



PUT MARYLAND ON THE PATH TO 100% CLEAN ENERGY

Enact a Strengthened Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA)

Senate Bill ## | House Bill ##

Invest in Clean Energy Through Long-Term Contracts

Senate Bill ## | House Bill ##



DID YOU KNOW?

Climate change is happening now, with increasingly disastrous effects. Recent reports by the International Panel on Climate Change and U.S. government agencies confirm the urgent need for significant action. In Maryland, we've had historic rainfall, devastating floods in Ellicott City, and life-threatening heat waves; ocean and bay waters are rising threatening homes and businesses; agricultural conditions are changing; and vector-borne diseases like Lyme are increasing.

At this critical moment, Maryland needs to dramatically expand clean energy, and turn away from the fossil fuels that are damaging our planet. We can do this – wind and solar technologies are reliable and affordable; are becoming better and cheaper every year; and are the fast-growing sources of new jobs.

States must lead in the fight against climate change. They play a key role in regulating the generation of electricity, and the federal government is failing to act. California, Colorado, DC, and Massachusetts, among others, are taking meaningful steps to support clean energy. Maryland needs to be more ambitious and firmly establish itself as a leader in the clean energy economy.

The Sierra Club supports the Clean Energy Jobs Act with amendments, and a companion bill for long-term investment in clean energy generation.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF CLEAN ENERGY IN MARYLAND?

Maryland has taken important steps to advance clean energy, including approving the first major offshore wind farms in the U.S., and steadily increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to grow our in-state solar industry and support wind from out of state.

Unfortunately, only about 5% of in-state generated electricity now comes from wind and solar. Most still comes from environmentally harmful sources – coal, gas, and nuclear. The RPS also supports several carbon-emitting sources, including burning trash and wood and wood products.

WHAT SHOULD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DO IN 2019?

We support enacting the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) with amendments, and a companion bill for long-term clean-energy contracts. Together, they will put Maryland on the path to 100% clean energy by 2040.

CEJA includes significant steps to 100% clean energy:

- A “100% by 2040” plan, developed within five years.
- Ambitious targets to incentivize continued growth of Maryland electricity from offshore wind and in-state solar.
- Removal of the RPS subsidy for trash incineration.
- Support for clean energy jobs, and minority/women-owned clean energy businesses.

CEJA should be amended to better meet the critical challenges of climate change:

- A RPS target of 60% (instead of 50%) by 2030 – this is consistent with what climate science says developed nations should do, and will better enable us to achieve 100% by 2040.
- Removal or limitation on the RPS subsidy for burning wood and wood products, which harms our climate and our air.

A requirement for long-term, clean-energy contracts will significantly enhance investment in clean energy, and save ratepayers money (see companion fact sheet).

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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