

This resolution is sponsored by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, NAACP Maryland, and CASA. Contact Anthony Field at anthony@chesapeakeclimate.org.

2022 Maryland Climate Justice Platform Resolution

WHEREAS, Increasing Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 100% renewable electricity would support new high-paying Maryland jobs, and increase GDP.

WHEREAS, Maryland is a coastal state with 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, making us one of the most vulnerable states in America to sea-level rise.

WHEREAS, Race is the #1 indicator of placement of toxic facilities. Minority and low-income communities are overburdened by air and water pollution from energy generation and are underserved by the benefits of climate action. Poor air quality leads to over 100,000 deaths in the U.S. each year, but BIPOC communities are 79% more likely to live near air pollution sources. Due to continuous exposure to toxic emissions, these communities are at greater risk of cancer, neurological issues, heart and respiratory illness, with black children being 500% more likely to die of asthma. In Baltimore City, home of BRESKO, the rate of asthma emergency rate visits is 2.5 times higher than the Maryland average.

WHEREAS, Trash incineration emits pollution that creates a public health crisis. Incineration facilities such as Baltimore City's BRESKO plant emit high levels of health-hazardous air pollution, harm water, and soil quality, contribute to respiratory, cardiovascular, and other ailments, and add to climate disruption.

WHEREAS, Maryland should enact policies that incentivize new and clean sources of renewable energy that reduce greenhouse gasses and other hazardous air and water pollution while preventing harm and committing equitable investment in environmental justice (EJ) communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned organizations support:

-- Setting a binding goal in 2023 of 100% carbon-pollution-free electricity in Maryland by 2035, with an interim goal of 80% by 2030 and removing incentives for the incineration of trash in Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

-- Ensuring that at least 40% of all clean energy investments and benefits accrue to historically disadvantaged communities in Maryland, per the policy embraced by the US Department of Energy. We must address climate change while repairing harm suffered by overburdened and under-served black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and other working-class communities.

-- Increasing access to public transit and green transportation alternatives, particularly in overburdened, under-served communities. Providing support for the transition of low-income neighborhoods to renewable energy sources while ensuring economic benefits are realized by residents.

-- Including prevailing wages and project labor agreements for the construction of utility-scale clean energy projects (5 megawatts or larger). A key component of climate change equity must ensure that all jobs in the clean energy economy are good jobs with family-supporting wages, health care, retirement security, and collective bargaining rights, including registered union apprenticeship opportunities.

Signed,

350.org Baltimore
Assateague Coastal Trust
Baltimore 350
Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity
Baltimore Blue Green Just
Baltimore Green Space- A Land Trust for
Community Managed Open Space Inc.
Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United
Methodist Church Creation Care Action &
Advocacy
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Calvert Citizens for a Healthy Community
Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore
CASA
Caucus of African American Leaders
Cecil Solidarity
Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry
Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Clarksburg Sunrise
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Reality Montgomery County
Climate XChange
ECO City Farms
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Environmental Focus Group/Kittamaquindi
Community
Environmental Justice Team Cedar Lane UU
Church
Friends of Quincy Run Watershed
Genergi, LLC
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic
Heron-There Farm, Croom Maryland
High Note Consulting, LLC
HoCo Climate Action
Homewood Friends Meeting (Quaker)
IBEW Local 26

Indivisible Howard Co
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
Jewish Community Relations Council of
Howard County
Kittamaquindi Church
Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MaryPIRG Student Climate Action Coalition
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate
Solutions
Mother Earth Project
Mountain Maryland Movement
NAACP Maryland State Conference
Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp
No Boundaries Coalition
Prince George's Green
Public Justice Center
Quaker Voice of Maryland
Rachel Carson Council
Rebuild Maryland Coalition
SABER
Safe Skies Maryland
Salisbury University Student Government
Association
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
St. Vincent's Green Team
Strong Future Maryland
Sunrise Movement Silver Spring
Takoma Park Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization
The Girl & the Vine
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of
Maryland
WISE
Women's Action Coalition, Greater Allegany
County