



FREDERICK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Favorable Testimony -- HB0100

Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment

Dear Delegate Maggie McIntosh and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB0100, which establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.

- The City of Frederick has worked with the Environmental Finance Center's Sustainable Maryland (SM) program since before the city was first certified in 2013 and since then we have been re-certified twice.
- SM has provided the city with many opportunities to stand out as a municipal leader and showcase our efforts by participating in Local Leaders Panels, presenting at Leadership Trainings, and contributing articles to the Maryland Municipal League Special Edition Magazines. Topics we have contributed to have included Financing Climate Change Resilience, Equitable Engagement in Local Government, Growing Your Community Forest, and Community Energy Efficiency.
- These education and outreach events allow the City of Frederick and other municipalities to learn from, share with, and connect to municipalities across the state, strengthening our capacity to act in our respective communities.
- The City of Frederick has adopted a city-wide strategic plan, CommUNITY 2030 and updated our Comprehensive Plan both of which lean into the need for enhanced sustainability efforts.
- We created a Sustainability Department, that has relied heavily on the expertise provided by SM because it is a department of one.
- We've adopted a Sustainability Plan, Climate Action Plan for Government Operations, undertaken flood resiliency studies with the US Army Corps of Engineers, conducted Tree Canopy Assessments, Developed and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan.
- As we work to implement aspects of these and other sustainability initiatives, the technical expertise provided by SM has and will continue to be an enormous value add.
- As demonstrated, the SM program is a cost-effective program to achieve significant public environmental benefits for local governments of all sizes.
- Given the Program's demonstrated success and impact, and the significant environmental challenges facing every community in Maryland, The City of Frederick supports the creation of the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund.
- Finally, this funding will enable Sustainable Maryland to continue working with existing Sustainable Maryland municipalities, expand its reach and provide important sustainability training and resources to more Maryland communities across the state.

- Creating a sustainable Maryland will not happen by adopting a single magic solution. It will happen individual by individual, community by community...the kind of work SM has successfully been doing.

Thank you again for your time and consideration for a favorable report on HB0100.



Michael O'Connor
Mayor
The City of Frederick