

Vote **YES** on the

100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EQUITY ACT

ENDORSED BY:



SIERRA CLUB
MARYLAND CHAPTER



A Better Approach to Clean Energy for Maryland

The 100% Clean Renewable Energy and Equity Act creates the framework for a transition to 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035. It sets realistic annual goals for the percentage of electricity sold in Maryland that is produced from solar, wind, and small hydropower, establishes transparent and predictable incentives for clean energy, and does this all in a way that benefits the economy of Maryland and protects families that spend unaffordable amounts of their income on energy bills.

The threat of runaway climate disruption is at our doorstep. Maryland has more than 3,000 miles of shoreline, making us especially vulnerable to both sea-level rise and more intense tropical storms. Other regions in Maryland are already seeing changes in the timing of seasons, which adversely impact both agriculture and our growing tourist industry. We know that unchecked climate change will wreak havoc across the state.

100% Clean Electricity by 2035 is Possible

- This bill would require Maryland electricity suppliers to purchase solar, wind, small scale hydroelectricity, or ocean tidal generated electricity equal to 100% of their in-state retail sales in 2035. Maryland's electricity supply is a mix of in-state and imported resources; this bill would not change that. Maryland would continue to import and export electricity from the regional PJM grid; only the sources of supply would be affected.
- The bill would deploy in-state solar and offshore wind at robust, achievable rates. The solar program established

under this bill sparks a build-out to drive the local clean energy economy, starting off at approximately 500 MW per year rising to 700 MW in about eight years. By comparison, California installed over 5,000 MW in 2016. In that light, the requirements in this bill are clearly achievable, when adjusted for population.

- The offshore wind targets in the bill for the mid-2020s are ambitious but realistic. Similar requirements have already been set by law in Massachusetts and are proposed for New Jersey.
- A 100% clean renewable electricity system in by 2035 is technically achievable and economically desirable.

Standing Up for Health & Equity

- Maryland's reliance on fossil fuels and other combustion-based energy, like municipal waste incineration, harms our citizens by pumping dangerous pollutants like mercury, lead, and sulfur dioxide into our environment. In Baltimore City, 20% of children under 18 suffer from asthma.
- New research shows that warming temperatures associated with climate change will exacerbate respiratory illnesses like asthma, and increase the burden already felt by low-income and communities of color.
- In addition to moving Maryland away from fossil fuels and other dirty energy, this bill will protect low-income households by capping the total household energy bills at no more than 6% of annual household income. This would protect Maryland's most vulnerable from bill impacts and provide immense collateral benefits to all Marylanders through reduced homelessness and improved productivity and health.

Supporting Maryland's Clean Energy Economy

- This bill creates two new programs to incentivize the building of solar and offshore wind in Maryland and make us a leader in the clean energy economy.
 - » To spur solar development the bill creates a Megawatt Block program that provides rebates for in-state solar installation; the rebate declines as more solar capacity is built, thus incentivizing quick additional build out of solar energy starting in January 2019.
 - » The bill also creates a new program that requires Maryland utilities to enter into long-term contracts with offshore wind providers. These contracts will lead to the construction of new offshore wind farms in the waters off the coast of Maryland.
- Together these new programs will support a robust clean renewable energy industry in Maryland. Including direct and supply chain jobs in both the solar and wind industries, we anticipate that this bill would lead to over 10,000 new direct and supply chain jobs in Maryland by 2035.

A New Framework for Maryland's RPS

- The current RPS mechanism has been an important contributor to the development of clean energy in the state and region, but allows compliance even if renewable energy credits are purchased from sources that burn carbon-containing materials like biomass (wood) and municipal waste, producing carbon dioxide and other pollutants.
- Other states like NY and CA not only have cleaner renewable energy portfolios, but they require that all or nearly all of their renewable energy requirements be satisfied by actual purchase or sale of renewable energy. Maryland requires purchase only of the certificate associated with the energy ("Renewable Energy Credit" or REC) to demonstrate compliance with its RPS. Maryland ratepayers send tens of millions of dollars each year out of state purchasing such RECs from dirty energy sources.
- The 100% Clean Renewable Energy and Equity Act will move our state in a direction that focuses on the deployment of in-state clean energy generation by supporting greatly expanded solar energy deployment in Maryland and by requiring the execution of electricity sales contracts between suppliers and truly clean power generators, including offshore wind, that do not emit carbon dioxide or air pollutants.

