory](#) (MAC Lab) and a few other locations need to be converted to LEDs. JPPM's operating



procedure has been that as capital projects occur, or when an old fixture dies, lighting is replaced with LEDs. The MAC Lab will be the biggest challenge because the current capital project does not include monies for that conversion.

- Electrify JPPM vehicles. During FY2025, JPPM will obtain a hybrid fleet vehicle and an electric low speed vehicle. As various small onsite vehicles reach the end of their lifespan, JPPM will prioritize obtaining electric versions to replace them. Note, JPPM cannot yet make use of a full electric fleet vehicle because of the lack of accessible infrastructure to easily charge electric vehicles (see below).
 - Electrify JPPM power tools. JPPM has a large number of gas-powered chainsaws, blowers, mowers, and similar power tools. As the gas-powered tools reach the end of their lifespan, JPPM will prioritize electric versions of them; however, there is an infrastructure concern about the space needed to store them (see below).
 - Adding motion sensitive lights. JPPM will strive to finish integrating motion sensors into all light switches onsite.
 - JPPM will consider any changes to site and building operations and maintenance that could lower energy costs.
- MDP 120 East Baltimore Street office building
 - MDP's Baltimore Office moved to a [LEED Certified Platinum green building](#) in mid-2024 and completed the fit-out to minimize energy use in coordination with the DGS Office of Real Estate. MDP also diverted a significant amount of material from landfill disposal through the collection and distribution of reusable materials to local organizations, including more than 40 boxes of materials to 12 local schools.
 - The MDP Baltimore Office has established a green team to investigate opportunities to further reduce MDP's GHG emissions.
 - MDP will coordinate with DGS Office of Real Estate to obtain project justification support for further Baltimore Office decarbonization efforts.



Part 3: Considering Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions and Impacts on Disproportionately Affected Communities

State law (MD Code, Environment, § 2-1305) requires that each State agency, when conducting long-term planning, developing policy, and drafting regulations, shall take into consideration: (1) the likely climate impact of the agency's decisions relative to Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; and (2) the likely impact of the agency's decisions on disproportionately affected communities identified according to the methodology adopted under § 1-702 of the Environment article. Furthermore, Governor Moore's Executive Order 01.01.2024.19 requires each agency to report on how the agency will advance environmental justice by working to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change for underserved and overburdened communities.

In compliance with the law and Executive Order 01.01.2024.19, MDP is taking the following steps to meet these requirements:

- In 2024, MDP supported the passage of legislation that integrated equity into the Maryland SGSC's mission.
- In 2025, MDP, as part of the reframing of Maryland's [Sustainable Growth Policy](#) (the 12 planning visions), is proposing an equity planning principle. Under existing Maryland law, major public investments and local comprehensive plans must be consistent with Maryland's Sustainable Growth Policy.
- MDP has established a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) team to bring more attention and focus on DEIJ practices internally.
- MDP's update to *Maryland's Plan to Adapt to Saltwater Intrusion and Salinization* highlights land and resources impacted or threatened by saltwater intrusion and salinization caused by climate change. The plan will help further necessary adaptation and research measures in support of communities disproportionately impacted by climate change.
- Overall, MDP and the SGSC will consider potential greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts to disproportionately affected communities that could result from proposed policies and plans.



Part 4: Resources for Implementation

Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

To assist in implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, MDP will continue to implement the measures described in Part 1 of the MDP CY25 Climate Implementation Plan and will follow through with the proposed measures described in Part 2 of the MDP CY25 Climate Implementation Plan.

After Maryland's Sustainable Growth Policy is reframed, MDP will:

- Provide education and training to facilitate state agency and local government implementation of the policy in compliance with statutory requirements;
- Establish sustainable growth metrics associated with each planning principle; and
- Develop a robust method to track sustainable growth metrics.

Implementing MDP's CY25 Climate Implementation Plan

As described in this plan, moving Sustainable Growth forward in 2025 and 2026 will require more staff resources, including a planner and program manager, to ensure initial success and long-term implementation. Moving Sustainable Growth forward is MDP's top priority for 2025.

Regarding the MHT and JPPM activities described in Part 2 of this plan, MHT will not need additional resources; however, JPPM will need:

- EV charging option at the nearby refueling station for state vehicles. Without EV charging stations integrated into local infrastructure, JPPM's ability to electrify its fleet is significantly limited. JPPM notes that the nearby refueling station is used by state police, DNR, MDOT, and other agencies, so there is an opportunity to support EV use by other state agencies as well.
- Federal funding. Converting the MAC Lab and other remaining JPPM lights to LEDs, and the electric conversion of JPPM tools will occur over time but federal funding would greatly expedite the process.
- Onsite tool charging station. JPPM would need to determine how to have a charging station that could accommodate having 12-15 power tools plugged in at all times.



- MDP will work with JPPM to pursue [elective pay credits](#) to support these activities.

Also, MDP will work with the Department of General Services on the following items related to climate-smart operations, buildings, and procurement:

- Have at least one procurement officer trained as a [green purchasing specialist](#).
- Provide timely and complete data to DGS's database contractor so that we can track our progress.
- Create a facility operations policy that maximizes energy efficiency. This includes items such as optimized building temperature set points with weekend, nighttime, and holiday temperature turndowns (the utilities have free programs and low-cost training to help building managers maintain efficiency), prohibition of space heaters, etc.
- Submit project justifications for work on existing buildings and for capital projects, include decarbonization in the request.

MDP will work with the Department of Budget and Management to help maximize external funding opportunities to address climate change in Maryland:

- The [IRS Elective Pay program](#) allows governments (and other non-tax paying entities) to take advantage of tax incentives, including credits for electric vehicles, clean energy generation technologies, energy storage, and electric charging equipment and infrastructure. Since these credits were authorized for 10 years when passed through the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, they will be a great tool in helping Maryland fund critical work to meet the State's 60% greenhouse gas reduction goal by 2031.
- MDP will coordinate with DBM to make sure that all eligible projects are registered with the IRS to help maximize federal funding opportunities.
- MDP will keep Elective Pay funding in mind as a way to stack and braid tax credits with existing funding, grant opportunities, other federal programs, loans, and/or other financial products to help bridge the gap between traditional items procured and the green premium of climate-smart items.

MDP will help Maryland State government to lead by example by improving our vehicles and buildings:

- MDP will evaluate how quickly our vehicles can be transitioned to zero-emission vehicles.



- MDP will analyze where charging infrastructure could be added to support the transition to electric vehicles.
- MDP will identify vehicles that meet any special needs or standards for our agency's vehicles.
- MDP will discern and coordinate any training needed by State mechanics to properly maintain the vehicles.
- MDP will evaluate our building(s) for the potential to host clean energy generation technologies, e.g., solar panels, solar hot water, ground-source heat pumps.
- In support of the State's 5 Million Trees Initiative, MDP will evaluate areas with opportunities to plant trees, especially urban and underserved areas where the urban heat island effect is most prominent.

MDP will work with the Maryland Department of Transportation to do our part in transportation demand management:

- MDP will connect with MDOT to receive and disseminate materials that help state employees understand the alternative transportation options available to them which align with the state's goal of reducing vehicle miles traveled and harmful air pollution.
- Prior to the 2024 office move, MDP surveyed all Baltimore staff to determine staff commuting methods. Moving forward, MDP will complete follow-up surveys to identify staff commuting changes in order to inform the office's staff transportation demand reduction strategy.



As this Climate Implementation Plan is put into practice, MDP will continue to work with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to address climate change with Maryland's whole of government approach:

- MDP will stay in communication with MDE in order to monitor and track progress.
- In compliance with the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, MDP will continue to make climate a key consideration in our long-term planning of policy and the agency's operations.

Part 5: Outcomes from Implementation

Accomplishments stemming from Maryland's 1997 smart growth initiative occurred over a 20-year timespan, as demonstrated by MDP's compact development achievements over time (see Table 1).

MDP anticipates that the evaluation and impact of Sustainable Growth will also be evaluated over a similar timespan. Sustainable Growth metrics associated with each planning principle will track health, job, energy and other progress associated with the initiative.

MDP will work with MDE and MDOT to explore opportunities to account for additional GHG reductions connected with particular combinations of Sustainable Growth metrics within Maryland's emissions modeling.

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