

Be-more Productive Baltimore

Be-more Productive Baltimore encourages Baltimore residents to take a second look at community and neighborhood spaces and re-think possibilities for green productivity. The project not only makes suggestions, but also provides a downloadable resource guide, The Neighborhood Diagnostic Tool, to help you find the ideas, people, and resources you need to Be-more Productive!

To download the Neighborhood Diagnostic Tool, go to www.urbanitebaltimore.com/project/teams/team3.



Weeds

Fast-growing, allergen-producing, and unsightly—weeds! However, understanding and even monitoring and encouraging weed growth in vacant lots, alleys, and backyards can help urban spaces remain green without the labor of cultivation or constant whacking. Weeds absorb CO₂, hold groundwater, and provide biodiversity and habitats for animals and birds. The Neighborhood Diagnostic Tool can help you identify some useful and interesting weeds to watch for in your community.



Food

Most urban neighborhoods can produce food that will stretch a family's budget and bring in wonderful fresh ingredients. Even a front stoop can host a productive container garden, and the front porch can be festooned with hanging vegetable and herb plants. The Neighborhood Diagnostic Tool will help you look at your neighborhood from a plant's eye and see where you and your neighbors can grow your family food.



Solar

Urban Baltimore neighborhoods have yet to be tapped for one of our richest, least intrusive energy sources—the sun! Look up! There's block after block of nice, flat roofs. Rooftops with southern exposure and fewer than six hours of shade a day could take advantage of urban solar power. The Neighborhood Diagnostic Tool can help you better understand if your neighborhood is compatible with solar energy and who to call for assessments and resources.



Bees

Bees have been dying off. Baltimore City already holds several dozen committed beekeepers and apiaries, and more urban communities could join by initiating new hives. Not only will you be helping the bee population, but you'll also be helping your dinner table and maybe even your pocketbook with the rich resource of cultivated honey. The Neighborhood Diagnostic Tool can help you get started.

TEAM 3



photo by La Kaye Mbah

Dru Schmidt-Perkins has more than twenty-eight years of experience on a broad range of energy, growth, and environmental issues. In 1998, she became the first executive director of 1000 Friends of Maryland, a nonprofit advocacy group. Before joining 1000 Friends, she was the Maryland State and Chesapeake Director of Clean Water Action for more than nine years.

Catherine Pancake is an artist and cultural worker who has co-founded such Baltimore-based radical arts groups as the High Zero Foundation and the Transmodern Festival. Her films include the 2006 documentary *Black Diamonds*, about mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia. Pancake's experimental sound work has been published by several experimental record labels.

For more from this team, go to www.urbanitebaltimore.com/project/teams/team3.

Illustration by Alyssa Dennis

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