



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

UMB Sustainability

Nurturing our elm for years to come

This Month's Highlights

- **New Bike Room at Baltimore Grand Garage**
- **Sustainability Champion Series: Kenneth Wong, PhD**
- **Transportation Listening Sessions**
- **Self-Service Rollout Complete**
- **Community Compost Pilot Update**
- **This Month's Creative Prompts**

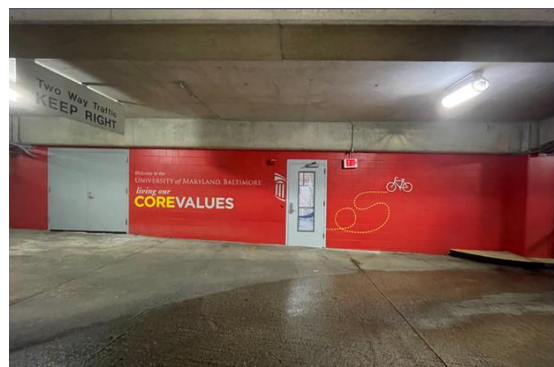
News and Upcoming Events

New Bike Room Available Starting Feb. 5

To increase our sustainability footprint, the Baltimore Grand Garage will have a secured bike room for University faculty, staff, students, and affiliates. The bike room will be available starting Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

Spaces are limited, and availability will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sign up through the [Parking and Transportation Website](#).





Sustainability Champion Series: Kenneth Wong, PhD

This longtime Sustainability Champion, recently appointed dean of UMB's Graduate School, emphasizes that everyone can make a difference, no matter what size, when it comes to sustainability.

[You can read the full article to learn more about Dean Wong in The Elm.](#)

Transportation Listening Sessions

The Transportation Working Group is seeking feedback from students, faculty, and staff on how they can improve their amenities to better serve the UMB community. The working group wants to hear about your experiences traveling to, from, and around campus and how they can improve your commute.

In-Person Listening Sessions on Tuesday, Feb. 13

Session I: 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Session II: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Elm Ballrooms, SMC Campus Center

**Virtual Listening Session:
Wednesday, Feb. 14, 10:30
a.m. to noon**

[Register for a session using this link.](#)



Transportation Listening Sessions



Self-Service Rollout is Complete

The self-service waste model has now been rolled out now in every building across campus. Centralized waste stations decrease waste stream contamination and improve our recycling rate. We appreciate people keeping an open mind to change and continuing to demonstrate our core values. By using the new waste stations, you are playing a direct role in helping reduce the University's impact on the environment.

Check out the [Environmental Services FAQs](#)

[page](#) for more information on the rollout.

Community Compost Pilot Update

We're switching to a new compost dropoff model to allow for more flexibility.

How will it work?

Participants can now drop off their food scraps and plant material to our two dropoff locations (Community Engagement Center and Campus Center) **at any time**. Scan the QR code on the bin and submit demographic data to get access to the bin's code.

Stay in the know by checking the [Community Composting Dropoff page](#) for the latest updates.





Newsletter Creative Opportunity!

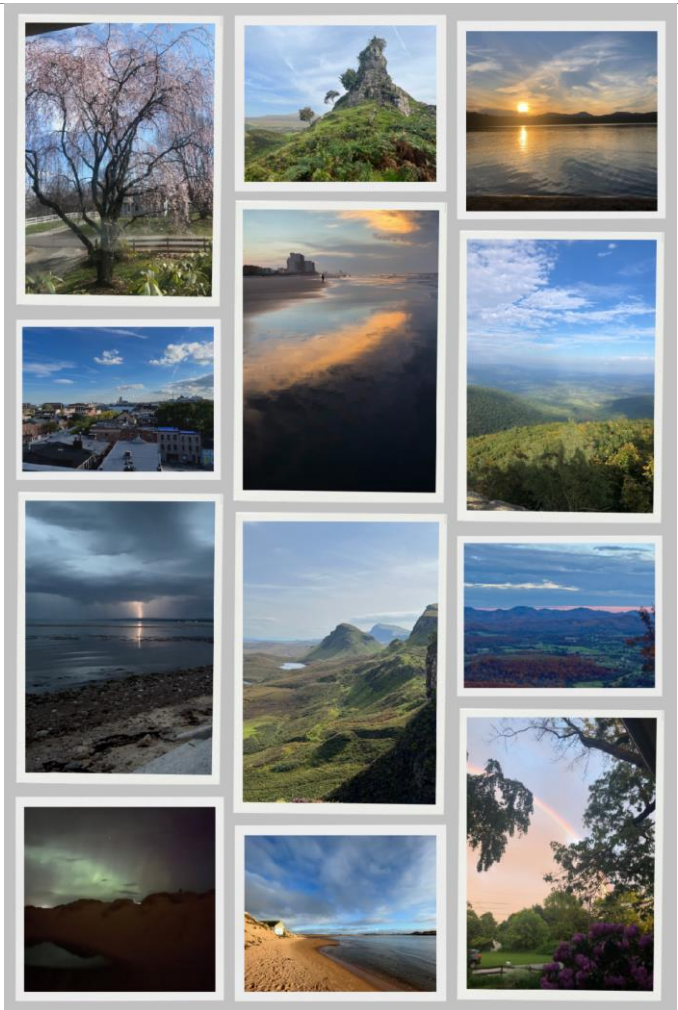
The Sustainability Newsletter is now accepting responses to creative writing prompts that are centered around sustainability. This could take the form of art, poems, writing, story-telling, and more. Written responses should be 400-1000 words, while visual responses should be a maximum of 11x17" in size.

The submission deadline for the March 2024 Newsletter is February 26, 2024.

Email your submissions to sustainability@umaryland.edu with "Creative Writing Prompt" as the subject line.

February Creative Submission

Check out this submission in response to our prompt: "What is the best natural environment you've experienced?" This person submitted a collage of some of their favorite pictures they've taken of the natural environment they have experienced.



Monthly Green Tip

Our February Green Tip contains various environmental justice resources. Our first resource is the [Bullard Center for Environmental & Climate Justice at Texas Southern University](#). Named after the "Father of Environmental Justice", Dr. Robert Bullard, the Center has many resources like webinars and publications. The second resource is a podcast from [NPR's Code Switch](#) about the movement, Free Your Voice, led by South Baltimore teenagers — young people of color who are spearheading a call for climate justice.



Get Involved in Baltimore



[Purple Haze: A Conservation Film](#)

Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Vollmer Center, 4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21213

Join us for an exciting afternoon at the Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum as Captain Zach Steinhauser partners with the Baltimore Bird Club and Baltimore City Rec and Parks for a screening of Purple Haze: A Conservation Film, a documentary on one of the many wonders of South Carolina, the Purple Martins of Lake Murray.

[Public Input Requested for Patapsco Regional Greenway \(PRG\): Stoney Run](#)

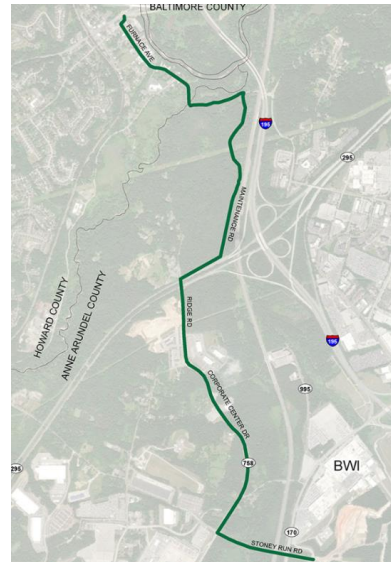
Community Meeting

February 6, 2024 at 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Elkridge Branch of Howard County Library System
6540 Washington Blvd, Elkridge, MD 2107

The PRG is a 40-mile multimodal trail planned from Baltimore's Inner Harbor to Sykesville in Carroll County. Over 12 miles of the trail have been completed so far, and a public commenting period for the 4-mile Stoney Run Trail has been requested by the [Baltimore Metropolitan Council](#).

Anyone interested is welcome to join the community meeting on February 6th or [add comments to the public input portal by February 16th, 2024](#).



Resources

Sustainability Term of the Month

Geothermal energy: *Geothermal energy is a renewable energy form derived from hot water or steam within the earth. It usually creates electricity.*

If you're interested in learning more about geothermal energy, check out the [Geothermal Technologies Office](#) website with lots of resources, articles, and programs.



Join a Sustainability Working Group

Looking for a way to get more involved with sustainability at UMB? Join one of our four sustainability working groups! Working groups are open to students, staff, and faculty. Working group meetings are held once every two months for a total of six meetings each year. Meetings last one hour, and some work outside of bimonthly meetings will be required.

If you are interested in joining any of the four working groups (**Reduction, Resiliency, Engagement & Education, and Green Labs**), please [fill out this form](#). For a brief summary of each working group, visit [this page](#).

What We're Reading



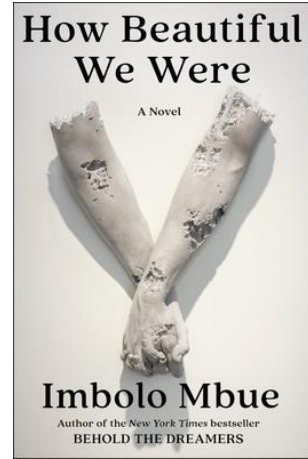
[An Assessment of Electrification Impacts on the Maryland Electric Grid](#)

The Maryland's Climate Pathway Report demonstrates how Maryland can meet its ambitious climate goals of 60% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 relative to 2006 levels, and attain a net-zero economy by 2045, all while realizing health and economic benefits for Marylanders, including improved air quality, new jobs, and household cost savings. This study modeled *electrification scenarios that would result in direct building heating emissions reductions consistent with Maryland's Climate Pathway report.*



[Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#)

This is Maryland's plan to achieve its near-term climate goals and place the state on a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. New policies will transition the state from the fossil fuel era of the past to a clean energy future. Marylanders will benefit from cleaner air, improved public health, lower energy costs, and more jobs with higher wages.



[How Beautiful We Were by Imbolo Mbue](#)

We should have known the end was near. So begins Imbolo Mbue's powerful second novel, *How Beautiful We Were*. Set in the fictional African village of Kosawa, it tells of a people living in fear amid environmental degradation wrought by an American oil company. Told from the perspective of a generation of children and the family of a girl named Thula who grows up to become a revolutionary, *How Beautiful We Were* is a masterful exploration of what happens when the reckless drive for profit, coupled with the ghost of colonialism, comes up against one community's determination to hold on to its ancestral land and a young woman's willingness to sacrifice everything for the sake of her people's freedom.



February Environmental Dates

Find a cause in February to support!



Month of February
2/2
2/27

Black History Month
World Wetlands Day
International Polar Bear Day

Additional Resources

- [UMB Office of Sustainability Website](#)
- [Baltimore City Office of Sustainability](#)

Received this newsletter from a friend? Get the latest information on events and volunteer opportunities directly.

[Join Our Newsletter Email List](#)

Have an upcoming event or opportunity related to sustainability, the environment, or social equity and justice? Tell us about it!

[Submit a Newsletter Item](#)

Contact Us

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