



Forward with Clean Energy – Economic Development

Jobs & Other Economic Benefits of Doubling Maryland’s Clean Power by 2025

Maryland is fully capable of obtaining a robust 40% of its electricity from clean sources like wind and solar power by the not-so-distant year of 2025. In addition to the clear environmental and public health benefits that would accompany this new policy, Maryland now has an opportunity to position itself as a leader in the growing clean technology sector. **By setting the highest clean energy goal in the region, Maryland can establish itself as a regional hub for clean energy jobs and clean energy investments.**

Solar in Maryland Today

Maryland is one of the top solar states in the country. With 151 companies and over 2,000 jobs in Maryland today, the state’s solar industry already surpasses its famous crab industry in value. One of the key drivers of that job growth has been the “solar carve-out” within the State’s current clean electricity standard. But Maryland currently gets a mere 0.35% of its electricity from solar energy. Federal statistics show that Maryland could receive 25% of its electricity from rooftop solar alone, and the state could power itself 10 times over by developing all of its available rooftop, urban, and rural space.

“To keep our investments sound, we need to invest in companies that are prepared to manage the risks climate change poses for their future prosperity and that are developing solutions to climate challenges, such as clean, renewable energy.”

-Nancy Kopp, MD Treasurer



Future of Maryland Wind Jobs

Maryland has 120 MW of wind energy installed today, equating to an investment of over \$200 million in the state, and \$360,000 annually in private payments to landowners. Wind energy currently generates around 1% of Maryland’s electricity, but the available potential for both land-based and offshore wind energy in Maryland is enormous. The Maryland Energy Administration conservatively estimates that the potential total value of wind projects on just Maryland’s Eastern Shore is well over \$1 billion, with hundreds of millions of dollars of local impact. Those investments in the mostly rural areas of the state with the best wind resources could be an economic lifeline for a region where jobs are currently in short supply.

Future of Maryland Solar Jobs

If Maryland’s carve-out for solar were doubled from its current level of 2% to 4%, we anticipate, based on the U.S. Department of Energy’s *Jobs and Economic Development Indicator*, that this legislation would incentivize roughly 1,000 megawatts of new Maryland solar energy while **supporting nearly 2,000 new Maryland solar jobs per year**. Solar jobs are well-paid and diverse. Slightly more than half of solar employment is in the “installation” sector where the average wage is \$23.63/hour. Other solar jobs are created in the sales/trade, manufacturing, project development, non-profit, academic, government, and R&D sectors.

Wind power in our region could stimulate a statewide resurgence of manufacturing and construction jobs.

A typical wind farm of 250 MW creates about 1,079 direct jobs over the lifetime of the project, from engineers to construction employees; from blade manufacturers to gearbox makers; from electricians to operators. At that rate, a 40% clean electricity standard, which will create incentives for roughly 4,500 MW of new land-based wind energy, will create nearly **20,000 direct jobs throughout the wind supply chain in our region**. And that’s before counting indirect and induced job potential.

Maryland Opportunities

Maryland is an attractive location for clean tech businesses for a number of reasons. First, Maryland is a progressive state with a strong record of environmental leadership that offers the policy certainty that businesses crave. Second, Maryland is within easy reach of New York for finance and Washington for national policy. Third, Maryland-based businesses have quick and cost-effective access to international and domestic markets via BWI

Airport, Dulles International Airport, Philadelphia International Airport, I-95, the Port of Baltimore, and Acela rail service. Finally, as the top state for entrepreneurship and innovation, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, it is likely that Maryland will continue to attract even more new clean technology and manufacturing businesses and continue creating thousands of jobs per year by doubling its clean energy standard.

Made in Maryland: Reinvigorating Maryland's Industrial Base with Clean Energy



Committing to more clean energy today is an investment in the future of Maryland's working families. That investment is necessary. Maryland's manufacturing labor force has spent the last several decades in slow decline, falling 27% in the last ten years alone. Many of the good-paying jobs that supported the American middle class during 20th century have been exported overseas. Maryland needs a 21st century jobs plan that will put people back to work while also protecting our society and environment from climate change.

The good news is that the manufacturing activity related to wind power development is substantial and widely dispersed. Maryland's manufacturing base could potentially thrive thanks to the new demand for wind power resulting from this bill. The U.S. Department of Energy has identified 12 relevant industry classification codes related to wind power manufacturing. Maryland has almost 100 companies working in those industries, employing 5,600 employees across the entire state. Each one of those companies could potentially expand operations and hire new workers to meet new wind energy demand, and there are many more new companies that could potentially come to Maryland if 40% clean electricity becomes the law of the land.

Falling Prices

U.S. wind power costs have fallen by 58% in the last five years. Average solar prices have fallen 50% since 2010 as U.S. installations have increased by 458%. Moving forward, the federal government projects that wind prices will likely decrease by 20%-30% over the next 20 years. Wind and solar are already out-competing fossil fuels on price in many parts of the country, and these trends are moving in such a direction that clean energy goals will become even more affordable as we move closer to 2025.

THE SOLUTION:

Raising Maryland's clean energy standard to a robust and achievable 40% by 2025 is a clear instance where a cleaner environment also means putting people to work. With renewable energy selling at record low prices, now is the time for Maryland to double its commitment to this successful clean energy policy that is already delivering economic and environmental gains.

Find out more at <http://marylandclimatecoalition.org/> or contact:

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