### PUBLIC MEETING GREENHOUSE GASES & CLIMATE CHANGE



### A message from Secretary Grumbles



# Welcome from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change

### Agenda

- History of Climate Change Laws in Maryland
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act/Plan
- The Programs
- Two Important Reports
- Maryland Commission on Climate Change
- Public Inp-ut Period
- Next Steps

### Maryland is (and has been) a Leader

- 2006 Maryland Healthy Air Act
- 2007 Maryland Clean Cars Act
  - 2008 Climate Action Plan

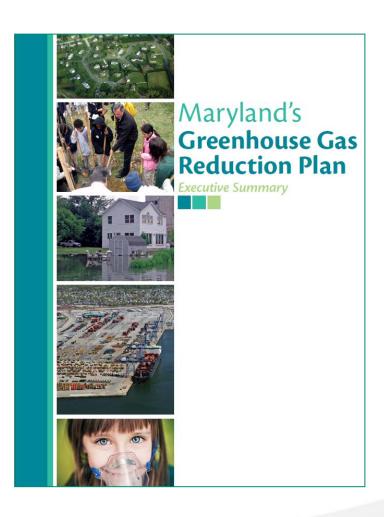
#### The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act



Reduce GHG emissions 25% from a 2006 baseline by 2020 Must have a positive impact on Maryland's economy and jobs

#### **GGRA Plan**

- 150-plus programs and initiatives
- Estimated economic benefits of \$1.6 billion and support over 37,000 jobs.
- Supports a green economy
- Preserves valuable agricultural and forest land
- Aids in restoring Chesapeake Bay
- Diversifies energy sources
- Promotes renewable energy
- Encourages energy conservation



### The Plan: Programs

Sector	Program (s)
Energy	<ul> <li>Renewable Energy Standards</li> <li>EmPOWER Maryland</li> <li>Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative</li> </ul>
Zero Waste	Zero Waste
Transportation	<ul> <li>Maryland Clean Cars</li> <li>Public Transportation Initiatives</li> <li>Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards</li> </ul>
Buildings	Building Codes
Agriculture	<ul> <li>Managing forests to capture carbon</li> <li>Planting forests in Maryland</li> </ul>

### **Two Important Reports**

- Maryland Department of the Environment report – October
- Maryland Commission on Climate Change report – November

### Maryland Commission on Climate Change

- Charged with advising the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change and maintaining and strengthening the State's existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan
- Membership: Senate, House, State Agencies, business, non-profit groups
- Four working groups: Mitigation, Adaptation & Response Scientific and Technical and Education, Communication & Outreach

# Meet the Commissioners

### **Commission Questions: Assessments**

- 1. How will climate change impact the state's economy, revenues, and investment decisions? What steps should the state take to mitigate and prepare for these impacts?
- 2. How will climate change impact agriculture in the state, and what steps should the state take to mitigate and prepare for these impacts?

### **Commissioner Questions: Interventions**

- 1. How can we better communicate with and educate the urgency of acting to reduce the impacts of climate change? Are there particular segments of the population on whom our efforts should be focused?
- 2. How can we best prioritize and advance intergovernmental and public-private partnerships to address climate change and its impacts?
- 3.How can we ensure that steps to address climate change benefit all Marylanders? What can we do to address the fact that low income and vulnerable communities are impacted first and worst when it comes to by climate change?

### **Commissioner Questions: Support**

- 1. Should we assist local government in the creation of community-scale climate vulnerability assessments and the development and integration of specific strategies into local plans and ordinances?
- 2. Should we develop a comprehensive action plan with 5 year benchmarks to achieve science based reductions in GHG emissions beyond 2020? If so, how far out should we plan?

### **Commissioner Questions: Other**

#### **DID WE MISS ANYTHING?**

 Are there any other areas of focus that the Commission should concentrate on that isn't listed? If so, please write it or them on your coupon and bring to the bag labeled other.

### Now we want to hear from you. What do you think?

## Please submit all ideas to: <a href="mailto:climate.change@maryland.gov">climate.change@maryland.gov</a> by August 31, 2015

For more information on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan, please visit: <a href="http://climatechange.maryland.gov/">http://climatechange.maryland.gov/</a>

