



Climate & Energy Solutions for Maryland: The Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act 25% Renewable Energy by 2020



- In 2016, Maryland should update its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to accelerate the state's transition to renewable energy. The General Assembly should require that renewable sources provide 25% of the state's energy by 2020, with at least 2.5% from solar energy.
- Increasing Maryland's reliance on renewable energy is fully achievable. Maryland already is committed to obtaining 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2022.
- Increasing the RPS requirements is a positive step toward a clean energy future that relies on energy sources like wind and solar. Separately, the RPS should be updated so that it no longer incentivizes combustion-based "renewable" sources, which release greenhouse gases and other pollutants into our atmosphere.

Let's Make 2016 a Turning Point in Maryland for Fighting Climate Change

Renewable Energy is Beneficial Energy for Maryland

- Climate benefits – A 25% renewable energy standard can create incentives for roughly 1,800 megawatts of new clean energy in our region and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 2.7 million metric tons per year (the equivalent of taking 563,000 passenger vehicles off the road every year).
- Health benefits – Fossil fuel combustion is a public health crisis. Maryland has some of the worst air quality on the East Coast, disproportionately harming communities of color and the poor. Cutting pollution from fossil fuel combustion will significantly improve the state's air quality.
- Economic benefits – Better health outcomes will increase our region's annual economic growth by hundreds of millions of dollars. Relying on more renewable energy should lead to thousands of new jobs in the solar and wind industries, including an annual increase of 1,000 new solar jobs.
- Reliability benefits – Weather in our region is getting more intense, and our electricity grid is increasingly compromised by climate-related hazards, including more intense storms and heat waves. Dispersed and locally generated electricity is a more sustainable solution to our energy needs.

Clean Energy is Affordable Energy for Maryland

- Average solar prices have fallen 63% since 2010 as U.S. installations have increased by 600%.
- Wind power costs hit record lows in 2014, have fallen by 58% in the last five years, and are projected to decrease 20-30% over the next 20 years. Wind is already out-competing natural gas and other fossil fuels in many parts of the country.

For more information or to volunteer, contact us:

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