



Maryland Climate Coalition

Forward with Clean Energy

Increase Maryland's Clean Energy for Our Health, Jobs, and Climate

Over half of Maryland's electricity still comes from carbon-spewing fossil fuels – coal, oil and natural gas. These dirty fuels are bad for our health, our economy, our climate, and our energy security. As the state that is the 3rd most vulnerable in America to sea-level rise driven by climate change, and with the worst air quality on the east coast, we need to act now to curb our dependence on fossil fuels. And clean energy has already proven itself to be a powerful driver of economic development in Maryland, including job creation.

That's why a broad and diverse coalition of environmentalists, public health officials, business leaders, labor leaders, faith leaders, academics, low-income advocates and social justice advocates have come together to call on Maryland's leaders to increase the state's clean electricity standard to 25% by 2020.

The benefits of expanding MD's Clean Electricity Standard to 25% by 2020

More clean electricity for Maryland will move the state forward on health, jobs, and climate, and make our electricity grid more reliable, even during major storms.



Source: bikeriderlondon/ Shutterstock, Inc.

Health Benefits

Fossil fuel combustion is a public health crisis. Over 5 million Marylanders live in counties that received a D or F air quality grade from the American Lung Association. Maryland has some of the worst air quality on the East Coast. The health and economic impacts disproportionately harm low-income people and people of color. More clean energy will significantly improve the state's air quality while preventing 25 to 50 premature deaths per year and increasing regional economic growth by \$218 million to \$493 million annually due to better health outcomes.

Jobs Benefits

By increasing our clean power to 25% by 2020, Maryland is poised to stimulate a statewide resurgence of manufacturing and construction jobs. By increasing the carve-out for solar, we will see the growth of nearly 2,000 new high-paying Maryland solar jobs and new solar companies in Maryland too. Lawmakers intend to couple higher goals with millions in new funding for clean energy workforce training, minority- and women-owned business growth, and other potential programs to promote a sustainable economy.



Source: Siemens



Source: U.S. Department of Defense

Climate Benefits

A 25% clean electricity standard will create incentives for roughly 1,300 megawatts of new clean energy in our region and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 2.7 million metric tons per year. That's the carbon equivalent of taking 563,000 passenger vehicles off the road every year, which will also deliver improved public health outcomes, cleaner air and cleaner water.

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 that doesn't emit greenhouse gasses is a more sustainable solution to our energy needs than our current system of centralized, polluting power plants. More clean power will make our electricity grid more resilient and keep our lights on, even during increasingly extreme weather events.



Source: U.S. Department of Defense

Clean Energy is Affordable Energy for Maryland

- Average solar prices have fallen 63% since 2010 as U.S. installations have increased by 600%.
- Over half the states (including Maryland) could have rooftop solar that's as cheap as local electricity prices by 2017.
- Wind power costs hit record lows in 2014, and have fallen by 58% in the last five years.
- Wind prices are projected to decrease by 20%-30% over the next 20 years.
- Wind is already out-competing natural gas and other fossil fuels on price in many parts of the country, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that the price of natural gas will likely increase by 70%-110% by 2025.

25% Clean Energy is Achievable in Maryland

Maryland already has a requirement of 20% clean power by 2022. Increasing the state's clean electricity standard to 25% by 2025 is not only critical to protecting our climate, our health, and our economy, it's also very achievable. Maryland has only scratched the surface of our clean energy potential. The state could meet its current electricity demand by tapping just 10% of available renewable resources.

Visit www.marylandclimatecoalition.org to learn more about the Maryland Climate Coalition and our **Cleaner Power, Brighter Maryland** campaign.

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For references please go to <http://chesapeakeclimate.org/maryland/clean-energy/>