



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

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Consulting Engineering

Maryland Green Registry Member Since 2010

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

The goal of the Baltimore office of Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) is for our office to be an example of environmental stewardship, and in turn project a positive and proactive image to our clients and the community. Michael Baker strives to incorporate sustainability into our overall business strategy and it is at the heart of our corporate philosophy. Our goal is “to create value by delivering innovative and sustainable solutions for infrastructure and the environment.”

Environmental Team

The Baltimore office formed a staff committee known as the Baltimore Green Team in the spring of 2008 dedicated to identifying and promoting business practices that aim to reduce the environmental impacts of our day-to-day operations. Their focus is on providing employees with the information and tools they need to work in a more sustainable way, encouraging practices that increase efficiency, conserve energy and water, improve air quality, and reduce waste. The committee meets on a regular basis to discuss opportunities for our office to become more environmentally-friendly both inside the office and within our community. Committee members are diverse in professional experience and technical backgrounds.

The Baltimore Green Team distributes newsletters, green tips, etc. electronically to the office. Email communications also include upcoming green events, accomplishments, etc.

This team was instrumental in establishing the office's recycling program and helped wean the office from using disposable plates, cups and silverware and encouraging employees toward reusable alternatives.

The team also encourages staff in the Baltimore office to participate in the corporate wide "BMImpact" Program - which measures our sustainability footprint based on activities we can do every day (i.e. using a reusable water bottle, turning off the monitor, printing double-sided, etc.). Activities are logged in a unique phone app to earn points for an office's regional team. Outputs include data to see the difference an individual can make on the environment and surrounding community.



Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Sustainability is the lens through which we focus and apply innovative solutions that return the highest value to society and our clients. The following describes some of the practice areas where we apply this critical thinking:

Our Transportation Air Quality practice specializes in applying an array of tools from the transportation planning, engineering and air quality professions to effectively meet air quality challenges. Our team of planners and engineers brings a suite of proven, specialized tools to conduct air quality and transportation analyses. These tools decrease processing time and needs. For 60 years, key U.S. decision makers in local, state, and federal government have turned to Baker for responsive, accurate, and innovative solutions to their transportation related challenges. Baker takes pride in having assisted agencies in meeting these challenges, and for the opportunity to participate in the process that has led to significant improvements in air quality over the past several decades.

Michael Baker's architecture practice takes a multifaceted approach to the built environment with a focus on implementing practical, sustainable and innovative solutions. Corporate-wide, Baker's team of professionals have designed LEED Silver and Gold certified buildings. Our Baltimore office has LEED accredited staff and corporate-wide Baker has many LEED professionals serving clients including government agencies, institutions, corporations, developers and builders.

Our Water Resources and Environmental practices work to incorporate sustainable design and ecosystem restoration into all phases of our projects. These include Low Impact Design for stormwater management, restoration for streams and wetlands, removal of hazardous materials from sites, as well as developing pollution prevention plans and permitting to protect the environment.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

The office purchases recycled paper (30% post-consumer content) for use in all the copiers in the office. In addition, some of the other paper supplies (such as notepads) are made from recycled materials. For the break room, our office purchases eco-friendly dishwashing detergent and soap for the dishwasher.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Through the Baltimore Green Team, our office has forged a partnership with the Friends of Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway and have conducted four clean ups in the local area of the Patapsco State Park. Other projects include e-cycling events and trash pick-up during team building hikes.

The Baltimore Green Team in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club-Salvation Army, organizes volunteer events to educate local youth on environmental issues and STEM. An example of this outreach included demonstrations with a hands-on watershed simulator model. In addition, during the Holiday Season, the Baltimore Green Team sponsored the Angel Tree giving drive to provide toys and gifts to local families through the Salvation Army.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

Through the Baltimore Green Team's leadership, our office eliminated the need for paper cups and plates as well as plastic cutlery in the break room. We purchased reusable cups and mugs for the office and client meetings, and received donations of cutlery and dishes from employees.

Also, our company established a corporate policy that all office printers are now set for double-sided printing as the default. By doing this, we have reduced the amount of paper used in our office. Additionally, Baker offers electronic versions of company publications to reduce print quantities, has reduced paper consumption through the use of electronic travel itineraries and reduced paper consumption through the use of e-holiday cards.

Recycling

The Baltimore Michael Baker office initiated a single-stream recycling of paper, cardboard, plastic, and glass at our workplace. All work areas, conference

rooms, and break rooms were provided recycling bins to encourage employees to recycle. An estimated average of 15 lbs/day is recycled in our office.

The Baltimore Green Team has also established a drop-off location in our office for batteries and small electronics e-cycling. The batteries are then taken to the local municipal recycling center for proper disposal, while postage-paid envelopes are available to properly dispose of the electronics. As available, older computer equipment that is still operational as well as excess furniture is offered to staff free of charge, thus extending the useful life of these products.

The Baltimore office also has a contract with an independent company to collect and dispose of toner cartridges from the copiers as well as larger, life-expired electronic equipment in an environmentally safe manner.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

Our office has initiated a series of energy efficiency practices which include the following:

- ✓ *Almost all employees use energy efficient laptop computers as opposed to desk tops. Computers and monitors are set to “power down” when not in use for an extended amount of time.*
- ✓ *All copiers and large-scale plotters in our office are equipped with systems that “power down” the machines when not in use for an extended amount of time, thus reducing the amount of energy used.*
- ✓ *The phone system powers down between the hours of 6 pm and 7 am on weekdays and on weekends.*
- ✓ *Our office policy encourages employees to turn off their office lights when leaving their offices for extended amount of time and to ensure that lights are turned out in conference rooms and other common areas not in use. Lights in the office bathrooms are motion-sensitive to reduce usage.*
- ✓ *Appliances in office break-room are energy-star rated*
- ✓ *Cleaning staff turns off all unnecessary lighting prior to leaving in the evenings.*

Transportation

Employee Commute

Our corporation has an established Transit Benefit Program available to all employees who use local metropolitan transit services. Employees who participate in this program can save money by setting up pre-Federal tax

accounts for transit vouchers (subway, train, ferry, bus, vanpools) and for parking passes. By providing this program which saves employees money by lowering their taxable income, employees are encouraged to use transit services.

Our corporation provides our office managers the flexibility of providing the opportunity of telecommuting during the week as situations permit. By doing so, workers can reduce the amount of commuter trips made during the work week.

In addition, our Baltimore office is accessible by MTA commuter bus service which connects to the BWI Light Rail service. The bus stop is located close to our office building and has scheduled hours during the morning and evening commute.

Efficient Business Travel

Our corporation encourages the use of WebEx which allows for meetings to be held via telecommunications lines at multiple locations and with multiple participants. Files and presentations can be shared during the meeting via the computer. By holding meetings using this format, participants do not need to travel to a central location for the meeting. Employees are also encouraged to participate in “webinars” to eliminate travel required for training. Baker policy is to minimize business travel as much as possible, both in support of our sustainability goals as well as cost savings to our clients.

The Baltimore office is also conveniently located to the BWI Amtrak/MARC Rail Station which allows for easy access to meetings in Washington, DC or other locations such as Philadelphia and New York. Use of the train for these meetings reduces the number of single occupancy vehicles.

Water

Water Conservation

As a consulting engineering company, our use of water directly related to our work is minimal and we are limited within our office complex on what practices we can establish with respect to water conservation. However, our office does use an energy-efficient dishwasher on a daily basis. The “econo” mode is used to save water with the more water intensive modes used only on rare occasions. All faucets in our office have aerators and are low flow models. Also, we work with the building manager to reduce water usage in the common areas as much as possible. In addition, our building management company,

COPT, also has a sustainability policy which includes the reduction of water usage at all their properties.

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Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

