

Forward with 40%:

Double Maryland's Clean Power by 2025

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, faith leaders, academics, low-income advocates and social justice advocates have come together to call on Maryland's leaders to double the state's clean electricity standard to 40% by 2025.

How will 40% move Maryland forward?

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



Forward on Health

Fossil fuel combustion is a public health crisis. More than 85 percent of Marylanders live in areas that fail to meet the nation's clean air standards, and the state has the notorious distinction of being the worst in the eastern U.S. for ground-level ozone pollution. These health burdens harm low-income people and people of color disproportionately. More clean energy can reverse this trend.

Source: bikeriderlondon/ Shutterstock, Inc.

Forward on Jobs

By doubling our clean power by 2025, Maryland is poised to stimulate a statewide resurgence of manufacturing and construction jobs. A 40% clean electricity standard will create nearly 20,000 direct jobs in wind alone - from engineers to electricians to operators. By doubling the carve-out for solar to 4%, we will see the growth of thousands of new solar jobs and new solar companies in Maryland too.



Source: Siemens



Forward on Climate

A 40% clean electricity standard will create incentives for roughly 4,500 megawatts of new clean energy in our region and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 9.7 million metric tons per year. That's the carbon equivalent of taking 2 million passenger vehicles off the road every year, which will also deliver improved public health outcomes, cleaner air and cleaner water.

Forward on Reliability

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: Mark Wilson/ Getty Images North America

Clean Energy is Affordable Energy for Maryland

- Average solar prices have fallen 50% since 2010 as U.S. installations have increased by 458%.
- 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.

40% Clean Energy is Achievable in Maryland

Maryland already has a requirement of 20% clean power by 2022. Doubling the state's clean electricity standard to 40% 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 percent of available renewable resources.

GET INVOLVED!

With your help, we can convince our lawmakers to protect Maryland's health, economy, climate and energy security by doubling our commitment to clean electricity. Contact Brooke Harper, our Maryland Outreach Coordinator, at brooke@chesapeakeclimate.org or (240) 396-2140 to take action.