

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Appendix A - Commission Recommendation Status Matrix**

	<b>COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Budget Request</b>	<b>Advocacy &amp; Education Needed</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>Air &amp; Water Quality</b>						
1	Encourage use of Low Impact Development (LID) including reviewing and updating subdivision regulations for more allowances of LID. Enact new legislation to update subdivision regulations and related codes and ordinances, requiring environmental site design techniques. Require Columbia Association and all homeowner associations to revise their covenants to permit homeowners to use energy-saving and LID practices.	DPZ DPW	Subdivision regulations currently allow and in some cases encourage (or even require) LID. State is expected to release draft SWM regs this fall that focus on LID. HC will update regulations in compliance.	Legislative item for SWM regulation changes. Work program item for covenant changes. OB: OB expense would be for inspections as most all LID facilities will likely be privately maintained. OB budget request is adjusted each year based on number of facilities to inspect. \$200 to \$400 cost for each facility inspection.	Testify in favor of legislation when proposed. Advocate for budget request, if needed. Meet with DPZ (Chuck Dammers) and DPW (Mark DeLuca or Howard Saltzman) to determine needs.	
2	Enhancement of buffer protections, including stream buffers, wetland buffers, and steep slope buffers. Enact protective legislation that will 1) guarantee a min of 100 ft stream buffers with provision for enhanced buffers where soil characteristics or steep slopes require additional protections and 2) significantly enhance wetland, flood plain, and forest protections.	DPZ	Current stream buffers: 75' for perennial streams in residential districts, 50' for perennial streams in nonresidential districts, 50' for intermittent streams, 100' for in Use III & IV perennial streams in western HC. Required 25' wetland buffers. Steep slopes 25% and greater, if 20,000 SF or greater are protected; steep slope buffers are not required. Green Neighborhood program creates incentives for increased buffers. Proposed changes to Forest Conservation program may increase forest protection. Regulatory changes needed to increase buffers for streams and wetlands and to require steep slope buffers.	Legislative items for regulatory changes.	Advocate for proposed legislation that enhances environmental protection.	

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3	Waiver reform – tightening up the granting of waivers, creating a fully transparent process, and a two level review. Enact legislation prohibiting waivers of fundamental natural resources protections except in extraordinary circumstances, when no other feasible alt. exists. Legislation should require that any waiver of natural resource protection undergo a full review by the County's natural resource and environmental staff. The Office of Environment should be given a statutory role in both waiver requests and their appeal. The category of necessary waiver should be eliminated in cases of natural resources protection.	DPZ DPW	Waiver request information searchable on DPZ web site. Need a comprehensive review of waivers to determine if regulatory changes necessary.	Work program item and potential legislative item		
4	Create a storm water utility, charging property owners for the County's management of what runs off their impervious surface.	DPW	No action taken	Not planned for FY 2010	Yes. Need to coordinate with Outreach group to help educate people about the need for this action.	
5	Develop a watershed restoration strategy including watershed prioritization.	DPW-SWM DPZ-RCD DRP	Interagency team prioritized all NPDES watersheds for future study, 2 watershed mgmt strategies have been produced, 4 subwatershed studies have been conducted, 5 more are in progress. Pace of studies a function of NPDES requirements and budget. The County will also coordinate efforts with studies performed by private entities - e.g. Columbia Association, Center for Watershed Protection, and GGP.	CB: Yes for watershed studies, SW retrofit, stream restoration, etc. to implement study recommendations.	Meet with DPW-SWM (Howard Saltzman) to discuss priorities and needs. Advocacy for CB needed.	

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6	Develop and implement a broad, countywide, tree preservation and forest canopy program that increases tree canopy in both urban and rural areas.	DPZ DRP	County has Forest Conservation (FC) program and DRP uses mitigation fees to plant riparian forest buffers on public property. New program will use FC fees for planting forests on private properties. Ongoing DRP Stream Re-Leaf program funds tree canopy in riparian areas on private property. New or expanded initiatives and funding needed for tree preservation and tree canopy programs. Stream Re-Leaf program centralized in DRP. Interst from Forest Mit. Fees to be used for expanding outreach and canopy program implementation. Forest canopy study will be performed in upcoming fiscal year and priate property tree planting program in the development stage.	Grants, CB and/or OB may be needed to fund increased planting programs and outreach and education programs. Funding exists through Forest Conservation Fund interest accrual	Explore school partnership. Flag for outreach & education committee.	
7	Transportation - Institute policies to reduce automobile use by encouraging transit use, telecommuting and carpooling. Provide Car Care Clinics to ensure cars operate at maximum efficiency. Take a leadership role at Baltimore Metro Council in regional air pollution strategy (similar to Metropolitan Washington COG strategy)	OES DPZ- Transp. Division	Executive Ulman, as Chair of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, took leadership in gaining agreement from all BMC jurisdictions, each of whom removed one road project from the list the money saved is being used for transit projects.	Possibly as it relates to taking cars off the road and providing alternatives	Advocate for enhanced commuter service to Baltimore. Talk with State DOT about connectivity of bike routes. Christina to contact MDE to find out about getting an air monitor in Howard Co. Currently there are none.	

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<b>8</b>	Eliminate or minimize county use of machinery and products with volatile organic compounds on Code Red or Code Purple Days. Minimize daytime refueling on such days. Conduct education and outreach to minimize public and commercial use of said machinery and products on Code Red or Code Purple Days.	DPW Central Fleet DRP HCPSS	Daily DRP global e-mail on code orange, red and purple days reminding staff to minimize equipment use, hydrate regularly and take breaks as needed.			
<b>9</b>	Audit use of pesticides and other toxics to reduce/eliminate the use of such products. Create a countywide pesticide management policy that publicizes and encourages the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and less toxic alternatives. Develop an outreach program to discourage lawns and encourage natural lawns. Increase the size of pesticide use notification signs and leave in place for 48 hours.	DPW- Facilities DRP HCPSS OES	DRP pesticide audit complete. Unused products removed and overall inventory variety reduced. Sign size increased to 11X 14 with space added for reason for application. Horticulturist now reviews and edits all county project landscape plans for low impact maintenance and alternatives to reduce need for pesticide application.	NA	New marketing manager to focus on green initiatives undertaken by department.	