



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Baltimore City Paves the Way for Building Green**

*Innovative building standards encourage developers to be environmentally friendly*

(Baltimore, MD – August 31, 2010) Baltimore Housing in partnership with the Planning Department is pleased to announce the release of the Baltimore City Green Building Standards (BCGBS). The BCGBS are meant to be a quicker, less expensive alternative to the traditional LEED certification currently required under the Baltimore City Code. The standards will apply to newly-constructed or extensively-modified non-residential or multi-family residential buildings that have or will have at least 10,000 square feet of gross floor area.

The new standards are innovative and designed to achieve certification for green buildings with guidelines that work with Baltimore's unique building and land use issues. As awareness of environmental and energy issues has increased, demand for green buildings has also grown as. The BCGBS incorporate elements of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system and will serve as an 'incentive' for green development without additional cost to developers. They are also designed to best achieve the goals of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan.

"The development of the Green Building Standards is another opportunity to show the City's commitment to being environmentally responsible," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

"Baltimore City's Green Building Standards give developers an incentive to go green," said Housing Commissioner Paul T. Graziano. "We understand the challenges facing developers and have created a plan that addresses their needs and our commitment. The new standards are sensible, effective, enforceable and will be seamless and transparent."

Compliance with these standards will, among other things: protect and restore the City's water supply, reduce Baltimore's urban heat island effect, encourage alternative transportation and promote and improve access to more green spaces throughout the City.

"Certification for green building projects in Baltimore will take less time, because they will be reviewed as part of the City's existing development review processes," said Tom Stosur, Director of the Baltimore City Planning Department. "Baltimore City is committed to being eco friendly and this is just another step towards that end."

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