



Maryland Climate Coalition

Dear Legislator,

The climate crisis is impacting Marylanders from the mountains in the west to the shores of Ocean City. Climate change threatens our health, our economic security, and our ecological treasures. The time to act is now. We urge you to maintain Maryland's commitment to our children, our communities and our future by implementing Maryland's Climate Action Plan. We ask you to support cleaner, more affordable energy, creating family-supporting jobs and healthier communities by:

- 1) Renewing the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. First passed in 2009, this groundbreaking law requires statewide, science-based reductions in the greenhouse gases that are changing our climate and threatening our health. In order to achieve those reductions, this law also required the creation of Maryland's Climate Action Plan. The law expires at the end of 2016, so it will need to be renewed.
- 2) Expanding Maryland's clean energy standard. One of the top programs in the Climate Action Plan is increasing the amount of clean, renewable energy—like solar and wind power—that we use to power our homes and communities, helping transition us to clean, renewable energy. We need to reach 25% clean electricity consumption by the year 2020.

We're already feeling the effects of climate change, which are impacting practically every facet of Maryland's economy and society. Climate change is leading to more extreme weather events, which are causing power outages, damaging property, harming Marylanders, and dragging down our economy. Over 2011 and 2012, severe weather events cost Maryland taxpayers over \$70 million. Climate change is accelerating sea-level rise, threatening our tourism industries and coastal communities. Maryland is in fact in the third most vulnerable area in the nation to sea-level rise. Climate change is also bad news for Maryland agriculture, as rising temperatures, heavy rains, and more intense droughts threaten the livelihoods of our farmers.

Here's the good news: we already have the tools and the know-how to protect Maryland from the worst impacts of climate change. We need to reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are causing climate change. Today, in Maryland, we still get nearly 60% of our power from burning fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – for electricity, which is our single largest source of climate pollution. So, our most important carbon-reducing strategy is to break our addiction to fossil fuels and move swiftly to clean energy sources like wind and solar.

In 2009, Maryland passed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act which incorporated over 150 programs and policies in Maryland's Climate Action Plan to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020. This law sunsets in the 2016 legislative session and will need to be renewed. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is the legal framework that drives Maryland's clean energy policies. Maryland is only one of eight states with a statutory greenhouse gas reduction plan. In order to continue to ensure that Maryland continues to be a leader in climate change we must renew the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. One of the top recommendations of Maryland's Climate Action Plan is to increase our clean electricity standard or Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Our current goal is to get 20% of our electricity from clean sources by 2022. But given the growing threat of climate change to our family farms, the well-being of our children, the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and the stability of our economy, it's time to aim higher and we are reintroducing the Maryland Clean Energy Advancement Act to ensure that we have 25% of our electricity coming from clean, renewable sources like wind and solar by the year 2020.

Renewing Maryland's Climate Action Plan and increasing our Clean Electricity Standard will mean:

- Jobs for Marylanders – If Maryland's Climate Action Plan is fully implemented Maryland could see the creation of 37,000 jobs and 1400 of those jobs will come from the solar industry.
- Public health savings – Reduced health impacts caused by burning fossil fuels for electricity, which currently cost the average Maryland household almost \$73 per month.
- Less climate pollution – Nearly 5,000 megawatts of clean energy in our region, which is the carbon equivalent of taking 1.4 million passenger vehicles off the road every year.

Maryland's 2013 Climate Action Plan already calls for expanding our clean energy goals, and in March 2013, Minnesota's House of Representatives passed a 40% by 2030 clean energy standard with strong union support. Here's why we know we can get to 25% clean electricity for Maryland by 2020:

- Untapped potential – The estimated potential for untapped wind and solar power within Maryland's borders is equivalent to ten times the total electricity Marylanders consume today.
- Costs are falling – Falling Prices of Renewable Energy. U.S. wind power costs have fallen by 58% in the last five years. Average solar prices have fallen 63% since 2010 as U.S. installations have increased by 600%. 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 forward.
- Success stories – Many other states and countries are already on track to achieve more than 25% clean energy. Ireland's goal is 43% clean power by 2020, and Maine's is 40% by 2017.

For these reasons, we urge you to do everything in your power to renew Maryland's Climate Action Plan and to increase Maryland's clean electricity standard. Our state can and should lead the charge in the much-needed transition from dirty, dangerous fossil fuels to clean renewable power that's safer and healthier for Maryland families, our environment and our economy.

Sincerely,

7-Eleven, West St. Annapolis 834 on the Avenue A Touch of Heaven Printing AAR Adopt A Pet Center Abeona Group AIA Maryland, Inc. Alex and Ani Alko All Eco Design Center All State Care Alpaca International Annapolis Ice Cream Company Annapolis Organic Market Annapolis Realty, Inc Annapolis Running Shop Annapolis Running Shop Annapolis Solar Consultants, Inc. Annebeth's Arrow Bicycles Artifact Coffee Arundel Carry Out Atwaters Naturally Leavened Aurora Energy Bazaar Beauty World Inc. BITHENERGY Blushing Gypsy Boutique Brassworks Co. Bye Craft Cocktails Capital Sun Group, Ltd. CEM Design Central Avenue Restaurant and Liquor Charlie's Bar City Dock Coffee Comfi Mattress & More Common Cents Solar Community Forklift LLC: Services DC Metro Region	Glut Food Co-Op Gorilla King Comics Green Generation Solutions Greenberries Gregson S Gatz Production Grooming by EM, Brentwood Guzzi Jewelry and Gifts Hannon Armstrong Harris Plus Harvest Power Inc. Healthy Dental LLC Hex Ferments Honn Cafe IceGreen Snowballs, Accokeek Inn at Horn Point Joe Squared Just Audio Just Ice Water Ice Keep it Moving Hair Salon King's Pizza Kokopelli La Belle Cezanne Jewelers Lilac Bijoux Main St. Mini Mart Maja Maki Handmade Gifts Masterpiece Barbershop FMW, LLC McCauley Lyman, LLC Milk and Ice Millenium 3 Energy Mindful Freedom Yoga Studio Mondo Mono Azul Children's Boutique Nancy Cafe Nature's Pantry Nautical North Wooden Charts and Maps New Deal Cafe, Inc	Smiles Herb Shop, Berwyn Heights Sober Family Eye Care Sofi's Crepes Solar City Solar Grid Storage Solar Mowing Solar Tech Inc. Solar Universe - Annapolis Branch SolarGaines Sprout: An Organic Salon & Organic Chemistry, Inc. Standard Solar Station North Arts Cafe Stay Humble Tattoo Company Sticky Rice Storm Brothers Ice Cream Company Stroika Construction Solutions, Inc. Subway Catering, Annapolis Suitland Market SunEdison Sunlight Electric, LLC Sustainable Energy Systems Sweet and Natural Taking it to the Next Level The Alliance for Green Heat The Annapolis Pottery The Greener Garden, LLC The Hatcher Group Inc. The Perfume Chick Galleria The Spice & Tea Exchange The Verandah Thermo Technologies Treasure Island Tutti Frutti, Main St. Annapolis Twenty20Cycling Ultra Solar & Wind Solutions VapexCafe Vigilante Coffee, Hyattsville
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