

## **Creating a Clean Transportation Future for Maryland:** **The Transportation & Climate Initiative**

### ***What is the Transportation & Climate Initiative?***

- The Transportation & Climate Initiative (or “TCI”) is a collaboration between Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce climate-disrupting pollution generated from the transportation fuels we burn to move around.
- The Transportation Climate Initiative is made up of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.
- **Over 50 groups (and counting) support the Transportation and Climate Initiative, including the Sierra Club, Green for All, Union of Concerned Scientists, and dozens more. [See the full list here.](#)**
- Last year over two dozen organizations wrote a [letter](#) urging Maryland officials to commit to a regional program to aggressively cut emissions from transportation fuels and invest in climate friendly travel.
- **In Maryland, [73 percent of voters support state action to clean up transportation pollution.](#)**
- In December 2018, nine TCI states and D.C. committed to design a market-based program over the course of 2019 to limit transportation pollution (New York, New Hampshire, and Maine have not yet formally joined that announcement).
- In Spring 2019, the Maryland General Assembly [passed a law](#) affirming the state’s direction in this program. There is widespread support for taking steps to cut carbon pollution and [broad-based, bipartisan, support](#) for a regional coalition of states to implement modern clean transportation solutions, with folks from all walks of life revealing a deeper understanding of transportation issues.
- Since 2015, states have been exploring policy approaches to create the clean transportation system that the region needs to meet today’s and tomorrow’s challenges. The Georgetown Climate Center serves as the facilitator of the Transportation and Climate Initiative.

### ***Why is this important for Maryland?***

- Maryland’s transportation system, heavily reliant on gas-guzzling vehicles, is our No. 1 source of climate change pollution, accounting for [38% of all greenhouse gas emissions.](#)
- Carbon emissions and pollutants from transportation drive extreme weather, contribute to high asthma rates, and costs Maryland families more money. Alternatively, a carbon-free transportation sector will bolster Maryland’s clean energy economy and provide a safe and healthy place to live for families and future generations.
- TCI can cap carbon pollution and create revenue that can be invested in programs that benefit Marylanders and further reduce the climate impact of the transportation sector. Potential transportation solutions such as expanded, accessible public transportation services; electrification of transit fleets; rebates to make electric vehicles affordable for all consumers; better pedestrian and bike infrastructure; improved resiliency of transportation infrastructure; and more affordable housing near transit.

### ***What would an equitable TCI policy look like?***

From [Green for All](#):

- An effective carbon pricing program that delivers equitable results must:

- Engage impacted communities throughout the policy design process and be transparent in implementation
- Set a strong cap that holds polluters accountable for the damages
- Dedicate funds targeted directly at overburdened and underserved communities
- Ensure direct emissions reductions in communities hit first and worst by transportation emissions
- Make sure that jobs created are good jobs that lift people and families out of poverty.