WHAT ARE WE UP TO?

Clean Energy & Climate Change
The Maryland Chapter’s Energy Committee is committed to moving our state beyond coal and replacing it with 100% clean energy. We are working to meet aggressive climate action goals and need your help to roll out more wind and solar, making sure we all have clean air and clean water that isn’t polluted by dirty fossil fuels.

Fighting Fracked Gas Infrastructure
On the heels of the unprecedented fracking ban in Maryland in 2017, the Beyond Gas team will work to block the approval and construction of Natural Gas infrastructure like the TransCanada Potomac Pipeline. In 2019 we will work with coalition partners to pass bills to reform the Public Service Commission’s approval process by improving transparency and health assessments for gas pipelines, compressor stations, and power plants.

Clean Transportation for All
In 2019 we continue our bold, multi-year initiative to transform Maryland’s transportation sector into a national leader in clean, safe, climate-friendly, and equitable transportation. Our top level, multi-year goal is to create a comprehensive, multi-state clean transportation policy to disincentivize polluting transportation and drive new resources to fund the modern, clean, and sustainable transportation system we need.

Clean Water and Healthy Forests
Stormwater pollution from development is the fastest growing source of pollution into the Chesapeake Bay. We are working to ensure Maryland’s water resources, particularly the Chesapeake Bay, are protected for generations to come with advocacy at the county level for green infrastructure stormwater management and increased protections for mid-level forests across the state.

Zero Waste
The top zero waste goals for 2019 are: to pass a statewide ban on polystyrene foam products, to support campaigns to retire the BRESCO (Baltimore) and Dickerson (Montgomery County) incinerators and to continue to support inter-group and cross county zero waste coordination. Effective 7/1/2020, MD has ban single use foam containers

PUBLIC HEALTH
The Public Health Committee serves as a meeting place for Sierra Club volunteers interested in the intersection of environment and public health such as use of dangerous neurotoxin Chlorpyrifos used on fruit in Maryland. We are raising awareness about the health and environmental impacts of artificial (synthetic) turf. We support legislation which would prohibit the use of Maryland state funds to build or upkeep these fields.

HOW ARE PEOPLE INVOLVED?
People collect petition signatures · Help remove invasive plant at workdays at local parks · Bike, hike, and paddle outdoors to explore the natural world · Set up Movie screenings and education events · Attend public hearings and meetings on proposed local legislation and plans · Lobby public officials and take action at marches and rallies. Join us!

JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB CATOCTIN GROUP
sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group

WANT MORE INFORMATION?
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2019 Issues & Events

Serving Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties in Maryland

- **Potomac Pipeline** - Transcanada Corporation wants to install a pipeline with fracked gas from Pennsylvania to Martinsburg West Virginia. The proposed route is through an area with Karst geology (caves) using directional boring. This has the potential to be very dangerous due to unsupported pipes, leaks into the local water supply and the Potomac River, which supplies drinking water to millions of people downstream. The Board of Public Works has denied a permit. The lawsuit filed by Transcanada Corporation was dismissed by a federal judge on August 21, 2019.

- **Community Solar** - The Maryland Public Service Commission has extended the community solar pilot program in Maryland until 2022 and raise the size of the arrays to 2 MW, with an emphasis on providing renewable energy benefits for low and moderate income customers. Community solar customers are expected to see some savings on their electric bills. Common Energy is currently offering electricity in the Potomac Edison area. Sierra Club supports community solar.

- **Solar Siting** - The is an effort to expand large scale solar projects in Frederick County to bring more renewable energy to the county and to reduce the county's reliance on fossil fuel energy. Frederick County installed a 1.19MW array on the brownfield area at the landfill. It will provide all power requirements for seven county buildings. Sierra Club supports more solar.

- **I-270 Expansion** - Governor Hogan has proposed the expansion of I270, bypassing environmental reviews and without considering alternatives. It is our goal to stop this project until all environmental reviews are performed and the state stops looking at ways to get cars around and start to focus on how to get people around using multiple forms of mass transit and telework solutions. Sierra Club is opposed to the expansion.

- **Rockwool Plant WV** - A Danish company plans to build a plant in Ranson WV to make Rockwool insulation. The process used to make this product will dump millions of pounds of toxic waste into the air directly west of Frederick County. This plant also uses rock shipped from North Carolina in large quantities which will increase CO2 emissions, a direct cause of climate change. The Jefferson County Board approved a plan to build the plant without a public hearing. On Apr 3, 2019 the WV Department of the Environment approved a 4.85 mile extension to the Mountaineer Gas Pipeline from Martinsburg to the proposed plant. Sierra Club is opposed to this plant.

- **Monocacy River Plan** - The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to the Counties on how they manage the river and improve water quality. Carroll county approved the 2018 plan. Frederick County County Council saw through the rhetoric and approved the 2017 plan with 27 amendments to it labeling it the 2019 plan. Frederick has reached out to Carroll to work out the differences. Sierra Club supports Fredericks plan.

- **Hazardous Waste Sites (Superfund Site)** Sierra Club supports the cleanup of all superfund sites.
  - **Ft Detrick Area B** - Is a 399 acre site in Ft Detrick where hazardous chemicals were dumped. Leakage from this area has caused Frederick City to install a water line along Kemp Road to correct problems with polluted wells. Rain water run off, which is contaminated, passes directly through the center of Frederick into Carroll Creek. Now the City of Frederick is proposing a realignment of Kemp Road going over the contaminated area.
  - **Central Chemical** - This site is currently being cleaned up in downtown Hagerstown, however testing has determined the chemicals have leached beyond the planned cleanup area. Additional testing is being performed to determine the extent of the area that needs to be added to the cleanup effort.

To see current events and planned outings SIERRACLUB.ORG/MARYLAND/CATOCTIN-CALENDAR