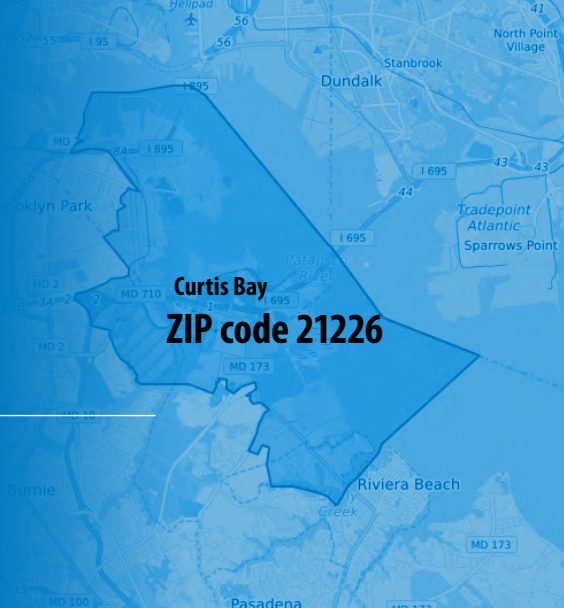


# SOUTH BALTIMORE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Baltimore, Maryland



The Advancing Environmental Justice through Technical Assistance Mini-Grants Program

is hosted by the National Environmental Health Partnership Council with support from CDC National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. In Year 3, five organizations, including [South Baltimore Community Land Trust](#), are supported through \$10,000 mini-grants and technical assistance.

Credit: Photo by Olivia Hodges, courtesy of Unsplash.

## MISSION

To provide quality affordable housing for all in communities free of environmental injustice..

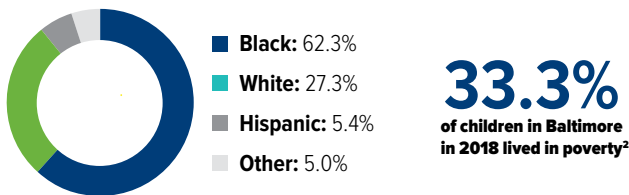
## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

- Trash and medical waste incinerators
- Open-air coal export terminal
- Chemical plants
- City landfill
- Illegal dumping

SOUTH BALTIMORE SERVES AS A DUMPING GROUND for the city and region — single use-plastics and other mixed waste are burned at a 35-year-old trash incinerator located in frontline environmental justice communities. In 2009, city and state leaders sought to expand Baltimore’s role as a regional waste destination by inviting the development of the nation’s largest trash burning incinerator, formerly known as the Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company, or BRESKO, incinerator. The incinerator sits less than a mile from schools — again in South Baltimore and the ZIP code 21226 — with the highest levels of toxic air emissions in the nation. In addition to a municipal trash incinerator, Curtis Bay and adjacent South Baltimore communities also host the nation’s largest medical waste incinerator, the city’s landfill, an open-air coal export terminal, chemical plants and a slew of other polluting developments.

# Impacted Populations

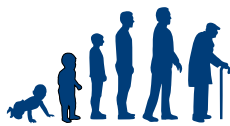
## Racial demographics in Baltimore



### Curtis Bay



Experiences high rates of asthma, lung cancer, heart disease and chronic lower respiratory disease



On average, residents live 15 years less than residents of wealthier, white neighborhoods like Roland Park



Home ownership is below 30% with substandard and unaffordable rental units, leaving most residents under the constant threat of eviction and displacement

The South Baltimore communities of Wagner’s Point, Fairfield and Hawkins Point were all displaced between the 1980s and 1990s to accommodate chemical and waste businesses long after the devastating health impacts took their toll on generations of residents. The concentration of pollution in South Baltimore has compounding effects: poverty that comes from disinvestment, poor housing quality and lack of adequate health care.

Trash that is not burned at the BRESCO incinerator and pollutes the air is often illegally dumped on vacant land or in alleyways and waterways. Despite a variety of efforts, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works has failed to successfully address illegal dumping. An estimated 10,000 tons of trash are illegally dumped in Baltimore every year, often at the city’s estimated 44,000 vacant buildings and lots. The level of rental housing evictions is a huge contributor to this issue — Baltimore has the second highest eviction rate in the country, just behind Detroit. The worst illegal dumping areas are in Black communities and low-income communities with the highest concentration of vacant properties and evictions.

## GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Creating key elements required for a just transition to zero waste in Baltimore, including a city plan centered on equity and a strong public pressure campaign to remove obstacles to eliminating zero waste
  - ▶ Building a community-led zero waste coalition capable of leading implementation efforts and holding strong to environmental, labor and community commitments
- Implementing a composting facility in the city
  - ▶ Engaging residents, students, workers and city representatives in creating and designating land for composting infrastructure
  - ▶ Engaging local anchor institutions (universities and small businesses) to pledge their food tonnage to secure a proposal from the operator and investors of the intended composting infrastructure



<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2021). QuickFacts: Baltimore city, Maryland. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/baltimorecitymaryland>  
<sup>2</sup> Maryland Alliance for the Poor (2018). Maryland Poverty Profiles. Retrieved from [https://mda.maryland.gov/about\\_mda/Documents/SNAB/Maryland-Poverty-Profiles\\_2018\\_1-15-2018\\_T.pdf](https://mda.maryland.gov/about_mda/Documents/SNAB/Maryland-Poverty-Profiles_2018_1-15-2018_T.pdf)

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