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CivicWorks
Baltimore's Service Corps
An AmeriCorps Program

Good afternoon,

I'm writing on behalf of Civic Works, a non-profit organization located in Baltimore City with the mission to strengthen communities and promote equity for people of all ages through education, skills development, and community service. Our Energy Programs help area residents undertake home energy upgrades that not only reduce energy bills, but also enhance the health of their homes while significantly cutting their climate impact.

We have reviewed the Maryland Climate Pathways report, and we appreciate the comprehensive approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change detailed therein. With that in mind, we'd like to highlight a few specific areas that we believe warrant additional attention and consideration:

1. Residential Electrification: Grassroots Community Outreach

Civic Works would like to emphasize the importance of allocating resources and funding toward grassroots community outreach initiatives aimed at educating Marylanders about beneficial electrification and supporting them as they electrify. It's especially crucial that these support mechanisms are made available to low-income and historically disadvantaged communities so that they're not left behind in the electrification transition. The residential electrification landscape is complicated for consumers and Maryland residents will need support to navigate the technical and financial complexities of these projects.

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2. Community Resilience & Adaptation Measures

In addition to initiatives that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Civic Works supports measures that increase community resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change, specifically:

- **Stormwater Management:** green landscaping and urban farming programs can significantly enhance a community's resilience to extreme weather events, improve water quality, and create spaces for local food production.
- **Reducing the Heat Island Effect:** as urban areas experience higher temperatures due to the heat island effect, it's critical to promote the use of reflective, cool roofing systems. Cool roofing can help combat urban heat and also reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with the report's objectives.

In conclusion, we commend the efforts put into the Maryland Climate Pathways report and its focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change. Thank you for accepting our feedback and we hope it will be taken into consideration accordingly.

Sincerely,



Senior Program Director
Civic Works