

SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR

2013
TO
2018

Sustainability Action Plan

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Sustainability Plan

The Town of Bel Air has been the hub of commerce and governance in Harford County, Maryland since before it was incorporated as a municipality in 1874. Through its active volunteerism, attractive parks, community events, historic sites, local artists, and private-public partnerships, the Town has fostered a sense of local pride.¹ What about the future for Bel Air, however? What will the Town become as it moves through the 21st century? Will it retain its economic vitality, its role as the

county hub, and its sense of place? In short, how will Bel Air be sustainable: economically; environmentally; and socially?

The people of Bel Air hold the key to their Town's future. Undoubtedly, there will be new challenges, such as downturns in business cycles, extreme weather events, new demographic patterns, and new opportunities, such as deeper insights, scientific discoveries, and

improved technologies. Changing times call for the people of Bel Air to distinguish between situations that can be controlled and those that cannot, and between problems that require technical fixes and those that require behavioral change. Bel Air's success in adapting to new situations requires determination to adjust to new challenges and creativity to take advantage of new opportunities.

This sustainable community development plan sets the direction and identifies methods whereby the people of Bel Air and their government can shape a sustainable future for their community. The plan draws on the knowledge, values, and suggestions of the Town's citizens. It provides a vision for the future, identifies controllable factors, and creates specific actions to which Town leaders are committed and its citizens are invited to join.

¹ For a comprehensive political and social history of Bel Air, see Deibel, Carol. *Bel Air Chronicles*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2012.

Sustainable Community Development

Sustainable community development is defined, typically, to include the interaction of three systems – economic, environmental, and social; for a graphic illustration of this definition, see Appendix A. Sustainable development is based on present-day facts, and it anticipates situations that are likely to emerge over time. It means managing change

from the present into the long-term future. It involves development for the current population and for the sake of generations to come.

Sustainable community development is more than a new initiative or set of commitments. It means rethinking how a community operates. It involves a

change in mindset, a reformation of how a community "does business."²

To be meaningful, a plan for sustainable community development must reflect the unique qualities, situation, and aspirations of a given place. Local governments elsewhere have expressed this need in various ways:

- Sustainability means the utilization of our municipality and other resources to meet community needs and aspirations, and best optimize the unique nature of the community, without compromising the well being of future generations.
Town of Collingwood, Ontario, Canada 2008
- Like many local governments throughout the U.S. the Town must find the most effective way to encourage growth, stimulate business, and provide quality services to residents, while at the same time, conserving energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and preserving the natural heritage that give the Town its unique character.
Town of Davie, Florida, 2012
- As a practical matter, finite resources, coupled with a significant desire to better support a diverse and sustainable community, require the city to make choices about how best to use its natural, social, economic, and human resources. City residents and elected officials recognize that these choices are local decisions that will impact the natural environment, the community, and quality of life, and are intended to guide Northampton's role locally, regionally, and globally.
City of Northampton, Massachusetts 2007

To help define sustainable development to fit the unique place of Bel Air, the Town Administrator, Christopher Schlehr, formed a Sustainability Committee in August of 2012 with the mission of creating a broadly-based, officially-endorsed sustainability plan for the Town. The goal was to ensure the sustainability of Bel Air for future generations. At that time, the Town also hired the services of a facilitator to assist with the process of developing a plan. The committee consisted of ten members, including two citizens on Town Advisory Groups, one Town Commissioner, six Town Department heads, and the Town Administrator. During their first

meeting with the facilitator, committee members decided to seek, first, the participation and perspectives of citizens, and thus began the planning process with focus group interviews and an "open house" event for Town residents.

The committee also tied sustainability planning in Bel Air to a program called "Sustainable Maryland Certified" (SMC), which is co-sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League and the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland. The Town of Bel Air had previously registered as a "SMC municipality," thereby making it eligible

to obtain official certification by the sponsors as a sustainable community. In practice, tying its efforts to SMC meant the committee designated itself as a "Green Team" and oriented some actions of the sustainability plan to the SMC menu of actions required to become certified.

The Sustainable Bel Air Community Plan is intended to be a "living document." It is meant, that is, to be consulted for guidance, referenced for action, and, over time, amended as the Town's situation changes and the community learns by doing.

² Blakely, Tom. "Implementing Sustainability" in *Public Management*, Vol.94, No.5, pp 12-16.

Data Collection and Method of Analysis

To establish a knowledge base for writing the Plan, the committee and facilitator collected data in the following ways:

- On three days – 9/5, 9/12, and 9/18/2012 – Bel Air residents participated in facilitated interviews. The focus groups totaled 31 citizens, who were diverse by age, gender, occupation, and experience. Discussions included an exercise to map locations in Bel Air where participants identified sites of assets and concern. For a view of the questionnaire used in the focus groups, see Appendix B, and for the results of the mapping exercise, see Appendix C.
- At a “Bel Air Open House” event on 10/10/2012, twelve participants indicated their priorities among a list of possible actions for sustainability, mapped their assessment of the Town’s assets and concerns, and provided written comments about sustainability. See Appendix C for mapping results, Appendix D for prioritized actions, and Appendix E for written comments.
- During the “Healthy Harford Day” event on 10/13/2012, participants indicated their personal priorities to a list of actions. For results of the exercise, see Appendix D.
- The facilitator interviewed individual members of the committee at various times during September and October 2012. For the questionnaire used during the interviews, see Appendix F.
- Bel Air Planning and Community Development Director, Kevin Small, provided a paper he wrote in February, 2012, titled “Sustainability Measures.” The paper outlines Mr. Small’s ideas for projects to promote sustainability in the Town.
- The Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) website provided a set of “Action Categories” that identify actions which will receive points for certification.³ See Appendix G for a table showing the correspondence between SMC actions and actions included in the Bel Air plan.
- The *Bel Air Comprehensive Plan: 2009-2015*, provided overall guidance.
- Various print and Internet sources, shown in Appendix H, provided information about actions, plans, and processes which local government jurisdictions and organizations are using to foster sustainable development in communities elsewhere.

Using these sources of data, the facilitator identified themes about the current situation, the possible future, and priority actions. Next, he prepared summary of those themes embedded in an outline of a plan for consideration by the committee. In a series of meetings beginning on 10/31/2012, the committee revised the outline, improved subsequent narrative versions, and produced a final draft of the plan.

The Current Situation

In commenting about present economic, environmental, and social conditions in Bel Air, citizens believe the Town has many assets, but they also have some concerns. The citizens described those assets and concerns as follows:

Assets

Citizens, including committee members, have a strong sense that Bel Air is a good place to live, work, and play. One focus group member, for example, called it a “Unique 21st Century Village.” Specifically, people who were interviewed and other data sources indicate:

1. The Town has physical and cultural assets, and salient among them are:
 - the Armory building
 - attractive open spaces and parks
 - a charming central business district
 - being a clean community
 - the farmers’ market
 - good schools
 - numerous community events
 - proximity of residential areas to core downtown services
 - recreational opportunities
 - Rockfield Manor
 - Liriodendron Mansion⁴
 - being a safe place
 - being a community that is welcoming to business
2. Traditionally, Bel Air has also been the public and private service hub of Harford County.
3. The local governance system of Bel Air, including both public officials and citizens who volunteer for the Town, is generally believed to be effective, efficient, and engaged.

Concerns

The focus group interviews, individual interviews, and other data sources, suggest that:

1. Traffic concerns are widespread among the citizenry:
 - the Town is seen by many as unfriendly to pedestrians and bicyclists
 - traffic safety issues are viewed as increasing
 - there is a perceived need for, and increased awareness about, public transit alternatives
2. The Town is not in complete control of its destiny. While no community is, Bel Air must negotiate and partner over increasingly complex issues with, for example, agencies of Harford County and the State of Maryland, and with Maryland American Water Company, a private enterprise that supplies public drinking water for the Town.
3. Resistance exists among some citizens in adapting to changing circumstances.
4. Environmental degradation is evident in the Town, particularly in the case of impacted streams and stream banks.
5. There are growing numbers of residential renters who, in the view of some citizens, are not well connected with Town governance.

³ See this website at <http://www.sustainablemaryland.com/>.

⁴ Although commonly considered to be part of Bel Air, Liriodendron Mansion is located outside of the Town boundary in Harford County.

The Future

Along with current assets and concerns, the interviews and other data sources provide a sense of the probable future of Bel Air. Likely opportunities and threats are shown below:

Opportunities

The data suggest the likely emergence of several major opportunities:

1. The core commercial area of Town can become a more attractive destination for visitors and local residents, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists.
2. Downtown Bel Air can grow “upwards,” i.e., with mixed residential-commercial use of building spaces, including second and third floor spaces, especially on Main Street
3. The Town can become better known as a center for the arts, particularly for public art.
4. Bel Air’s sense of place can increase because citizens and visitors will become more aware of and knowledgeable about the Town’s history.
5. Overnight lodging services, which once were common in Bel Air, can be redeveloped.

Threats

Potential threats to the well-being of the Town are:

1. A decline of the Town’s “small-town charm,” including the possibility of the following scenarios:
 - a. a growing “tavern culture” that discourages other uses of the core area and raises the risk of crime
 - b. a decline of the sense that Bel Air is a unique place, a scenario that if it were to occur could sap the spirit for people to work together to solve common problems
2. An erosion of the Town’s service-center advantage over competing locations, including the following potential scenarios:
 - a. a decline in the relative attractiveness of the shopping mall
 - b. the development of competing health-care centers elsewhere in Harford County
 - c. the dispersal of county service facilities to locations outside of Town
3. A decline in the contributions of citizen volunteers to local governance because of an increase in the average age of the Town and growing difficulty in recruiting volunteers from among younger families, which are more likely to involve two-earner households.
4. The potential threat that, with the county in primary control of land use in the Winters Run Watershed, municipal water quality may decrease.



A Vision for the Future

While the people of Bel Air identified both opportunities and threats, they have, overall, a sense of “can do” optimism about creating a sustainable town for the future. Participants on the committee, in the focus groups, and at the open house share a common vision:

Bel Air will be a community that engages in partnerships – between the Town Government and its citizens, between Bel Air’s public and private sectors, and between the Town and external organizations – to creatively integrate a sound economy, a healthy environment, and a caring society.

Sustainability Plan

To reach that vision, requires a plan whereby public and private entities organize resources and manage change. The sustainability plan, as developed by the committee, is shown below in outline form, and is structured in the following way:

- Goals are shown by the use of Roman Numerals
- Objectives, within goals, are shown by Capital Letters
- Actions, within objectives, are shown using Arabic Numbers
- Objectives and Actions may be crosscutting as is illustrated in the diagram in Appendix A
- The correspondence between actions in the plan and certification points for SMC is also shown. Actions that are followed by an asterisk gain points toward certification. (To trace the correspondence, see Appendix G.)

I Conserve and enhance the natural resources and environmental quality of the Town.

A Strengthen the Town-Citizenry partnership for sustainability through innovation, dialogue, education, and recognition of early and effective lead innovators.

1. Continue to develop the Armory, adjacent park, and future marketplace as a creative demonstration, an iconic symbol of Bel Air's efforts for sustainability*, and an education site for sustainable measures such as:
 - a. passive solar energy
 - b. green roofs
 - c. permeable paving
 - d. native plants
 - e. bio-retention areas
 - f. access to public transit
 - d. where possible, replace lights with compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) or light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures
 - e. examine advantages of combining Town facilities
 - f. investigate installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays on Town buildings;
 - g. encourage private and public organizations to join the State of Maryland's Green Registry*
 - h. offer e-bills, e-statements, and on-line pay options for Town financial transactions
 - i. provide Town announcements and information brochures through electronic media
 - j. encourage residential participation in the Maryland Department of the Environment's energy conservation programs, e.g. *Smart Energy Savers*
2. Promote energy conservation:
 - a. conduct a Town Government energy audit*
 - b. investigate the conversion of Town vehicles to run more efficiently on renewable sources of energy
 - c. document how the new climate control measures in municipal buildings work and how they may be improved

3. Adopt more sustainable operations in Town facilities and processes*:
 - a. determine Bel Air's municipal government carbon footprint*
 - b. set municipal printers to default to dual-sided printing, and reuse paper for internal or file information
 - c. convert municipal appliances to Energy Star
 - d. use digital media where possible
 - e. convert paper files to digital, and recycle the unneeded paper when done
 - f. install low-flow toilets, urinals, faucets, and shower heads, where practical, in Town facilities
 - g. install sensor light switches with timers in rooms that are infrequently used
 - h. encourage the use of recycled plastic ware and paper products in kitchen and break areas
 - i. incentivize Town employee residency to within ten miles of corporate limits
 - j. require the use of low volatile organic compound (VOC) and non-toxic materials in new construction and when renovating Town facilities

B Increase residential, commercial, and municipal recycling*:

1. Investigate options to nudge citizens toward recycling, e.g., by changing the container size, location, and configuration of bins⁵.
2. Explore expansion of applications of municipal tree-waste mulch.
3. Examine how the Town is recycling printer cartridges, and provide a public collection point for cartridges, computers, printers and other electronic devices to be recycled.
4. Publicize the Town, Harford County, and State of Maryland environmental services in a brochure, in the annual recycling calendar, and on the Town website.
5. Coordinate recycling and disposal initiatives with Harford County and the Town's commercial establishments.
6. Create a plan to incentivize recycling by commercial establishments.

C Improve citizen and government water conservation:

1. On Town lands, use low-impact development and retrofit techniques for stormwater management – i.e., infiltrating, filtering, storing, evaporating, and detaining runoff close to its source. fixtures and appliances, mulching mowers and rain barrels, stream cleanup on private property, planting of trees, properly pruning trees, creating rain gardens, and removing unnecessary paving*.
2. Conduct a "water audit"* and prepare a water-conservation plan* for Town buildings.
3. Coordinate with Maryland American Water Company to create education efforts and incentives – for example, public recognition and financial assistance for private property owners to undertake conservation actions such as purchasing low-flow
4. Provide pet-waste facilities in parks and along walking trails, and conduct an education program about how using the receptacles increases water quality*.
5. Utilize the Bel Air Tree Inventory to prepare a tree-planting plan for municipal parks and streets.

⁵ See <http://nudges.org/2011/05/02/a-strategy-for-recycling-change-the-recycling-bin-to-garbage-bin-ratio/>.

D Create a joint Town of Bel Air – Harford County watershed stewardship action plan for the Winters Run surface intake watershed*.⁷ Among the actions, include the following initiatives:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Enhance the Town’s membership activities in “Tree City USA”*. 7. Coordinate with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension of Harford County to educate private property owners in Town about | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> best management practices for landscaping. 8. Provide recognition of private property owners whose landscaping, lawns, and gardens are aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly.⁶ |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen conservation practices and resource conservation regulations that the jurisdictions will maintain or implement on their government lands. 2. Create and promote incentives for watershed stewardship measures on private lands. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Create a water conservation outreach program and opportunities for citizen engagement in watershed stewardship*. (One method would be to form a subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee to create a stewardship action plan in coordination with Harford County.) |
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E Develop and implement a natural resource conservation plan for Town parks and facilities. Include in the plan the following actions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce lawn and impervious surface areas. 2. Increase native plants and reduce invasive species. 3. Update the “Champion Trees of Bel Air” list, and label specimens. 4. Label native and other environmentally friendly trees and shrubs the Town wants property owners to plant in their private landscapes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Create a priority list of “pocket parks” and green links in areas of impervious surfaces, and implement the first item on the list. 6. For all actions, encourage the use of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles for site design. |
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6 See the “Certified Wildlife Habitat Program” offered by the National Wildlife Federation.
 7 See <http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/wsp/index.html>

F Strengthen the review of development plans by the Town:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require that plan and permit processing be available in digital format. 2. Encourage the use of recycled or reusable materials for benches, bike racks, waste receptacles, signs, and so forth. 3. Review and amend the Town’s development regulations to restrict the use of non-native and invasive plants. 4. Incentivize, for new buildings greater than a minimum size, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (LEED) construction principles and standards. 5. Restrict unnecessary impervious surface areas and the overuse of outdoor lighting. 6. Promote bicycle and pedestrian movement as called for in the Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan by partnering with Harford County to require connectivity to existing or planned walking or cycling networks. 7. Encourage innovative demonstration projects for new developments*. |
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G Reduce the environmental impacts of motor vehicle use:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote – with education programs, incentives, and facilities – “park and walk” behavior to increase the use of downtown public parking. 2. Reduce the growth of impervious surfaces by promoting pervious paving and by decreasing minimum parking-and-loading size requirements. 3. Work with business partners to designate parking spaces for hybrid and/or electric cars. 4. Provide an electric car recharge space in the Town of Bel Air Parking Garage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Provide preferential parking spaces for hybrid vehicles in Town parking lots. 6. Provide bike racks at selected places around Town, in accordance with the Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. 7. Coordinate with the State Highway Administration to promote pedestrian activity by retiming traffic lights, shortening crosswalks, and providing traffic calming measures. |
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I Preserve and strengthen the competitive economic advantage of Bel Air as a multiservice center and destination marketplace.

A Increase resources, as needed, to strengthen efforts in business revitalization, retention, and recruitment:

1. Provide incentives for initiating, relocating, or expanding businesses that meet targeted community needs.
2. Review and survey businesses to provide public parking spaces that are adequate to meet demand.
3. Increase the use of the Armory, adjacent park, and future marketplace as a center for community activities.
4. Provide WiFi in the downtown area.

B Work with the Downtown Alliance and individual entrepreneurs to sustain and enhance the vitality of the core commercial area with a mix of residential and commercial space:

1. Investigate the commercial square feet available for development and number of residential units in downtown.
2. Investigate whether any Town regulations inhibit mixed use development, and address how any disincentives should be revised.
3. Study how other communities have implemented similar strategies⁸.
4. Create financial incentives and public recognition for landlords who lead redevelopment efforts.
5. Strengthen the Town core's "café culture" through relaxed regulations, event planning, and facility development.

C Further develop the Town's community-based food system:

1. Continue support of the Saturday Farmers' Market, and work with the Downtown Alliance and Harford County to create and promote a second farmers' market on Main Street during the midweek*.
2. Conduct a "food fair" in conjunction with the farmers' market(s) to include, for example, Bel Air restaurant chefs demonstrating the use of locally-produced ingredients, events to learn about family nutrition and food preservation, innovative demonstration gardening projects, and spring and fall transplant sales.
3. Create a consumer-supported-agriculture (CSA) downtown drop-off location*.
4. Initiate and partner with other organizations and individuals to start a community garden*.

D Assist locally-based economic development:

1. Conduct an economic analysis of the Town's procurement practices* to provide local business procurement notices*, and create a local purchasing-preference policy*.
2. Establish and support a local business directory*.
3. Continue to coordinate with the Downtown Alliance to promote the BELocal campaign*.

E Maintain and reinforce the Town's working relationships and long-term partnerships with the county government, hospital, shopping mall, water-supply company, state government –including state agencies and the local delegates and senators, and other organizations.

⁸ For example, consider: (a) Colorado Springs "Mixed Use Development Design Manual." (See www.springsgov.com/Files/MixedUse.pdf.); and (b) downtown redevelopment by the City of Cumberland, Maryland.

III

Enhance the reality and reputation of Bel Air as a healthy, safe, and vibrant place.

A Make the movement of people between the residential and commercial areas – particularly those people on foot or on bicycle – more easy, enjoyable, and safe:

1. Build on the Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and use a systems approach to:
 - a. consider the connectivity of sidewalks, bike lanes, and paths
 - b. identify locations for improvements, including way-finding and information resources (signage)
 - c. create and implement a community biking, running and walking plan
 - d. review pedestrian crossings and safety designs
 - e. investigate the feasibility of a bicycle-storage-and-exchange program
 - f. enhance efforts to improve east-west automobile traffic flow
2. Strengthen efforts to improve pedestrian safety by making citizens more aware of traffic laws.
3. Create brochures, interactive maps, signage and plaques, and website information for the Visitors' Center and other public access points regarding the locations of bike trails, walking paths, historic sites, public art, and service locations.
4. Revamp the Town website to provide a better conduit of information, education, and awareness of Bel Air's private and public services.

B Encourage more public transit by coordinating with Harford County Transit to take the following actions:

1. Study the demand for transit in Bel Air and the supply of lines, stops (both year-round and seasonal), and time-of-day services.
2. Expand transit connections for Bel Air commuters to and from park-and-ride lots and regional train stations.
3. Better inform Bel Air citizens about transit service options. (Utilize websites, brochures, bus stop sites, and inter-website links.)

C Improve Town streets:⁹

1. Create a priority list and milestone measures for the conversion of Town roads to become "Complete Streets,"¹⁰ meaning streets that are designed and operated to provide safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, and mode of transportation.

⁹ Compare Thomas Jefferson County, VA Design Manual for Small Towns: Transportation and Land Use Strategies for Preserving Small Town Character. See at www.tjpcdc.org/pdf/rep_comm_designManual.pdf.

¹⁰ For a description of "Complete Streets," see <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets/complete-streets-fundamentals/complete-streets-faq>.

D Enhance efforts to coordinate with Main Street tavern owners to ensure a Town commercial center that is safe and attractive to all citizens:

2. Allow for reduced pavement and right-of-way widths, when appropriate.
3. Create a standard for stormwater management within the right-of-way to enable retrofit controls such as the use of swales for runoff.
4. Enhance Burns Alley as a front-door shopping street connected to the Armory and future county administration building with permeable paving, LED lighting, conservation landscape, and limited vehicle access.
5. Investigate incorporation of innovative traffic-calming designs into road standards.

1. Advocate for a stronger sense of "ownership for public safety" among downtown Tavern owners.
2. Advocate for order and sobriety during the late night hours in the downtown area.

E Strengthen Bel Air's resources and reputation as a center for the arts:

1. Work with the Cultural Arts Commission to support cultural arts and arts education within the Town's boundaries:
 - a. create an "Artist in Residence" designation
 - b. establish an "Artist Business" recognition program for those who work with the Town to create and promote public art
 - c. investigate devoting additional funds to the arts, placing emphasis on the requirements of the Arts and Entertainment District
 - d. display more art in Town properties
 - e. promote local arts and artists in partnership with the Downtown Alliance, Center for the Arts, Harford Artists Association, and local schools
2. Enhance the Rockfield Horticultural Gardens:
 - a. provide educational programs
 - b. investigate the use of the gardens as a location for public art

F Help Bel Air become a healthier community:

1. Co-sponsor events that promote exercise, such as the Turkey Trot, Town Run and Healthy Harford events.
2. Join and encourage local businesses and organizations to join the "Healthiest Maryland Businesses Program"¹¹.

¹¹ See at <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/healthiest/SitePages/businesses.aspx>.

G Investigate and, as appropriate, develop citizen-government-business initiatives to reflect changing demographics and social needs. Promote the value that all groups contribute to the well-being of the Town. Initial examples of initiatives are to:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Open the Town’s Health Fair for select local businesses to promote healthy living. 4. Enhance the Town’s “Workplace Wellness Program” and encourage other employers in Bel Air to do the same*. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Establish a work group consisting of local organizations – such as Chesapeake Spokes, Harford County Parks and Recreation, Velo Cycling Club, RASAC Running Club, MA&PA Heritage Trail, and the Sierra Club – to promote walking, running, and other healthy activities. |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase services for senior citizens, such to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. initiate an “Aging in Place” effort via a review of codes, provision of services, and upgrade of infrastructure b. investigate the feasibility of a cooperative service-barter system for the Town – perhaps aided by involvement of high school students fulfilling their community service requirements c. promote the “Living Well” program*¹² d. create a “Sustainable Seniors” program, which will increase electronic transactions between citizens and the Town via coordination with Harford County Government and Library 2. Increase youth activities, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the “Let’s Move” program*¹³ b. enhanced relationships between seniors and youth | <p>via a partnership with the Board of Education, Harford County Library, and the Senior Center</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. enriched environmental, social, and artistic opportunities for youth via a partnership with local schools <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Expand affordable housing via the review of development regulations to accommodate cottage housing, conversion of single-family dwellings, mixed-use development, and partnering with affordable housing groups such as the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, and Maryland Association for Supportive Housing. 4. Make housing for homeless people available via the investigation of a permanent shelter or cooperative arrangement for a local shelter. |
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Action Planning Table

Shown in Appendix J is a table titled “Sustainable Bel Air Action Planning” that includes the following elements:

- All of the actions that are included in this plan
- The time when actions will begin and when they are expected to end
- Who is responsible for leading implementation efforts
- What the current status of each action is

Conclusion

Thanks to the contribution of many citizens of Bel Air, this document provides a comprehensive starting plan to enhance the sustainability of the Town. In addition, the Sustainability Committee/Green Team recommends learning-by-doing to adjust and amplify the plan over time. Specifically, to create a living document, the committee endorses addition of the following measures:

1. Incorporate into the plan, as is feasible, measures for *costs* – the resources needed to implement actions – and *benefits* – the advantages resulting from the actions.
2. Establish data bases for targeting actions and measuring progress. Many actions in the plan involve conducting audits, analyses or studies, documenting or determining current conditions, or investigating situations. Most if not all of these actions will provide opportunities for establishing base-line data sets. Once established, the data bases can be incorporated into the plan to refine the status of actions by setting quantitative targets and measuring progress.

Actions that will provide opportunities to create data bases include:

- a. IA2a Conduct a Town energy audit;
- b. IA2c Document how climate control mechanisms in the Town buildings work;
- c. IA2f Investigate installation of solar PV arrays on Town buildings;
- d. IA3a Determine Bel Air’s carbon footprint;
- e. IB1 Investigate options to nudge citizens toward recycling;
- f. IB2 Investigate expansion of applications of tree waste mulch;
- g. IC2 Conduct a water audit;
- h. IIB1 Investigate available commercial and residential development
- i. IID1 Conduct analysis of the Town’s procurement practices;
- j. IIIA1b Identify locations for improvements – wayfinding and signage;
- k. IIIB1 Conduct a study of demand and supply of transit services in the Town;
- l. IIIC1 Create a priority list and milestone measures for “Complete Streets”;
- m. IIIC5 Investigate innovative traffic-calming designs; and
- n. IIIE1c Investigate devoting additional funds to the arts.

3. Adjust the plan as the situation changes. The plan includes consideration of opportunities and threats in the future, and it projects actions over the next five years. It is necessary, however, to expect the unexpected. Thus, as the situation changes in unexpected ways over the five year period, the plan will need to be “tweaked,” if not significantly amended. Undoubtedly, also, the plan will need to be redone in 2018.
4. Involve more volunteers. Many of the actions in the plan would benefit by the involvement of volunteers from among the groups of business people, residential property owners, residential renters, and people living close to Bel Air who have a stake in the Town’s sustainability. Such volunteers could augment the resources of the Town Government to help implement the plan and adjust it as the situation changes. Moreover, becoming more sustainable, as envisioned in the plan, involves a change of the civic mindset across the whole of the Bel Air Community; thus it implies the importance of broad public involvement. As has been done in other communities conducting sustainability efforts, the Sustainability Committee/Green Team may want to establish subcommittees to provide means for augmenting Town resources, assisting in the creation of adjustments to the plan, and welcoming more citizens into the process.¹⁴

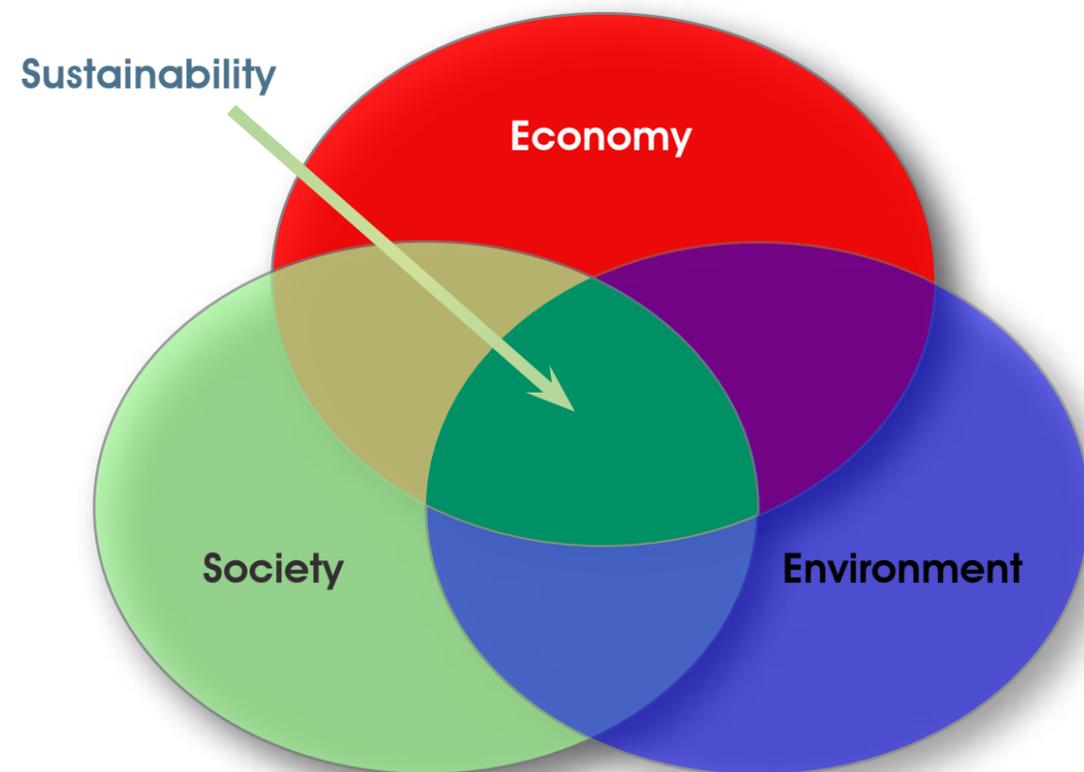
¹² See at http://livingandworkingwell.org/living_well_program/default.cfm .

¹³ See at <http://www.letsmove.gov/> ; also see “Fitness for Life” at <http://www.fitnessforlife.org/>.

¹⁴ For role models in the use of subcommittees to advance sustainable community development, Bel Air can view the methods and experiences of two municipalities in New Jersey: Galloway and Cherry Hill. For Galloway, see <http://www.gallowaytpw-nj.gov/index.php?id=1c&view=gogreen> , and for Cherry Hill, see <http://www.sustainablecherryhill.org/>.

APPENDIX A

Illustration of Interrelated Sustainable Systems



APPENDIX B

Questionnaire Used in the Three Focus Groups

1. Considering how people live, work, and play in Bel Air, what would you say are assets that the Town possesses? And what are your concerns about the Town?

Assets:

Concerns:

(Have you listed an asset or concern that is geographically based? If so, please take a dot – green for an asset and red for a concern – write its number next to the asset or concern you listed on this page. Afterwards, you will be asked to place the dot on the Town map.)

2. Thinking ahead for the next 15 years, or so, what opportunities for improved sustainability are likely to emerge for Bel Air? What threats to the Town's sustainability are likely to emerge? (Reference economic, environmental, and social opportunities and threats to how people will live, work, and play in Bel Air in the future. Note: the opportunities and threats may be influenced by forces that are state, national, and global.)

Opportunities:

Threats:

3. In what ways could the Town government become a promoter of and a role model for sustainability?

4. What changes in the behavior of the citizens of Bel Air are needed to make the Town more sustainable?

APPENDIX C

Summary of Mapping Exercises from the Three Focus Groups and the Bel Air Open House

Locations of Town Assets and Points of Concern

Participants in the focus groups and Open House placed dots on a map of the Town of Bel Air that includes its streets, highways, parks, and points of interest. They placed green dots on locations that they considered “community assets” and red dots on places they considered “points of concern.” A summary of the results follows:

Twenty-three green dots (assets) are all found on points of physical and natural infrastructure, including, from south to north:

- Upper Chesapeake Hospital;
- Bel Air High School;
- Plum Tree Park;
- Main Street;
- Liriodendron Mansion;
- Parking Garage;
- Rockfield Manor and Park;
- Bel Air Armory;
- Library;
- Shamrock Park;
- Ma and Pa Trail (both existing and planned); and
- The area behind St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church.

Participants placed twenty-six red dots (concerns) on the map. Almost all are found on locations that participants identified as unfriendly and/or unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists. Traffic issues mentioned were vehicular speed, the absence of sidewalks and bike paths, and driver failure to observe cross walk signs. Points with red dots include:

- Crossings on Tollgate Road and the intersection between Tollgate and Bel Air Road;
- Along Route 24 south of and on the south side of Town, and crossings at Route 24 and Boulton and Route 24 and the Baltimore Pike;
- Along Churchville Road and the Rockfield Park, and Churchville Road crossings at Lee Way and at Shamrock Road;
- Crossings on Main Street;
- Crossings on Bond Street;
- Along Moores Mill Road between North Hickory Road and Ma & Pa Road.

APPENDIX D

Priority Actions Listings from the Open House and Healthy Harford Day

Actions	Open House 10/10/12	Healthy Harford 10/13/12
Encourage a bed & breakfast to locate in Bel Air	**	****
Locate a community garden in Town	*	*****
Coordinate w/ Harford Co, on sustainable projects & programs	***	*
Develop residential uses over Main Street retail/office	***	**
Emphasize recycling in Town facilities & services	***	****
Enhance Bel Air as the service hub of Harford Co.	*	
Establish a community supported agriculture drop-off location & support 2nd farmers’ market	**	****
Recognize green businesses & residences in Bel Air	*	****
Implement a waste reduction program	***	**
Encourage local food production and sales	***	***
Establish a local-purchasing-preference policy for Town projects & vendors	*	**
Emphasize Bel Air as a center for culture & arts	**	****
Make Bel Air more bicycle friendly	*****	*****
Make Bel Air more pedestrian friendly	*****	*****
Commence municipal energy & water audits	*	
Initiate a pet-waste program in Bel Air		
Promote a buy-local program in Bel Air	***	****
Promote residential energy & water efficiency	****	***
Begin a green-purchasing policy for Town projects & facilities	*	*
Showcase the history of Bel Air	*	*
Be proactive concerning storm water management	**	
Encourage the planting of more trees	*	*****
Initiate a water stewardship plan for Bel Air	*	*
Promote workplace health & wellness	*	***
Change Town regulations to encourage sustainable Practices	***	**

APPENDIX E

Written Comments from the Open House, October 10, 2012

Participants at the Open House were provided the opportunity to write comments, if they chose to do so. Four participants provided comments:

1. "I would like to see chickens allowed to be kept in town. Some towns do a small permit fee and limit the number based on property size. No roosters.
 - Encouragement of urban agriculture, food storage and preservation. Potential opportunities for value added businesses and community programs (these spaces could include sculpture & community art.)
 - Edible park (forest gardening)
 - A community garden allowing gardeners to sell their products, e.g. a vineyard."
 Sarah Brinker

2. "HOA (Home Owners Association) discourages clothing lines. Push mower."

Vicki Sertzinger

3. "Consider preparing a renewable resources plan for Bel Air.
 - Inventory the assets and opportunities
 - Look at technologies to utilize the assets
 - Determine the policies necessary to implement the policies
 - Determine the strategies necessary to implement the policies"
 (Not signed)

4. "Encourage more attractive landscaping around business and government buildings (pre-planned to look exceptionally well-designed for all seasons.)
 - Promote more outdoor eatery areas, – i.e. like cafes with umbrellas.
 - Design – encourage all future plans for development to be carefully thought out (appearance with other, older building styles – should not contrast too wildly). Keep red brick façade."
 (Not signed)

APPENDIX F

Questionnaire Used In Individual Interviews of Sustainability Committee Members

As you know, sustainable community development is defined broadly to include economic, environmental, and social systems, and it is oriented to planning for decades into the future.

1. Considering economic, environmental, and social systems in Bel Air, what would you say are some assets that the Town possesses?
2. What are some concerns that you may have about the viability of the economic, environmental, and social systems of the Town?
3. Thinking ahead for the next 20 years or so, what opportunities for improved sustainability are likely to emerge for Bel Air?
4. What threats to sustainability are likely to emerge over the next 20 years?
5. What practices and programs currently being done by the Town Government support sustainability?
6. What existing programs and practices of the Town Government could be made more sustainable?
7. In what ways could the Town Government become a role model for sustainability?
8. What changes in the behavior of Bel Air citizens are needed to make the Town more sustainable?
9. Looking beyond the Town boundaries, what other people and organizations will influence the sustainability of Bel Air over the next 20 years?
10. How might sustainable community development be made a mindset in Bel Air, that is, a core function of the Town Government – like public safety and recreation – and a permanent change in lifestyle among the Town's citizens?

APPENDIX G

Correspondence between Actions in the Sustainable Bel Air Community Development Plan and Certification Points for Sustainable Maryland Certified¹⁵

ACTIONS	POINTS	NOTES
COMMUNITY ACTIONS		
Create a Green Team (M = mandatory)	10	Done
Complete a Green Team Action Plan (M)	10	In process
Make Armory Park an Innovative Demonstration Site	TBD	
COMMUNITY BASED FOOD SYSTEM		
Establish a 2nd Local Farmers' Market	TBD	
Promote a Local Farmers' Market	5	
Develop a Local Food Fair	10	
Provide Local Food Consumption & Preservation Classes	TBD	
Create a Community Garden (P = priority)	15	
Conduct Spring Transplant Sales	10	
Conduct Fall Transplant Sales	10	
Establish a Drop-off Location for CSA	10	
Provide Innovative Food Production Classes	TBD	
ENERGY		
Conduct a Municipal Energy Audit (P)	TBD	
Conduct Residential Energy Efficiency Audits	20	
Provide Innovative Demonstration Projects	TBD	
GREENHOUSE GAS		
Assess the Municipal Carbon Footprint (P)	15	
Provide Innovative Demonstration Projects	TBD	
HEALTH & WELLNESS		
Promote "Let's Move" Program	15	
Promote the "Workplace Wellness" Program	TBD	
Join "Healthiest Maryland Businesses"	5	
Promote "Living Well Program"	TBD	

¹⁵ Certification requires actions that provide a total of 150 points, including two mandated actions and two of six priority actions.

APPENDIX G (cont'd)

ACTIONS	POINTS	NOTES
LOCAL ECONOMIES		
Establish Local Business Directory	10	
Promote Local Business Directory	5	
Develop a Buy Local Campaign	15	
Provide Local Procurement Notices	10	
Conduct Economic Analysis of Procurement Practices	15	
Create a Local Procurement Preference Policy	10	
Join the Maryland Green Registry	5	
Develop a Green Business Certification Program (P)	15	
Create a Green Purchasing Policy (P)	15	
Purchase Environmentally Preferable Products	10	
Implement Waste Reduction Program	10	
NATURAL RESOURCES		
Implement Watershed Stewardship/Pollution Prevention Outreach Programs	10	
Facilitate Engagement in Existing Watershed Stewardship Opportunities	TBD	
Provide Voluntary Opportunities for Citizen Engagement in Watershed Stewardship	10	
Provide Incentives for Watershed Stewardship On Private Lands	15	
Create a Watershed Plan (P)	20	
Develop a Stormwater Management Program	15	
Develop a Water Conservation Plan	15	
Join Tree City USA	15	
Develop a Pet Waste Education Program	5	
Implement a Pet Waste Collection Program	5	
PLANNING AND LAND USE		
Create Innovative Demonstration Projects	TBD	

APPENDIX H

Descriptions of Community Sustainability Actions, Plans, and Processes

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APPENDIX I

The following citizens provided ideas to assist in the development of the Sustainability Plan. Every person responded by actively participating in a focus group. The Town of Bel Air is grateful to these citizens.

Focus Group 1

Cassilly, Andrew
 Haney, Debbie
 Hannah, Jennifer Mainster
 Jacobs, Karen
 Kelly, Lois
 Leaf, Michael
 Lynch, Kerri
 Northwood, Rev. Rob
 Saunders, Sandy
 Yanders, Andrew

Focus Group 2

Ault, Allen
 Curratto, Eugene
 Dawson, Charlie
 Ferriter, Erin
 Forth, Josh
 Manns, Cheryl
 Milan, Roy
 Niewenhouse, Susan
 Reier, Dr. Robert
 Resta, John

Focus Group 3

Burton, Pam
 Cassidy, Patti
 Dixen, Jesse
 Jones, Morgan
 Miller, Zach
 Nicotra, Ryan
 Pessagno, Jane
 Snyder, Bill
 Vanden Eynden, Bill
 Welch, Jim
 Wrobel, Chester

APPENDIX J – SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR ACTION PLAN

TASKS	BEGIN	END	LEAD PERSON	STATUS
I. CONSERVE & ENHANCE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	2/13	2/18	TA	
IA Strengthen the Town-Citizenry partnership for sustainability through innovation, dialogue, education, and recognition of lead innovators.	2/13	2/18	PCD Coordinates	
1 Continue to develop Armory, adjacent park & future marketplace*	7/13	1/14	ECD (PCD)	
2 Promote energy conservation:				
a. Conduct a Town energy audit*	7/13	1/14	PWD	
b. Investigate converting Town vehicles to run on renewable resources	7/14	7/17	PWD	
c. Document how climate control mechanisms in Town buildings work	2/13	2/15	PWD	
d. Replace lights, where possible, with CFLs or LED fixtures	2/14	2/15	PWD	
e. Combine Town facilities	7/14	7/17	PWD	
f. Investigate installation of solar PV arrays on Town buildings	2/13	2/14	PWD (PCD)	
g. Encourage organizations to join Green Registry*	2/13	2/18	ECD (PCD)	
h. Offer e-transactions options for Town finances	1/14	7/14	FIN	
i. Provide Town announcements & information via electronic media	7/13	1/15	ADM (PCD)	
j. Encourage residential participation in State of MD programs	2/13	2/18	PCD	
3 Adopt more sustainable operations in Town facilities*				
a. Determine Bel Air’s municipal carbon footprint*	7/13	1/14	PWD	
b. Set printers to default to dual-side printing and reuse paper	2/13	7/13	ADM	
c. Convert municipal appliances to Energy Star	2/13	2/18	ADM	
d. Use digital media where possible	2/13	2/18	ADM (others)	
e. Convert paper files to digital, and recycle unneeded paper	2/15	2/18	ADM (others)	
f. Install low-water-flow appliances	2/13	2/18	PWD	
g. Install sensor light switches in rooms infrequently used	2/13	2/18	PWD	
h. Encourage use of recycled plastic ware and paper products	2/13	2/18	ADM	

APPENDIX J (cont'd) – SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR ACTION PLAN

TASKS	BEGIN	END	LEAD PERSON	STATUS
i. Incentivize Town employee residences within 10 miles of Town	2/13	2/18	ADM	
j. Require use of low VOC and non-toxic materials in new construction and renovations	2/13	2/18	PWD	
IB Increase recycling				
1 Investigate options to nudge citizens toward recycling	7/13	7/14	PWD	
2 Explore expansion of applications of tree-waste mulch	7/13	7/14	PWD	
3 Provide collection point for recycling printer cartridges, computers, etc.	2/15	5/15	PWD	
4 Publicize Town, Harford Co, and State of MD environmental services	2/14	2/15	PCD	
5 Coordinate recycling initiatives with Harford Co and businesses	3/15	3/16	PCD	
6 Create plan to incentivize recycling by commercial establishments	3/15	3/16	ECD (PCD)	
IC Improve water conservation				
1 Use low-impact development & retrofit for stormwater management	2/14	2/18	PWD	
2 Conduct a water audit,* and prepare a water-conservation plan for Town buildings	7/13	1/14	PWD	
3 Coordinate with MD Am Water Co to educate & create incentives*	3/14	9/14	PWD	
4 Provide pet-waste facilities and conduct an education program*	3/15	3/16	PWD (PCD)	
5 Use Tree Inventory to prepare a tree-planting plan	2/13	7/13	PCD	
6 Enhance Town's membership in "Tree City USA"*	2/13	2/18	PCD	
7 Coordinate with UM Coop Ext to educate about best management practices by private property owners for landscaping	7/13	7/16	PCD	
8 Provide recognition of private property owners	7/14	7/16	PCD	
ID Create Bel Air-Harford Co watershed stewardship plan for Winters Run*				
1 Strengthen conservation zoning practices & resource conservation regs	2/14	2/15	PCD	
2 Create and promote incentives for pvt water stewardship measures	3/15	3/16	PWD	
3 Create a water-conservation outreach program & opportunities for citizen engagement	3/15	3/16	PWD	

APPENDIX J (cont'd) – SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR ACTION PLAN

TASKS	BEGIN	END	LEAD PERSON	STATUS
IE Develop & implement nat res conservation plan for Town parks & facilities				
1 Reduce lawn and impervious surface areas	2/13	2/18	PCD (PWD)	
2 Increase native plants and reduce invasive species	2/13	2/18	PCD	
3 Update the "Champion Trees of Bel Air" list & label species	7/13	2/14	PCD	
4 Label native and other preferred species of trees and shrubs	2/15	7/15	PCD	
5 Create priority list of pocket parks and green links; implement 1 st item	7/13	2/14	PCD (PWD)	
6 Use CPTED principles for site design	2/13	2/14	PCD (POL)	
IF Strengthen development review				
1 Require plan & permit processing be available in digital format	7/16	7/17	PCD	
2 Encourage use of recycled or reusable materials	7/16	7/17	PCD	
3 Restrict use of non-native & invasive plants in development regulations	7/16	7/17	PCD	
4 Incentivize LEED construction standards for new buildings over a minimum size	7/16	7/17	PCD	
5 Restrict unnecessary impervious surface areas and overuse of outdoor lighting	7/16	7/17	PCD	
6 Promote bicycle & pedestrian movement with Harford County	7/16	7/17	PCD	
7 Encourage innovative demonstration projects*	7/16	7/17	PCD	
IG Reduce the environmental impacts of motor vehicle use				
1 Promote Park & Walk in downtown with education, incentives, and facilities	3/14	3/15	PCD (POL)	
2 Promote pervious paving & decreased parking-&-loading requirements	3/14	3/15	PCD	
3 Work with businesses on parking spaces for hybrid/electric cars	2/13	2/18	PCD	
4 Provide electric car recharge space in the garage	2/15	7/15	PWD (PCD)	
5 Provide preferential parking spaces for hybrid vehicles	2/15	7/15	PCD	
6 Provide targeted bike racks at selected locations, in accordance with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	7/13	7/15	PCD	
7 Coordinate with SHA about traffic lights to promote pedestrian activity	2/13	2/18	PCD	

APPENDIX J (cont'd) – SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR ACTION PLAN

TASKS	BEGIN	END	LEAD PERSON	STATUS
II Preserve & strengthen competitive economic advantage of Bel Air as a multiservice center and destination marketplace	2/13	2/18	TA	
IIA Increase resources for revitalization, retention, & recruitment efforts				
1 Provide incentives for businesses that meet targeted community needs	2/15	2/16	ECD	
2 Review and survey businesses to provide public parking spaces adequate to meet demand	7/13	2/14	ECD (PCD)	
3 Increase the use of Armory, adjacent park & future marketplace as center for community activities	2/15	2/16	ADM (ECD)	
4 Provide WiFi in downtown area	2/14	2/16	ADM	
IIB Work with Downtown Alliance/others on mixed use for core area				
1 Investigate available commercial and residential development	2/13	7/13	ECD	
2 Investigate and address any regulations inhibiting mixed-use	2/15	2/16	PCD (ECD)	
3 Study how other communities have implemented mixed-use strategies	2/14	2/15	ECD	
4 Create incentives for landlords who lead redevelopment efforts	2/14	2/15	ECD	
5 Strengthen town core's "café culture"	2/13	2/14	ECD	
IIC Further develop Town's community-based food system				
1 Continue support of farmers' market; create & promote second market*	2/13	2/15	PCD	
2 Conduct multi-purpose "food fair" as part of farmers' markets*	2/14	2/16	PCD	
3 Create a downtown CSA drop-off location	2/14	2/16	PCD	
4 Initiate and partner to start a community garden*	7/13	7/14	PCD	
IID Assist locally-based economic development				
1 Conduct analysis of Town's procurement practices,* provide local procurement notices,* create local purchasing-preference policy*	7/13	7/15	FIN	
2 Establish and support a local business directory*	2/13	2/14	ECD (FIN)	
3 Continue to coordinate w/ Downtown Alliance on BELocal campaign*	2/13	2/14	ECD	

APPENDIX J (cont'd) – SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR ACTION PLAN

TASKS	BEGIN	END	LEAD PERSON	STATUS
IIE Maintain and reinforce relationships with key partners as shown in plan	2/13	2/18	TA	
III Enhance reality and reputation of Bel Air as a healthy, safe, and vibrant place	2/13	2/18	TA	
IIIA Make movement of people more easy, enjoyable, and safe				
1 Build on Bike & Pedestrian Plan and use systems approach to				
a Consider connectivity of sidewalks, bike lanes, paths	2/13	2/14	PCD (PWD)	
b Identify locations for improvements – wayfinding & signage	2/13	2/14	PCD	
c Create & implement community biking, walking & running plan	2/13	2/14	PCD	
d Review pedestrian crossings and safety designs	7/15	7/16	PCD (POL)	
e Investigate feasibility of a bike-storage-and-exchange program	7/15	7/16	PCD	
f Continue efforts to improve east-west traffic flow	7/15	7/16	POL (PCD)	
2 Continue efforts to improve pedestrian safety by enforcing traffic laws	2/13	2/18	POL	
3 Create brochures, interactive maps, signage, plaques, and website info regarding location of bike trails, walking paths, historic sites, public art, and service locations	7/14	7/15	PCD (ADM)	
4 Revamp Town website to provide a better conduit of information, education, and awareness of Town services	2/13	7/13	ADM (PCD)	
IIIB Coordinate with Harford County Transit to				
1 Conduct a study, in Town, of the demand for transit and the supply of lines, stops, and time-of-day services	2/14	2/16	PCD (POL)	
2 Expand regional transit connections for Bel Air commuters	2/14	2/16	PCD (POL)	
3 Better inform Bel Air citizens about transit service options	2/14	2/16	PCD (POL)	
IIIC Improve Town streets				
1 Create priority list and milestone measures for "Complete Streets"	2/14	2/15	PWD (PCD)	
2 Allow, as appropriate, reduced pavement & right-of-way widths	2/14	2/15	PWD	

APPENDIX J (cont'd) – SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR ACTION PLAN

TASKS	BEGIN	END	LEAD PERSON	STATUS
3 Create std for stormwater mgt within right-of-way for retrofit controls	7/13	7/15	PWD	
4 Enhance Burns Alley as front-door, green shopping street connected to the Armory and future county administration building	7/16	7/18	PCD	
5 Investigate use of innovative traffic-calming designs	2/14	2/15	PCD (PWD)	
IIID Enhance coordination with Main Street tavern owners				
1 Advocate for ownership of public safety	2/13	2/18	POL (ECD)	
2 Advocate for order and sobriety	2/13	2/18	POL (ECD)	
IIIE Strengthen Bel Air's resources and reputation as a center for the arts				
1 Work with Cultural Arts Commission to support the cultural arts and education within the Town's boundaries				
a Create an "Artist in Residence" designation	2/14	7/14	ECD (PCD)	
b Establish an "Artist Business" recognition	2/14	7/14	ECD (PCD)	
c Investigate devoting additional funds to the arts	2/14	2/15	ECD	
d Display more art in Town properties	2/14	2/16	PCD (ECD)	
e Promote local arts & artists in partnership with others	2/13	2/18	ECD	
2 Continue Rockfield Horticultural Gardens to				
a Provide educational programs	2/13	2/14	PCD	
b Serve as a possible location for public art	2/14	2/17	PCD	
IIIF Help Bel Air become a more healthy community				
1 Co-sponsor events that promote exercise (Turkey Trot, Town Run, and Healthy Harford events)	2/13	2/18	FIN	
2 Join, and encourage local businesses and organizations to join, the "Healthiest Maryland Businesses Program"*	7/13	7/14	FIN (ECD)	
3 Open the Town's "Health Fair" for select local businesses to promote healthy living	4/13	5/13	FIN	
4 Conduct a Town "Workplace Wellness Program" & encourage other employers in Bel Air to do the same*	4/13	5/13	FIN	
5 Establish a work group consisting of local organizations – such as Chesapeake Spokes, Harford County P&R, Velo Cycling Club, RASAC, MA&PA Heritage Trail, and the Sierra Club – to promote walking, running, and other activities.	2/14	2/15	FIN	

APPENDIX J (cont'd) – SUSTAINABLE BEL AIR ACTION PLAN

TASKS	BEGIN	END	LEAD PERSON	STATUS
IIIG Investigate and, as feasible, develop initiatives to reflect changing demographics and social needs in Bel Air. Examples are				
1 For seniors				
a "Aging in Place"*	7/16	7/17	PCD (ADM)	
b A cooperative service-barter system for the Town	2/13	2/14	ECD (FIN)	
c "Living Well"*	2/13	2/15	FIN (PCD)	
d "Sustainable Seniors"	7/13	2/15	PCD (ADM)	
2 For youth				
a "Let's Move" and "Fitness for Life"	2/13	2/15	FIN (PCD)	
b Enhanced relations between seniors and youth	2/15	2/17	PCD (FIN)	
c Enriched environmental, social, and artistic opportunities	2/13	2/18	PCD (FIN)	
3 Affordable housing	7/16	7/17	PCD	
4 Housing for homeless people	2/15	2/16	PCD	

* = Provides points for Sustainable Maryland Certified
 ADM = Director of Administration
 ECD = Director of Economic Development
 FIN = Director of Finance
 PCD = Director of Planning and Community Development
 POL = Chief of Police
 PWD = Director of Public Works
 TA = Town Administrator
 Person A (Person B) means A is the lead, and B assists

