

Plan Maryland

2013 Progress Report

October 29, 2013

**From
Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet**

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Letter from the Secretary

Dear Governor O'Malley,

Since PlanMaryland was launched in December 2011, the Smart Growth Subcabinet, the Smart Growth Coordinating Committee and the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission have made significant progress fulfilling the vision of the statewide growth management plan. We are pleased to report that the PlanMaryland process has resulted in unprecedented collaboration between state agencies, building relationships and streamlining the process for end users.

In the first PlanMaryland progress report, we noted that Planning Area Guidelines were established for local governments to identify areas for growth and conservation. Subcabinet agencies also identified more than 90 conceptual implementation strategies to further the goals and objectives of PlanMaryland.

Since then, the Smart Growth Subcabinet formally endorsed the Planning Areas for two municipalities, and a dozen or more local government applications were submitted and are under review by the Subcabinet agencies. These initial applications have helped state agencies and local governments improve and streamline the process. A PlanMaryland Map has been posted on "plan.maryland.gov" depicting these and other areas already targeted by existing State and local programs. State agencies and local governments are using the map to align plans, programs and procedures to growth and preservation areas. And as more areas are nominated by local governments, the map will evolve.

To encourage more local participation, state agencies have begun to align their programs and regulations in support of Planning Areas objectives. State agencies are integrating GrowthPrint, GreenPrint and other Planning Areas into their operational plans and programs, such as the Maryland Transportation Plan and the Sustainable Communities designations. They are targeting place-based programs more accurately and retooling programs not geographically based to encourage strategic growth, community revitalization and resource conservation. This remains a priority for the Subcabinet for the coming year.

While this progress report documents some individual state agency efforts, perhaps the most notable PlanMaryland accomplishment has been the improved, coordinated working relationships among state colleagues. PlanMaryland has provided a context and framework for agencies to work more smoothly together, and we are seeing more alignment when it comes to promoting smart growth and sustainability.

Collaboration at the state and local level is the cornerstone of PlanMaryland's implementation. Progress will only occur if Subcabinet agencies continue to reach out to local governments and strategically partner with them to invest in smart growth initiatives. The Sustainable Growth Commission and its workgroups continue to be advocates for local participation in PlanMaryland implementation and an essential sounding boards as state agencies implement PlanMaryland strategies. .

This report reflects genuine progress, but it signifies only the early stages of a long range plan to achieve a more sustainable future for Maryland. Your leadership and continued support have made this effort possible, and is greatly appreciated.

Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP
Secretary
Maryland Department of Planning

Introduction

PlanMaryland provides a place-based, inter-agency cooperative framework to advance smart growth statewide. The plan aims to achieve the best practices in smart growth that protect the environment, enhance communities and realize the visions for a positive, sustainable future for Maryland set forth by the Governor and General Assembly.

Governor O'Malley accepted PlanMaryland in December 2011 and signed Executive Order 01.01.2011.22 charging the Smart Growth Subcabinet to implement the plan. Pursuant to the Executive Order, the Subcabinet, consisting of the following state agencies, periodically reports on the progress implementing the plan:

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED)
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Department of General Services (DGS)
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)
Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR)

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Other Participating State Agencies:

Maryland State Education Department (MSDE) and the Maryland Public School Construction Program (IAC)

The 2012 Progress Report recapped the reasons for PlanMaryland and how the Planning Areas could help focus state and local resources and achieve sustainable growth and conservation goals. It identified more than 90 implementation strategies that the Smart Growth Subcabinet agencies would pursue. The 2013 Progress Report focuses on the efforts of state agencies and local governments to achieve PlanMaryland goals by identifying local Planning Areas and executing implementation strategies at the state and local levels.

As a statewide policy, PlanMaryland sets a course to grow where it makes sense while protecting resources such as waterways, farmland and forests. It asks Maryland's counties and municipalities to identify growth and preservation areas and, together with state agencies, align plans and programs to achieve sustainable growth and conservation goals that cannot be successfully addressed without such collaboration.

Implementing the plan takes a two-pronged approach:

- 1) State and local governments collaboratively target their resources to Planning Areas for growth, revitalization, preservation and resource conservation; and
- 2) State agencies develop coordinated strategies to better align state programs and policies to support planning area objectives.

The result is state and local governments collectively working to emphasize public investment in:

- Water and air quality protection;
- Community and economic development; and
- Land and resource conservation.

Planning Areas

PlanMaryland Planning Areas delineate areas for growth, revitalization, land preservation and resource conservation. Designating areas sets the stage for state agencies and local governments to work together and pool resources to achieve shared PlanMaryland goals and objectives.

The plan establishes five Planning Area-Place categories:

- Targeted Growth and Revitalization Areas
- Established Community Areas in Priority Funding Areas
- Future Growth Areas
- Large Lot Development Areas
- Rural Resource Areas

PlanMaryland also establishes five Preservation/Conservation Planning Area categories:

- Priority Preservation Areas for Agriculture
- Natural Resource Areas
- Water Resource Areas
- Historic and Cultural Resource Areas
- Climate Change Impact Areas

The current PlanMaryland Map (see PlanMaryland.gov) is the composite of these planning areas and will evolve as more areas are nominated by local governments. In the interim, planning areas are represented by existing state and local programs that closely parallel PlanMaryland Places, such as:

- BRAC Zones
- Enterprise Zones (designated by DBED)
- Transit-Oriented Developments (designated by MDOT)
- Sustainable Communities

The areas targeted by existing programs correspond closely with the Planning Area Guidelines accepted by Smart Growth Subcabinet in 2012. The map also includes as overlays Preservation/Conservation Planning Areas that reflect state and local programs like the Certified Priority Preservation Areas for Agriculture, the local designated historic districts, and DNR's GreenPrint that shows where Targeted Ecological Areas and many other important natural resource areas occur throughout the state.



Grow where it makes sense

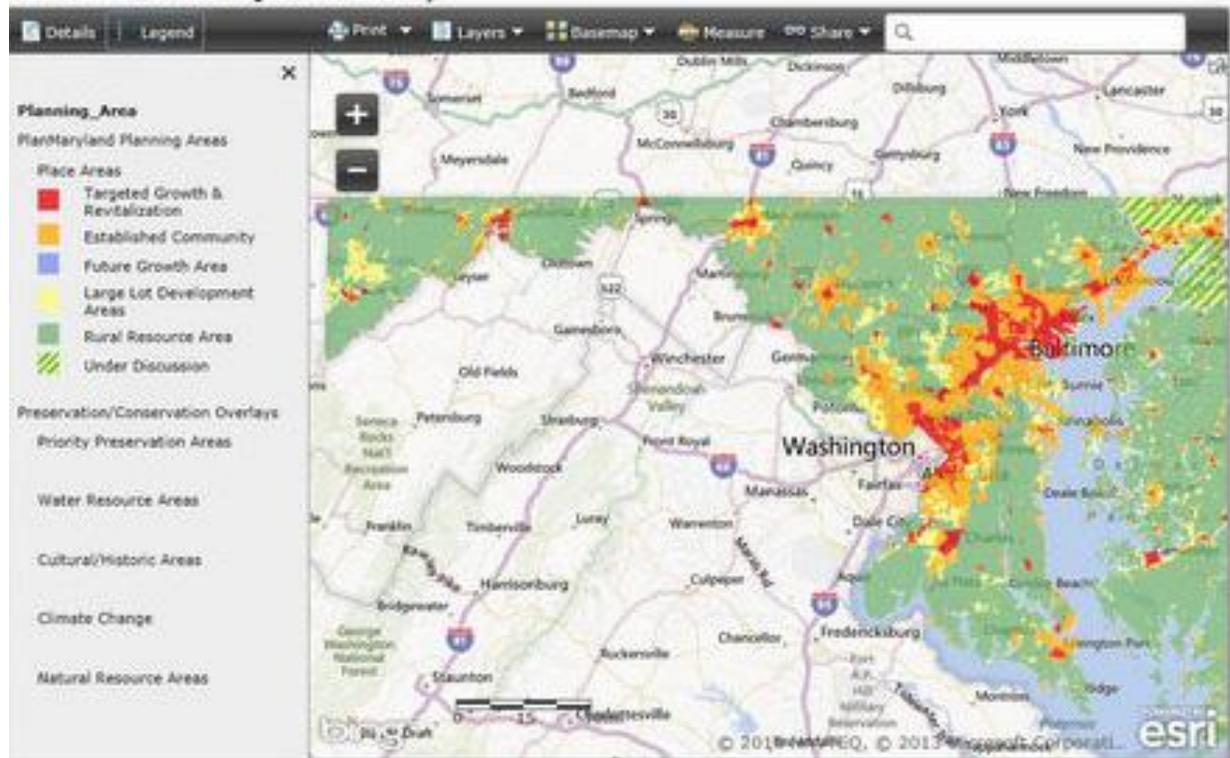


Revitalize communities



Protect resources

The PlanMaryland Map



In the last year, the Smart Growth Subcabinet formally endorsed the Planning Areas for two municipalities, and a dozen or more local government applications are under review by state agency staff. Collaborating with this first set of jurisdictions has provided valuable experience to help improve and streamline the application process.

While there has been a gradual increase in planning area applications, many local governments have not yet submitted complete applications. The deadlines for the 2012 Septics Bill's Growth Tier Maps and the 2013 Sustainable Community "grandfathered" designations, which are fundamental parts of the local identification process for PlanMaryland Planning Areas, have taken precedence. More recently, MDP regional planners have been working closely with local governments to ensure consistency of Sustainable Community applications with local comprehensive plans and relevant Planning Areas. It is anticipated that local submission of Planning Areas will increase significantly in the coming year.

Implementation Strategies

During the past year, the Smart Growth Subcabinet agencies have made significant progress advancing the implementation strategies identified in the 2012 PlanMaryland Progress Report. Highlights of these accomplishments have been organized in this report around the 12 Planning Visions adopted by the General Assembly in 2009. Many of these achievements are a result of the collaborative efforts among the Subcabinet agencies. Others can be attributed to broader application of smart growth principles to specific state programs or functions that historically were not considered relevant to directing growth to established communities with existing and planned infrastructure, or protecting the state's natural and sensitive resources.

The most notable PlanMaryland accomplishment in the last year is the improved, coordinated working relationship among state agencies. Improved communication, collaboration, and recognition of smart growth concerns at all levels of the state agencies – from the front line workers to Secretaries – is the real success story. PlanMaryland has provided the context and framework for these improved working relations, and state agencies are more aligned than ever when it comes to promoting smart growth. As a result, agencies are incorporating PlanMaryland goals and objectives and the interests of other sister agencies into their decision-making processes.

The following multi-agency implementation efforts illustrate this.

PlanMaryland Capital Budget Review and Analysis.

Acting on the DBM's implementation strategy to

“Coordinate enhancements to the capital budgeting process to ensure that State agencies have considered PlanMaryland when deciding on where to site a project,” DBM and MDP staff developed an interactive PlanMaryland Map and a capital budget checklist for state agencies to evaluate prospective capital budget requests, and then conducted a series of training sessions for agency capital budgeting staff. Participants reported that they found the PlanMaryland Map and the checklists

extremely helpful as they plan future capital projects. For some FY 2015 submissions, state agencies have been asked to report if the proposed capital project furthers the objectives of the PlanMaryland planning area. DBM will evaluate the effectiveness of this first phase of the strategy implementation before determining follow-up actions.



MHEC staff facilitated a similar training of community college representatives planning to submit capital budget requests to MHEC. MHEC is working to incorporate the PlanMaryland assessment into its capital budget review regulations.

GreenPrint and Climate Change Impact Area Mapping

DNR identified in several of its implementation strategies the need to address perceived conflicts between PlanMaryland's Planning Areas (particularly Targeted Growth and Revitalization Areas) and the updated GreenPrint mapping tool. In 2012, DNR finalized the Climate Change Impact Areas Mapping Tool and updated the GreenPrint Mapping tool. These tools were presented to local partners at a series of regional workshops in

November/December 2012. The GreenPrint and Climate Change Impact Area Mapper brings together multiple data layers from different sources to illustrate the presence of vital habitat lands, fisheries resources, forestry resources, and land areas in Maryland projected to be the most sensitive to climate change. These data were used to incorporate the consideration of natural resources into the state review process for the Sustainable Communities, Smart Growth Infrastructure Fund and the PlanMaryland Planning Area submissions. As a result, many projects and boundaries were refined based on climate vulnerability, and the inter-agency team developed a protocol for identifying and



avoiding undesirable impacts on critical resource lands and land use conflicts in climate-vulnerable areas.

State agencies are incorporating the GreenPrint and Climate Change Impact Area mapping tools into various aspects of their operations. For example, MDP's regional planners now routinely use these mapping tools in their local comprehensive plan review process and are advising local governments to use these tools in their local planning and permitting activities.

Local Sustainable Communities Application Review

DHCD is the lead agency coordinating the review and designation of Sustainable Communities. This place-based revitalization program designates places that seek to:

- conserve resources
- provide green spaces and parks for recreation and agriculture
- offer many transportation and housing options
- use natural and cultural resources wisely
- address social and economic needs



Local governments seeking Sustainable Community designation must identify revitalization areas and submit an action plan that addresses those objectives in a holistic manner. This comprehensive revitalization strategy guides investment to increase economic, transportation and housing choices, and improve environmental quality and health outcomes. The local action plan is developed through a collaboration of local government agencies, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders to target state and local resources to address the needs of the proposed Sustainable Community.

DHCD has established a comprehensive assessment process involving a cross-section of state agencies that evaluate the Sustainable Community applications. Before a Sustainable Community is designated, the Subcabinet agencies evaluate the appropriateness of the revitalization area and the commitment by the local government as expressed in its action plan. Working with the local government, the state agencies recommend adjustments to the Sustainable Community boundaries to avoid environmentally sensitive area, limit inclusion of “greenfield” development areas, and include opportunities for employment and mixed-use development. State agencies also will advise the local government regarding opportunities for financial and technical assistance that could augment local Sustainable Community efforts. This review and approval process is compatible with and complementary to the identification and endorsement process for PlanMaryland’s Targeted Growth and Revitalization Areas, making the two processes mutually supportive.

The following are highlights of Subcabinet Plan Maryland accomplishments this year organized by the 12 Planning Visions.



1. Quality of Life and Sustainability: A high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment.

To advance Marylanders access to Healthy Communities, DNR developed and released the Park Equity Analysis, a GIS-based tool that evaluates census-based demographics and proximity to park space. The analysis, which identifies areas in Maryland most in need of park space development, was launched and presented to local governments and other audiences. Another key program is the Children in Nature Community Health Initiative, which engages local governments, NGOs and others to promote the connection between health and access to nature. In 2012, a workgroup identified a community in Baltimore City to conduct a pilot project and work with local schools, hospitals and partners. (DNR)

DLLR has partnered with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to administer a program to recruit, screen, select and assess potential candidates for training in various technical and highway construction-related tasks for job readiness. The agencies are collaborating on the implementation of programs with local Workforce Investment Areas through DLLR and Governor's Workforce Investment Board's State Interagency Committee. (DLLR and MDOT)

Maryland is making progress toward the EmPOWER Maryland goal. We have reduced peak demand by 10.8% and electricity consumption by 9.4% as of the end of 2012, from a 2007 baseline. At the end of 2012, 7.9% of the energy generated in Maryland came from renewable sources, up from 5.8% in 2007. The state has exponentially increased the amount of in-state solar generation since 2007, and plans to keep increasing. (MEA)

In accordance with the goals of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act, the institutions of the USM alone have achieved a combined reduction in greenhouse gas reduction of nearly 10% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Of particular interest is that, during a period when full-time enrollment grew by 20%, carbon emissions per full-time student stayed relatively level, while emissions per gross square feet of building space dropped dramatically, by over 6 tons per 1,000 GSF. On its current trajectory, the USM is poised to meet the 2020 goal and intends to do all possible to maintain that momentum. (MHEC) The State Health Improvement Process (SHIP), and associated local health improvement coalitions (LHICs), are focused on promoting healthier communities through the engagement of community stakeholders with public health agencies. These strategies, and the DHMH's implementation of the Affordable Care Act, are critical elements in efforts to improve the health of Marylanders. The Department's linkage with other state agencies, and the provision of more health data in flexible formats, will assist other agencies in incorporating health concerns and considerations into planning and decision making. (DHMH)



2. Public Participation: Citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives and are sensitive to their responsibilities in achieving community goals.

MDE has developed an Environmental Justice (EJ) and Public Participation Fact Sheet and is in the process of revamping the EJ portion of its website. When the update is complete, the factsheet will be added. (MDE)

DHCD, MDOT and MDP continue to be ongoing partners with the Opportunity Collaborative hosted by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and funded through the federal Sustainable Communities Initiative grant. The agencies also maintain an ongoing dialogue with community advocates and developers to discuss financing programs and opportunities for revitalization, transit-oriented development and transportation alternatives. (DHCD, MDOT, MDP)

MDP has established a pre-planning meeting process for state agencies and local planning representatives to meet and discuss available data resources and issues to be considered prior to initiating a local comprehensive update. MDP has conducted three state-local pre-comprehensive plan meetings during the past fiscal year. MDP has started an assessment of the current local comprehensive plan filing and review process that should result in improved coordination among state agencies in providing timely information for local plan preparation. MDP regional planning staff has established a tracking of local

comprehensive plan updates to better coordinate state assistance and information into the local plan preparation process. MDP regional planners are using the PlanMaryland mapping tool as a planning resource for local governments and interest groups in the development of local comprehensive plans. (MDP)

DHMH has been working to put an infrastructure in place to provide more geographically relevant health data to other agencies and the public. DHMH's Virtual Data Unit is creating a centralized point of access for health data in a geodatabase that will enable users to view and use a variety of health data in static displays and downloadable formats that can be integrated with other programs. The department expects the first of these data packages will be available internally in 2013 and to other agencies in 2014. Challenges include obtaining the resources required to create the data products, and the need to develop consistent policies and rules about the display and suppression of health data at relevant geographic and temporal scales. The department held a public workshop on display and presentation of health data at the local level, and continues to engage with local, state and national organizations on the best ways to make data more available. (DHMH)



3. Growth Areas: Growth is concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers, or strategically selected new centers.

DBED authorized a \$100,000 Brownfield Conditional Grant from its MEDAAF fund for remediation costs associated with the redevelopment of 2600 North Howard Street in Baltimore. The planned redevelopment is for non-profit office space for Young Audiences of Maryland, a state-of-the-art community theatre run by Baltimore's Single Carrot Theatre Company and a butcher shop/restaurant. DBED anticipates the project will act as an extension of the Station North Arts & Entertainment District into Remington and bring it closer to the Baltimore Museum of Art and Johns Hopkins University. The project, with a total budget estimated to be \$3.8 million, will enhance and encourage further

redevelopment of the Remington area of Baltimore. Upon completion of remediation, the site will be redeveloped into approximately 14,000 square feet of office, restaurant and theater space, with the expectation of creating approximately 75 jobs over two years, which also will increase the city and state tax base. (DBED)

DBED approved the designation, re-designation or expansion of six Enterprise Zones, enabling the jurisdictions to provide businesses within the zones – Salisbury, Wicomico County; Cumberland, Allegany County; Hagerstown, Washington County; Pocomoke, Worcester County; Snow Hill, Worcester County; and Baltimore City with income tax and property tax credits to help create and retain jobs. The latest data from the State Department of Assessment and Taxation shows that businesses in the 30 Enterprise Zones will receive property tax credits totaling \$35.4 million in FY 2013. Enterprise Zones have contributed \$2.98 billion in real property investments over the past 10 years. (DBED)

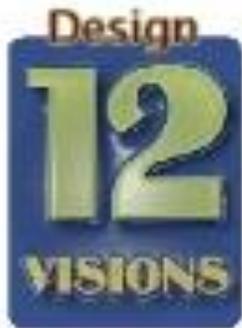
A new Specifications and Requirements for State of Maryland Leased Space document for lease solicitations was issued on July 1. The new document includes revised scoring for lease locations that are consistent with PlanMaryland objectives, LEED building criteria and two alternative tiers of criteria, agency site evaluation criteria to consider walkability and the outdoor environment and references to the Transit-Oriented Development Executive Order. The General Lease form also has been updated to include additional energy and conservation initiatives. The DGS Lease Procurement process and Enforcement process are consistent with PlanMaryland objectives. (DGS)

The Community Parks and Playground Program is important to DNR's efforts to enhance and improve recreational and park opportunities within PFAs and downtown areas. DNR has developed a map overlay of previously funded CPP projects. This data layer will be used for an initial analysis of project location and Targeted Growth and Revitalization Areas. (DNR)

MDP is working with the Urban Land Institutes' (ULI) Baltimore and Washington D.C. chapters to identify land development regulatory reform opportunities and report on best management/planning practices that could be instituted at the state and local levels. A second phase of PlanMaryland workshops is being developed for the upcoming fall and winter. During this phase, MDP and its partners will use focus groups and survey instruments to better identify local best practices as well as local needs. The ULI project is being integrated with the similar efforts of the Sustainable Growth Commission Concentrating Growth work group. With inclusion of these additional stakeholders, MDP will be developing a Models and Guidelines document to report on the identified best practices. (MDP)

Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) staff has evaluated several strategies to strengthen programmatic and/or funding opportunities that would support the objectives of the Targeted Growth and Revitalization Planning Areas, rather than using school enrollment projections alone or the approach used for schools located in BRAC zones. Staff is investigating

alternative program criteria and available data that could be used to enhance the existing process, prior to recommending any changes. (IAC)



4. Community Design: Compact, mixed-use, walkable design consistent with existing community character and located near transit options is encouraged to ensure efficient use of land and transportation resources and preservation and enhancement of natural systems, open spaces, recreational areas, and historical, cultural, and archeological resources.

DHCD is working with an interagency review team that includes the Departments of Planning, Transportation, Environment, Natural Resources and Business and Economic Development to designate Sustainable Communities across the state. By July, the Smart Growth Subcabinet had designated 33 Sustainable Communities. Next year, many other Sustainable Community applications will be reviewed approved by the Subcabinet. The Governor's FY 2014 budget request provides continued support for DHCD's core neighborhood revitalization programs targeted to Sustainable Communities: (1) \$2.4 million for Neighborhood BusinessWorks; (2) \$6 million in capital funds for Community Legacy; and (3) \$5 million for the Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund; and (4) \$3.75 million for the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative. DBED, MDOT and MDP also have included Sustainable Community criteria in some of their discretionary programs to incentive revitalization. (DHCD)

MDOT continues to promote Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and to make progress on several ongoing projects. In the past year, two new TOD designations were approved, addressing development potential at the Metro stations of White Flint and Greenbelt. (MDOT)

The State Highway Administration (SHA) adopted a Complete Streets Policy in July 2012. The policy requires that all SHA staff and partners consider and incorporate complete streets criteria for all transportation modes when developing or redeveloping transportation systems. SHA also released new bicycle design guidelines with a strengthened policy that requires all projects (e.g. resurfacing projects) consider the inclusion of bicycle lanes. All projects must demonstrate that bicycle accommodations are provided to the greatest extent possible. (MDOT)



5. Infrastructure: Growth areas have the water resources and infrastructure to accommodate population and business expansion in an orderly, efficient, and environmentally sound manner.

MDE's Water Resources Planning Program has incorporated the smart growth strategy as a routine part of its review of County Water and Sewerage Plan update and amendment reviews. MDE closely coordinates reviews with MDP to ensure that changes are consistent with local comprehensive plans. Water and Sewerage Plan reviews conducted by MDE advise local governments where there are high quality waters and other resources that should be protected during growth and development. MDE funding for water and sewerage infrastructure is reviewed to ensure that the expansion is justified by growth projections, the local comprehensive plans and complies with the Priority Funding Area law. Capacity management is being reviewed by the MDE Water Supply Program and is being incorporated into wastewater treatment system permits. (MDE)

The existing priority ranking system for MDE's Water Quality Financing Administration, which funds wastewater and drinking water capital projects, has been determined to be consistent with PlanMaryland. MDE primarily funds projects in PFAs and those that support sustainable development receive extra points, resulting in higher rankings. Sustainable development includes proximity to a transit station, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) or Brownfield Revitalization Area, a Department of Housing and Community Development-designated Community Legacy Area, etc. (MDE)

To promote concentrated development and redevelopment, MDE is preparing a regulatory change to implement the municipal preference approach to water appropriation strategy for Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties, and may continue this effort statewide after an evaluation of the effect in these counties. (MDE)



6. Transportation: A well-maintained, multimodal transportation system facilitates the safe, convenient, affordable and efficient movement of people, goods and services within and between population and business centers.

MDOT has led two major efforts to update transportation planning and ensure consistency with statewide goals, including PlanMaryland and DHCD's "Housing Maryland" policy framework. Updates to the Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP), as well as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, have entailed significant technical analysis, public engagement and consultation with state and local agency leaders. These processes relied on significant public outreach, including stakeholder interviews, public meetings and public surveys, which received more than 6,000 responses across the state. The Planning Visions and

related PlanMaryland and statewide goals were considered in drafting proposed MTP goals and objectives and in deliberations of the Attainment Report Advisory Committee, which oversees implementation of the MTP. A draft plan was made public in September 2013; final versions of both plans will be submitted to the General Assembly in January. (MDOT)

MDOT staff has been coordinating with MDP and modal administrations (SHA and MTA) to substantially revise and strengthen the internal project evaluation process by developing check lists and review protocols to ensure consistency with the 12 Planning Visions as well as with the Maryland Transportation Plan, PlanMaryland and other statewide goals. (MDOT)

MDOT, with SHA and MTA, has made significant progress in reviewing existing tools in light of their capacity to reflect and respond to land use realities. Several decision-support tools are under development that will help the agency analyze, plan for and invest in projects that optimize transportation and land use outcomes. Examples include the Maryland Statewide Transportation Model, which we continue to use and refine in coordination with the University of Maryland National Center for Smart Growth, as a measure to improve trip generation assumptions related to areas of relatively dense, mixed-use development. In September, MDOT issued an RFP for assistance in developing further tools to support the capital programming process. (MDOT)

MDOT continues to promote transportation alternatives and administer the Bikeways Program. The program, launched in 2011 to support design and construction of bicycle facilities, has helped fund 74 projects across Maryland for a total of roughly \$8.5 million. As a result of the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act, MDOT's draft six-year capital budget for FY2014 proposes to increase funding for coming years from \$10 to \$15 million. (MDOT)



7. Housing: A range of housing densities, types, and sizes provide residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes.

DHCD facilitated the drafting, review and publication of a State Housing Plan, *Housing Maryland: A Housing Policy Framework for Today and Tomorrow*. DHCD's next steps will be to create a forum or network for collaboration among members of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission's Housing Workgroup and all other housing stakeholders and interested parties to share information and address the ongoing implementation of strategies and actions in pursuit of the three policy goals of the *Housing Maryland Policy Framework*. (DHCD)

Foreclosure prevention continues to be a priority for DHCD. Under the \$8.6 million made available to housing counseling agencies as a result of the National Mortgage Loan

Settlement, our nonprofit partners continue to focus on financial literacy and budget counseling as part of more comprehensive foreclosure prevention strategies. (DHCD)

The Governors FY14 budget request included \$25 million for Rental Housing Works. The Maryland General Assembly approved \$20 million for Rental Housing Works in FY14. This year's investment will create more than 1,500 new, affordable rental housing units and support 2,000 jobs. (DHCD)

The Be SMART Home Program offers innovative financing to improve home energy efficiency through replacement and upgrading of appliances, heating, cooling and ventilation systems and whole house envelope improvements across the state.

DHCD administers the EmPOWER Low Income Energy Efficiency program to contribute to the statewide reduction in energy consumption of 15 percent by 2015. (DHCD)

DHCD is partnering with group home providers to improve accessibility of older units through the group home financing program and the Accessible Homes for Seniors program. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation provided an additional \$1 million for the Maryland Rental Housing for Persons with Disabilities Initiative. The apartments will be affordable at 15-30 percent of median income. DHCD received a \$10.9 million award of Section 811 Project-Based Assistance Demonstration funds from HUD. This program is designed to serve 150 disabled people between the ages of 18 and 62. DHCD is revising its Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for low-income housing tax credits. Proposed revisions include: (1) Reserving 5 percent of units for non-elderly tenants with special needs; and (2) Incentives for the creation of units reserved for special needs populations. (DHCD)

The Lead Program continues to be successful in lowering the number of children with elevated blood lead levels in Maryland. Since 1993, the number of Maryland children with lead poisoning has dropped by more than 98 percent. Legislation passed during the 2012 session (House Bill 644) to further reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in Maryland by addressing lead poisoning in owner occupied housing. HB 644 also authorized the Department to seek delegation of a federal rule to provide oversight of lead safe work practices in all pre-1978 buildings and to provide for the accreditation of companies and individuals performing lead paint services in Maryland. Finally, the legislation will make it possible to expand the successful State program to rental properties built between 1950 and 1978 (goes into effect Jan 1, 2015). MDE received funding in the FY14 budget to hire new staff to implement these changes. These changes should continue to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning. The goal is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Maryland. (MDE)



8. Economic Development: Economic development that promotes employment opportunities for all income levels within the capacity of the State's natural resources, public services, and public facilities is encouraged.

Since 2006, MDA has successfully increased the demand for Maryland farm and food products and increased use of risk management tools, thus sustaining agriculture and land base. MDA has connected more 1,000 farmers to consumers through the "Maryland's Best" website. In that same period, the website has logged more than 220,000 visitors who visited more than 986,000 times to find information and connect with farmers, wineries, farmers markets and farm stands. An annual buyer-grower meeting has grown from 35 participants to 400, farmers markets have increased from 72 to 136 and a Farm to School program was launched, linking schools in all counties with local farmers. Use of crop

insurance in this period by Maryland farmers has grown from 5,456 policies on 735,000 acres worth \$158 million to 6,628 policies in 2012 on 920,000 acres worth \$402 million. (MDA)

With the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, Maryland is moving forward on long-term strategies to invest in transportation and put people to work in the transportation industry. With \$4.4 billion programmed over the next six years, Maryland will create millions of dollars in economic activity and provide Marylanders with transportation infrastructure necessary to grow and prosper for decades to come. (MDOT)

Passed during the 2011 legislative session, the InvestMaryland program is now fully implemented. The program is investing up to \$84 million in growing, early-stage companies over the next several years, both directly through DBED's Maryland Venture Fund and indirectly through private venture capital funds. (DBED)

In May, DBED launched "Advance Maryland," in partnership with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), to support growth companies. The initiative provides resources targeted to second-stage companies and addresses strategic growth challenges, from developing new markets and refining business models to gaining access to competitive intelligence. (DBED)

DBED is actively promoting Aberdeen Proving Ground's (APG) new STEM Education Center. This is a BRAC-related state and local government partnership in support of regional workforce and economic development. The STEM facility provides a space for scientists and engineers from the installation to work alongside students and teachers. (DBED)

DBED is pursuing the potential relocation of the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from Washington, D.C. to a site in Prince George's County. DBED has partnered with the Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Prince George's County to promote the Greenbelt Metro site as a transit-oriented development site. (DBED)

In FY2013, DBED approved a \$250,000 MEDAAF Arts & Entertainment (A&E) grant to assist Jubilee Baltimore with the redevelopment of a 65,000 square-foot building in the Station North A&E District in Baltimore City. The project involves the

transformation of the largest vacant building in the district into a center for the arts. The redevelopment of the project site will help the city attract and retain residents, grow its tax base and create new jobs. (DBED)

Over the past two years, DBED and other state agencies have been working on a Governor's initiative to increase the economic and innovation potential of Maryland's space industry. A key opportunity identified for the Lower Eastern Shore was to leverage the opportunities presented by the NASA Wallops Flight Facility and its activities in Space Launch, Sounding Rockets and Unmanned Systems. DBED worked with key local stakeholders to develop a strategic plan which includes recommendations covering education, infrastructure, business development (DBED)

Advancing the initial rural broadband funded efforts of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, DBED provided a grant to the Town of Denton to fund the installation of a fiber optic cable from Route 404 through the Denton Industrial Park. This is part of a longstanding intergovernmental partnership to provide service to all regions of the state. (DBED)

In January, the state launched its first online business registration system. DBED assumed a lead role for this initiative, working closely with the Department of Information Technology and other agencies. The Central Business Licensing System (CBL) allows business owners to register a new business and establish a tax account through a single website. The system reduces the time it takes to register a new business from an average of ten weeks to five to seven days. (DBED)

DLLR's Division of Workforce Development is continuing to strengthen Maryland's workforce and is on target to meet the January 1, 2014 computer-based GED testing implementation deadline. Our initial goal is to ensure broad geographic coverage throughout the state, as we phase out the current paper testing process. (DLLR)

Working with the Sustainable Growth Commission's Rural Economies Work group, MDP developed a set of initiatives to enhance the rural economy. Currently, the Rural Economies Work group is investigating policy changes to improve access to broadband for rural communities. MDP is also working with other state agencies on a state-wide economic development assessment. This assessment, titled, "Placing Jobs," will concentrate on a non-regulatory approach to better integrating comprehensive planning, economic development, workforce training and private sector engagement. MDP will build on relationships with the Tri-County Councils and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations. (MDP)



9. Environmental Protection: Land and water resources, including the Chesapeake Bay and its coastal bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems and living resources.

The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 (the Septics Bill) affects the location of major subdivisions on well and septic systems in the rural areas of counties. This will strongly influence the state's strategy to limit growth in rural, agricultural areas. MDE's Wastewater Permits Program continues to ensure that all requests for increases in permit discharges for growth are consistent with Water and Sewerage Plans, which in turn must be consistent with local comprehensive plans. (MDE)

MDE has developed a form for Wastewater Permit Program dischargers to report data on critical water quality based effluent criteria from monitoring wells. A reporting requirement is added whenever a permit is renewed. MDE anticipates it will be approximately three years to complete the renewal permit cycle to incorporate the new information for all relevant groundwater permits. (MDE)

In March 2012, the draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan was published for public comment. Public information meetings were held throughout the state on the draft plan, and more than 2,000 comments were received. The final report was released on July 25, 2013 at a Climate Change Summit. The plan will achieve a 25% reduction in statewide greenhouse gases by 2020. The plan includes more than 60 specific strategies, including a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard to establish a market for new sources of renewable electricity generation; EmPOWER Maryland to reduce both Maryland's per capita total electricity consumption and peak load demand; Zero Waste, which aims to ensure all products in Maryland can be reused, recycled or composted; Maryland Clean Cars Program that directly regulates carbon dioxide emissions from motor vehicles; and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cooperative regional cap-and-trade program. MDE will consult with MDP to determine which programs are most applicable to this element of Plan Maryland and report on their implementation in future updates. (MDE)



10. Resource Conservation: Waterways, open space, natural systems, scenic areas, forests and agricultural areas are conserved.

For milestones ending June 30, 2013, the agricultural sector goals for BMP implementation were exceeded by 184%. MDA, working with the agricultural industry, is on track to exceed goals for the 2015 milestones. This progress has been based largely on nutrient reductions achieved by the implementation of cover crops and streamside buffers. (MDA)

MALPF received 156 easement applications for over 19,000 acres throughout the state for the FY 2013/2014 easement acquisition cycle. The total funding for the acquisition cycle is \$53.5 million of state and county funds combined; this is an increase of over \$20 million from the previous cycle. The Foundation began making easement offers for the FY 2013/2014 cycle the end of June, 2013. The acquisition of easements will add to the current

285,800 acres already preserved under the MALPF Program and help achieve the statewide preservation goal of 1,030,000 acres. (MDA)

In 2012, DNR finalized the Climate Change Impact Areas Mapping Tool and conducted outreach to local governments on the data layers and the tool itself at the DNR regional workshops in November/December 2012. The Climate Change Impact Area Mapper brings together multiple data layers from different sources to illustrate land areas in Maryland projected to be most sensitive to climate change. The layers include areas vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge, flooding, drought and rising temperatures. These data were used to incorporate the review of climate-induced hazards into the state review process for the Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth Infrastructure Fund and the PlanMaryland mapping reviews. As a result, many projects and boundaries were refined based upon climate vulnerability. Through this process, the state agency team developed a protocol for the identifying and avoiding critical resource lands and climate vulnerable areas. The tool also has furthered coordination on trail and eco-tourism connections and identified potential habitat enhancements, corridor connections and increased tree canopy opportunities. (DNR)

As part of the Maryland Forest Preservation Act of 2013, Maryland communities now have enhanced tools to plan for, protect and establish regional and urban forestry resources. The Act, which calls for no net loss of forestry resources, requires DNR to provide detailed forestry data every five years to help in local government long-range planning. The Act also encourages smart growth by allowing for exemption of redevelopment projects within the Priority Funding Area. (DNR)



11. Stewardship: Government, business entities, and residents are responsible for the creation of sustainable communities by collaborating to balance efficient growth with resource protection.

MDE's Watershed Implementation Plan Accounting for Growth workgroup has been meeting on a regular basis since January. The group has reached consensus on a number of issues, and where there was no consensus, the group has articulated options supported by one or more stakeholders. The workgroup's final report was released at the end of August. MDE will continue to work on the regulations necessary to establish the offset program with the goal of adopting regulations by the end of 2013. Subject to grandfathering provisions, the requirement that development offset its new pollution would likely go into effect by June 2015. (MDE)

The 2013 Maryland State Plan for Post-Secondary Education incorporated several references regarding smart growth and PlanMaryland as part of Goal 1, Quality and Effectiveness. The plan, which will be published shortly, will serve as the guiding policy document for all of post-secondary education in Maryland. It also works to establish PlanMaryland as a topic of interest for the Commission. (MHEC)

At the end of 2012, all USM degree-granting institutions completed presentations of their facilities master plans to the Board of Regents, and all were approved by the Board. All planned development was consistent with state goals for targeted growth, with most occurring on existing, established campuses. The next round of master plan updates, beginning in 2014, will address both environmental and community impacts, with specific references to PlanMaryland. (MHEC)

The Maryland Codes Administration has provided training and technical assistance for the International Energy Conservation Code, International Building Code, International Residential Code and ADA Accessibility Guidelines for 672 local code officials,

builders, engineers and architects through Maryland since August of 2012 and will provide training to an additional 625 local code officials by the end of May 2013. (DHCD)

MSDE's Division of Career and College Readiness has made continuous improvement to the State's system of Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs with all 24 Local School Systems offering some construction-related programs; nearly 4,000 students enrolled statewide in 2012. Environmental, Agriculture and Natural Resources has added a second postsecondary program affiliate for the Cluster. Over the last two years, Governor O'Malley has invested \$1.8 million to expand and enhance Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Biomedical Sciences programs in Maryland's public school systems. Maryland has 47 PLTW Biomedical school sites in 19 school systems with over 1300 students enrolled. (MSDE)

A four day state-wide Environmental Literacy Summit was held August 5 for educators with expertise in the disciplines of science and social studies. Participants had the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions and educational activities facilitated by 50 education professionals in an effort to improve their school system's environmental literacy program. Following the Environmental Literacy Summit in August 2012, there were follow-up Regional Meetings in fall 2012 and spring 2013. (MSDE)

DNR completed an outreach effort to share and train local governments on the availability and use of on-line mapping tools for conservation areas. DNR hosted a series of five regional workshops in November/ December 2012 across the state that were attended by representatives from every county, Baltimore City and numerous municipalities. These workshops included information on GreenPrint and Climate Mapping tools and were an opportunity for local representatives to hear directly from the scientist and technical staff involved in developing the tools. We look forward to increased coordination as more local PlanMaryland Planning Areas are submitted and more partners make use of the on-line data and mapping tools. (DNR)

MDP has initiated the dialogue with local jurisdictions and regional MPOs to better integrate PlanMaryland Planning Areas (PMPAs) into the local/regional cooperative forecasting process for projected growth of households and employment by PMPAs. For those jurisdictions where permits containing geocodes are available, MDP will geocode building permits to PMPAs to monitor where development activity is taking place. Local governments can use this tool when updating their forecasts. (MDP)

MDP has started the process of identifying how the Clearinghouse can review projects sooner and broaden its access. An assessment of the regional planner role in performing Clearinghouse review and coordination duties is underway. Staff is meeting with sister agencies regarding how the review process can help them meet some of their mandates. (MDP)

MDOT has recommended that agencies collaborate on smaller area studies around which to focus specific initiatives and better engage state, local and regional actors around sustainable growth policies. MDOT took the lead on convening initial meetings using the Carbon Neutral Corridor concept as a model, but based on responses, will re-orient efforts toward creating a pilot program to further develop and refine decision-support tools. (MDOT)



12. Implementation: Strategies, policies, programs and funding for growth and development, resource conservation, infrastructure, and transportation are integrated across the local, regional, State and interstate levels to achieve these visions.

In May, DBM held trainings for capital budget analysts on how to use PlanMaryland guidelines as a way to evaluate capital budget requests, facility program manuals and facility master plans. Subsequently, DBM partnered with MDP to hold trainings for agency capital budget staff on May 16 and 17, using an MDP-developed GIS mapping tool. Over 60 people attended the trainings. DBM revised its annual memo to agencies to include PlanMaryland guidelines in its instructions for FY 2015 and, as DBM reviews FY 2015 capital budget requests, it will assess requests for compliance with PlanMaryland goals. The DBM instruction manuals are being revised to include a section on PlanMaryland. (DBM)

To implement the increase in the mandatory recycling and waste diversion rates for counties and state government, MDE is coordinating an update of recycling plans by state government agencies and county plans to include new recycling targets. Those targets need to be reached by July 1, 2014 and full implementation of each plan by Dec 31, 2015. MDE is working on a zero waste strategy. This is a long-term 'zero waste' strategy to eliminate 85% of all solid waste in the state by 2030. (MDE)

DGS evaluated its acquisition requirements with PlanMaryland criteria in mind. Staff attended DBM Capital Budget Training, and instructed agencies on the new criteria to be considered when seeking land for locating new state facilities. Staff training

was also held on PFA identification for new parcels to be considered, and on local government notification and collaboration for land acquisitions. (DGS)

DGS has reviewed its Real Property Disposal process, and staff attended several state-sponsored training seminars including Clearinghouse-E-MIRC training and MHT – Section 106 training. The disposal process has been determined to be consistent with PlanMaryland objectives. (DGS)

DGS – Facilities, Planning, Design & Construction conducted training seminars for DGS project managers with DNR, the State Fire Marshall's Office, MHT and MDE to review timelines and procedures required in coordinating required documentation for construction projects around the state. The training was helpful and each agency provided clear direction on how to initiate reviews, what information to provide in bidding documents, and how to follow up on procedures. Policies were revised accordingly, and are consistent with PlanMaryland objectives. (DGS)

MHEC, in collaboration with MDP and DBM, is revising its capital budget review process to require institutions to consider the principles of PlanMaryland in capital budget and facilities master plan submissions. New guidelines and potential COMAR regulation changes will be issued and implemented during fall 2013. (MHEC)

In December 2012, Governor Martin O'Malley signed a landmark initiative to increase the state's long-term resiliency to storm-related flooding and sea level rise. The Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Executive Order directs that all new and reconstructed state structures, as well as other infrastructure improvements, be planned and constructed to avoid or minimize future flood damage. The Executive Order enacts a number of policy directives, including directing all state agencies to consider the risk of coastal flooding and sea level rise when they design capital budget projects and charging the Department of General Services with updating its architecture and engineering guidelines to require new and rebuilt state structures to be elevated two or more feet above the 100-year base flood level. (DNR)

With the adoption of PlanMaryland, regional planning staff reference PlanMaryland in their reviews of local comprehensive plans and the comments made on projects going through the Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance review process. MDP staff also comments on state agency draft reports and documents on consistency with PlanMaryland. (MDP)

MDP developed an interactive PlanMaryland map that provides state agencies, local governments and the public the ability to determine the current Planning Area designation of any property in the state. This interactive tool was used in DBM's capital budget preparation process this year, as well as by MHEC for its review of postsecondary education facility planning. MDP regional planners are using the PlanMaryland map as a resource for comprehensive plan and Clearinghouse project review. (MDP)

Looking Ahead

With a greater understanding in the shared purpose and benefits of coordinated decision-making and investment in smart growth and sustainability, state agencies are demonstrating an unprecedented level of collaboration. That, in turn, presents a more consistent message of why PlanMaryland and other state initiatives are important and how local governments can take advantage of them. While not all state policies have been fully harmonized, local governments are receiving more consistent answers. There is a greater willingness among state agencies to revisit long established policies and develop new ways to address impediments. State agency representatives understand it will take time to demonstrate meaningful policy differences to local governments and that, by improving accessibility to state programs, they can create compelling incentives for concentrated growth, revitalized communities and resource protection.

PlanMaryland's success relies mostly on incentives, primarily in the form of benefits from state programs for local and private sector projects related to growth, community enhancements and conservation in Planning Areas. Most local governments have adopted a wait-and-see attitude regarding the plan's benefits. If there are few compelling incentives to follow the plan or no negative consequences for choosing not to do so, the only motivation local governments have to participate is awareness that a well-coordinated state, local and private sector approach to PlanMaryland's goals and objectives is fundamental to their interests, both public and private.

The critical steps in the coming year are to institutionalize Planning Areas and associated goals in concrete ways within state programs. This is critical so that local governments will see the relevancy of the Planning Areas, and state agencies will have local and private sector partners to achieve plan goals. Positive perceptions begin with recognition that agencies are using Planning Areas to guide their plans, policies, programs and investments. A key step has been taken by establishing a PlanMaryland capital budget process, to (1) identify projects that are consistent or inconsistent with state policies, (2) modify the latter, if possible, before they receive state funding, and (3) aggressively advancing capital projects that further PlanMaryland objectives for the Planning Areas.

An analogous approach is needed for the wide array of other agency plans and programs, including those that provide capital funds outside DBM's process, as well as regulatory and financial or technical assistance programs that plan, support or provide incentives for growth, community enhancements or conservation of land and resources – either directly or indirectly. When public and private sector benefits become evident parts of these plans and programs, PlanMaryland will succeed.