



Sustainability / Local (Countywide) Scale

Forest Sustainability in Baltimore County, Maryland (MD)	
Place-Based Example	Baltimore County, through its Forest Sustainability Program, increases understanding, organizes information, sets goals, and takes action to assess forest health, protect forests, strategically reforest, and enhance landowner stewardship
Discussion	<p>Description: Through green infrastructure connections the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) became involved in a project designed to link communities to the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (C&I) as a framework for sustainable forest management. The County’s Natural Resource Manager used the C&I as a tool for engaging stakeholders and developing a Forest Sustainability Strategy for the county in 2005, resulting in a report on <i>The State of Our Forests—2007</i>. Implementation is progressing with and through partners: criteria-level work is underway (e.g., compilation of data), Strategy is being linked with other county initiatives through capital and operating programs, and county’s experiences are being shared with others in the state, region, and nation.</p> <p>Context: Locally, forest sustainability efforts are part of the County’s Green Renaissance Initiative which includes an explicit focus on forests and trees. They also link to state-level strategies and programs for retaining and expanding forests in furtherance of MD’s Green Infrastructure Assessment and State Strategic Forest Lands Assessment as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program. A workshop in September 2008 hosted by Baltimore County is designed to introduce forest sustainability and the C&I as a framework to other local governments in the state and region.</p> <p>Value Added: The C&I, as a “common language and framework,” serves as an effective tool for the County to engage citizens in forest-related dialogue and strategic planning. The County’s success also provides a local place-based example for the US about how the C&I can be adapted and applied at a local scale. The case study is being networked through the national Roundtable on Sustainable Forests, American Planning Association, National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals, and other means to reach forest stakeholders, municipal officials, and many others throughout the country. Of particular note, the case study is being used by The Conservation Fund in Green Infrastructure Training to advance use of indicators and showcase an example.</p>
Key Resources and Web Links	<p>Forest Sustainability Strategy and <i>State of Our Forests—2007</i> report at: http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/environment/workgroup/programimplementation.html</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Case Study—<i>Baltimore County Forest Sustainability Project (2007)</i> at: www.greeninfrastructure.net</p>
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