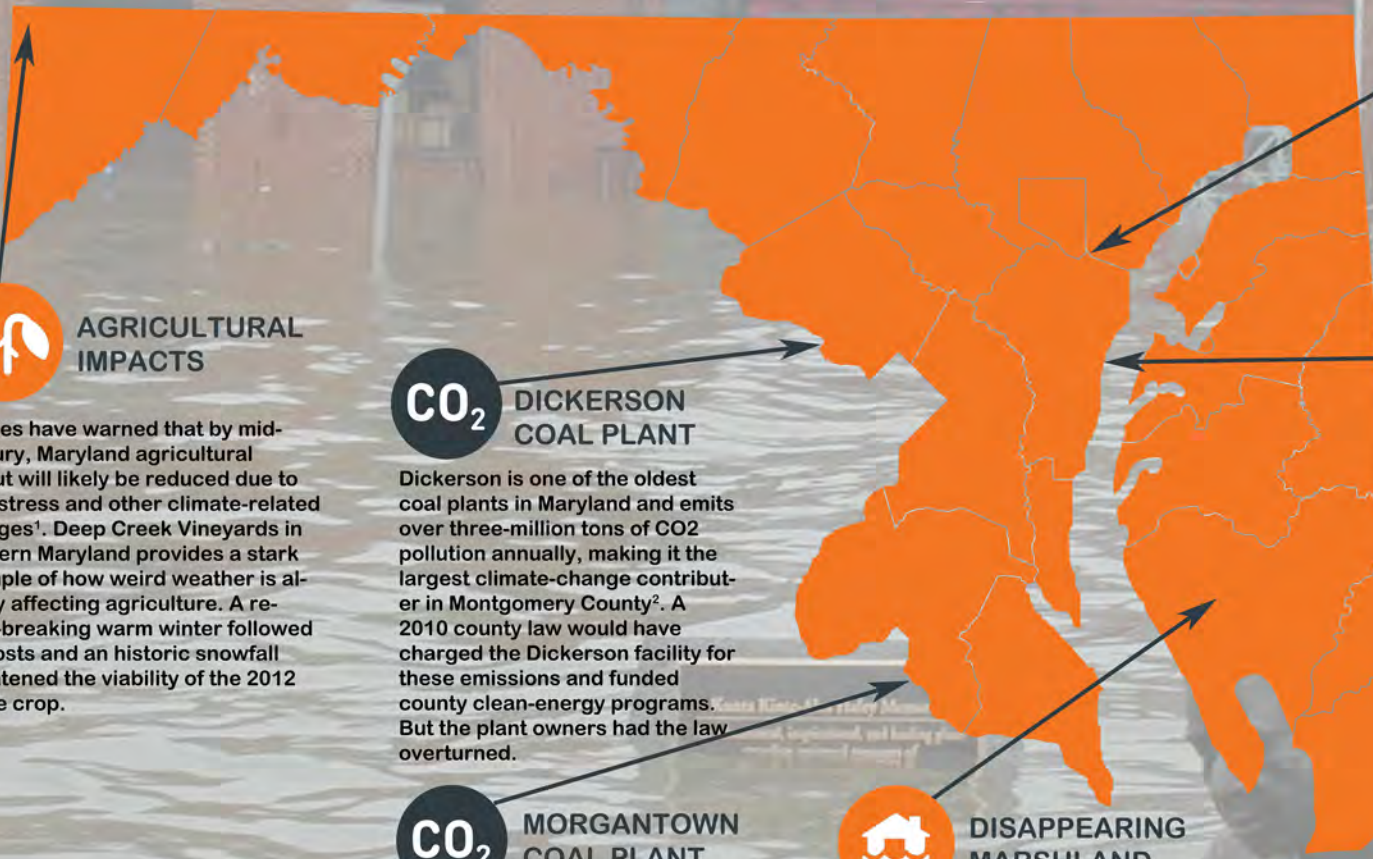
MARYLAND CLIMATE IMPACTS



AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS

Studies have warned that by mid-century, Maryland agricultural output will likely be reduced due to heat stress and other climate-related changes[1]. Deep Creek Vineyards in Western Maryland provides a stark example of how weird weather is already affecting agriculture. A record-breaking warm winter followed by frosts and an historic snowfall threatened the viability of the 2012 grape crop.

CO_2 DICKERSON COAL PLANT

Dickerson is one of the oldest coal plants in Maryland and emits over three-million tons of CO2 pollution annually, making it the largest climate-change contributer in Montgomery County[2]. A 2010 county law would have charged the Dickerson facility for these emissions and funded county clean-energy programs. But the plant owners had the law overturned.

CO_2 MORGANTOWN COAL PLANT

This coal-fired power plant near Newburg, MD produces more than 7 million tons of CO2 emissions and enough particulate pollution to cause over 300 asthma attacks annually[3].

DISAPPEARING MARSHLAND

In a dramatic example of already-unfolding Maryland climate impacts, the Eastern Shore's precious Blackwater Wildlife Refuge loses up to an acre of marshland DAILY[4].

CO_2 BALTIMORE COAL PLANTS & EXPORTS

Three Baltimore-area coal plants (in Middle River & Curtis Bay) account for over 13 million tons of combined climate pollution annually[5]. Along with coal dust from the port's massive coal-export operations and rising temeratures, coal means more days with "code red" air quality for Baltimoreans[6].

STRONGER STORM SURGES

Due to sea-level rise, Hurricane Isabel's storm surge in 2003 was one foot higher than a similar storm 70 years earlier, inundating areas such as downtown Annapolis[7]. With predictions of bigger hurricanes in years to come and a minimum sea-level rise of one to three feet predicted for this century, damaging storm surges are expected to increase with global warming[8].

BEACH EROSION

Maryland's premiere sea-side tourist destination, Ocean City, is threatened by sea-level rise. A mere one foot rise during the next century could shave 180 to 230 feet off its shoreline, according to an EPA study[9].

References:

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7. Boesch, D.F. (editor), 2008. *Global Warming and the Free State: Comprehensive Assessment of Climate Change Impacts in Maryland*. Report of the Scientific and Technical Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Cambridge MD. Page 58.

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9. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1999. Potential Impacts of Sea Level Rise on the Beach at Ocean City, Maryland. Washington, DC. http://1.usa.gov/IYWG0o