The Fight Against Fracked Gas Infrastructure



Agenda

- Welcome & Agenda Review
- Framing the Issue
- The Potomac Pipeline
- Rockwool
- Gas Use in Buildings
- Legislation
- Questions
- Close



Framing the Issue: Climate Change

- The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) urges policy makers to make immediate and rapid reductions in short-lived climate pollutants, including METHANE
- Health-harming air pollutants are carried with emissions of methane.
- Short-lived climate pollutants are many times more potent than CO2, and received strong emphasis for the first time in the IPCC report.
- The **ENERGY**, agriculture and waste industries are targeted for reductions of **METHANE**.
- IPCC recommends deep cuts in METHANE of at least 35% by 2050.

("Not just CO2: These climate pollutants also must be cut to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees." *Inside Climate News*, 10/7/18)





The Potomac Pipeline

- What is the Potomac Pipeline? How did we get here?
- Potomac Pipeline needs to travel under the Potomac River, through both state and federal land
- Columbia Gas is seeking to exercise eminent domain over Maryland state land
- Maryland defended against this proposal in federal court, and won.
 - Our coalition press statement is available here: <u>https://chesapeakeclimate.org/press-releases/potomac-pipeline-victory-federal-court-dismisses-columbia-gas-lawsuit/</u>
 - More than 60 legislators signed a public letter opposing the project.
- Columbia Gas appealed this decision to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals recently decided this issue on the proposed PennEast pipeline in Pennsylvania and New Jersey
- National Park Service recently issued a Finding of No Significant Impact what does this mean?
- We are not out of the woods, yet. And there are more pipelines that may be coming.

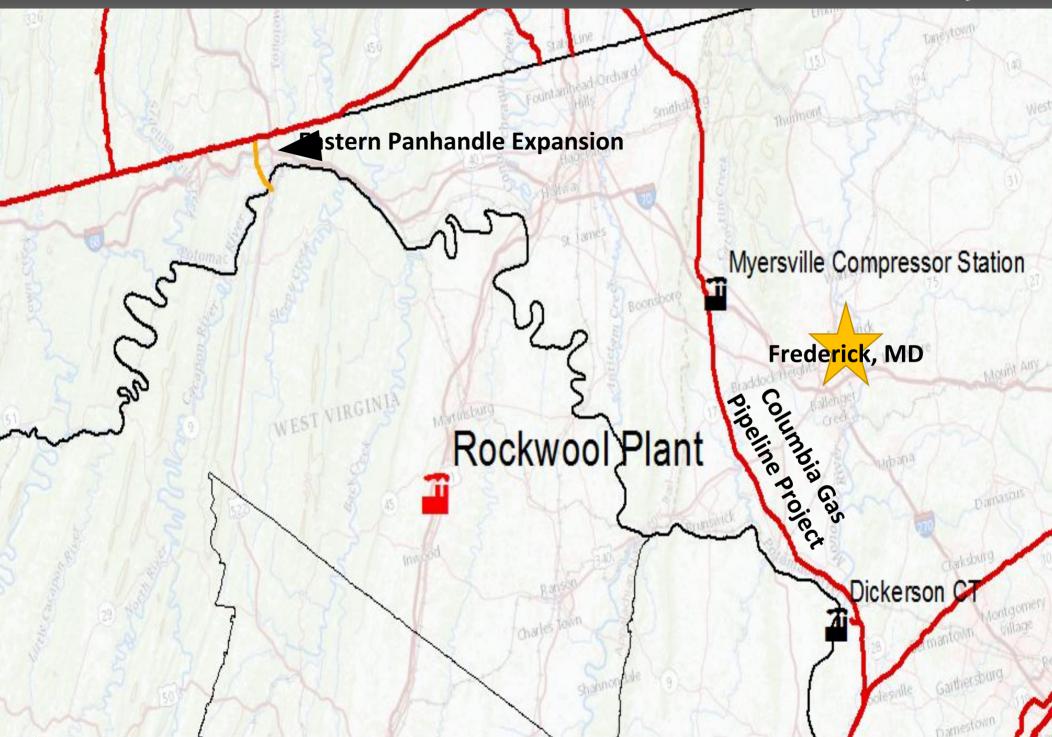


Hands Across the Potomac



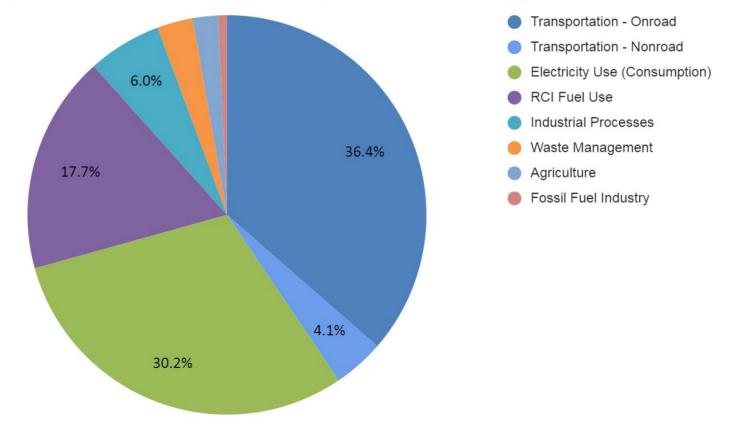
Eastern Panhandle Expansion and Rockwool Plant





How big of a deal is gas in Maryland's climate fight?

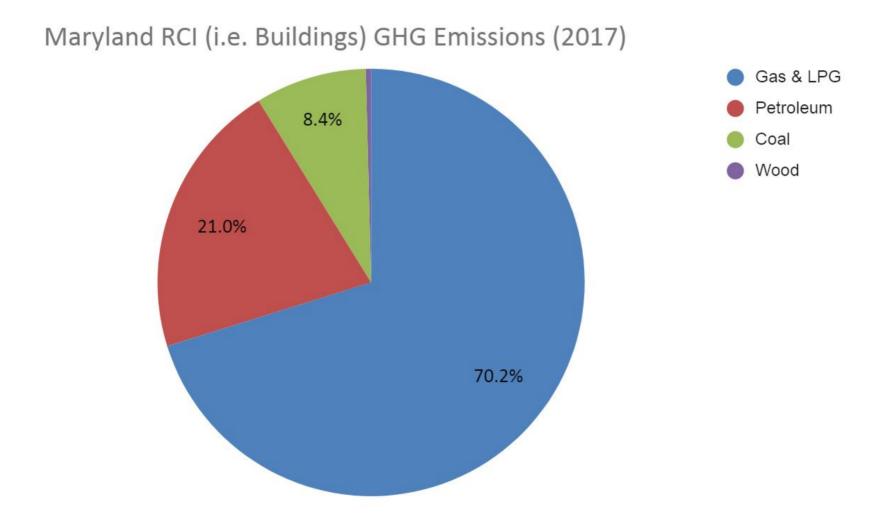
• You've already heard about the methane problem -- so where do we use gas in the state?



Maryland Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2017 MDE Inventory)

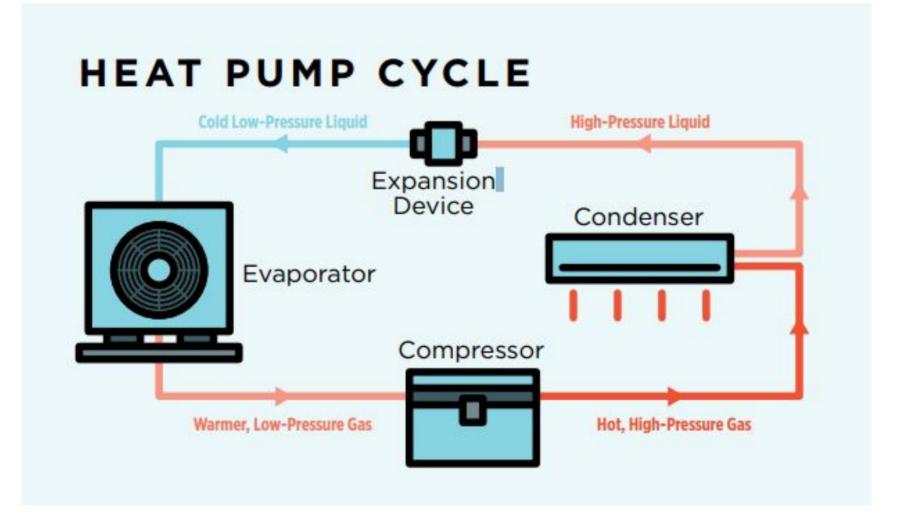


We use gas in buildings!



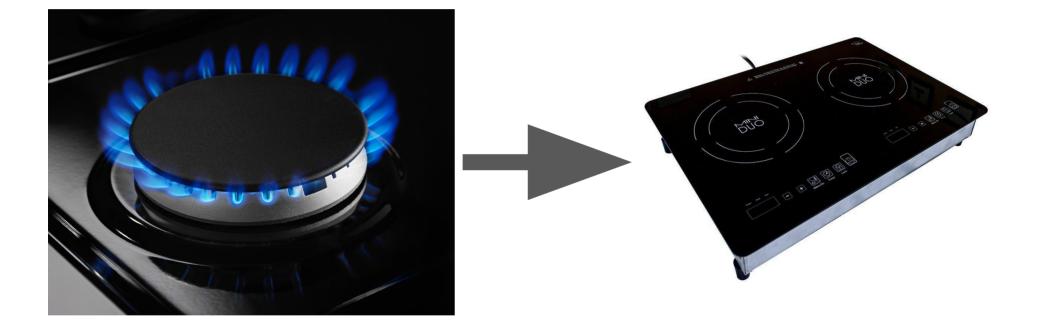


The incredible all-electric home!





That's right, we're coming for your gas cook stove!





Not just about climate - health co-benefits are huge

- Homes with gas stoves often get readings of indoor air pollution that are higher than ambient air quality health standards set by the EPA (NO2 & CO)¹
- "...meta-analyses suggest that children living in a home with gas cooking have a 42% increased risk of having current asthma, a 24% increased risk of lifetime asthma and an overall 32% increased risk of having current and lifetime asthma"²



^{1 - &}lt;u>https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/ehp.1306673</u>

^{2 -} https://academic.oup.com/ije/article/42/6/1724/737113

What can we do?

- To get gas out of buildings we need to:
 - Stop the bleeding end gas hookups for new buildings
 - Incentivize switching from gas heating to air source heat pumps
 - Plenty more and we need to develop this effort in the coming years
- Organize, build a team, and build power!









Legislation Pipeline & Water Protection Act

(SB 387- Zirkin, HB 669 -Fraser-Hidalgo)

- This legislation would have required the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to better protect our water resources by fully utilizing its authority under the federal Clean Water Act to conduct independent reviews of new, proposed interstate gas pipelines.
- Even though Maryland banned fracking in 2017, the state is still facing expansion of fracked gas infrastructure in Maryland. New fracked gas pipelines pose significant risks to our state's water resources and threaten communities and our climate.

Questions?

