

Energy Industry Revitalization Working Group

FULL DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS LIST

Addendum (8/22/2024)

1. **The State Should Expand Existing Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Programs to focus on Small Businesses to Install EV Charging Infrastructure**

Background: With the influx of investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Maryland's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program is changing the State's landscape of EV charging infrastructure. Subsequently, customer preferences and needs are anticipated to evolve in tandem with these infrastructure changes, due to the increased time demand that accompanies recharging.

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan highlighted the need for clean transportation policy, and this includes the expansion of clean charging stations. To promote a clean environment and equitable distribution, elevate customer health and satisfaction, increase small business equity, and accommodate for the transformation across the state, best practices for gas station owners need to be incorporated.

Proposed Draft Recommendation #1: The State should expand existing EV infrastructure programs within MEA with a designated focus on small businesses. This program would draw in existing funding and incentives for small businesses to install EV charging infrastructure.

2. **The General Assembly Should Increase Funding the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) and Support Maryland's Energy and Climate Technology Scene**

Background: The Climate Pollution Reduction Plan calls for expansion of clean energy infrastructure to support Maryland residents, small businesses, and large commercial businesses. This transition will help the state in achieving its ambitious emission reduction goals as set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, which include a 60% reduction in emissions by 2031 from 2006 levels and net-zero emissions by 2045. The target of this proposal is to facilitate small businesses from an economic standpoint in the transition from fossil fuel emitting energy production to clean energy production.

The MCEC's Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator (MEIA) program, which started in 2019, facilitates growth for small businesses to be drivers of the energy industry. The program helps expedite the transfer of clean energy and climate technologies from lab to market and create new and investible advanced energy businesses. It was created to unify the intersection of energy innovation, energy entrepreneurs and researchers and business executives to create

new and investment-ready clean energy businesses. MEIA also supports early-stage technology commercialization in a myriad of clean energy technologies including: solar, wind, and battery technologies. Currently, the MEIA program has baseline funding through 2027 (fiscal year 2028) with funds from the Climate Tech Founders Fund.

With increased funding, the MCEC's MEIA program can be expanded to support more small businesses in the energy transition. The MEIA program currently serves small businesses across industries, and this expansion seeks to capitalize from the potential Maryland has to generate wealth and facilitate rapid decarbonization efforts to achieve climate goals. Because it is estimated that small businesses will bear a level of financial impact through the energy transition, it is important that there are funding, grants, loans, and incentive opportunities in order to mitigate those impacts. Further, the provision of business and industry experts will help numerous small businesses make the best financial decisions for each of their individual and unique businesses.

Maryland will foster sustainability and benefit from outcomes of these investments, in terms of the economic, environmental and community impacts. The proposal seeks to overall facilitate small businesses in the transition from fossil fuel emitting energy consumption to adoption of clean energy, electrification, energy storage and efficient management solutions to reduce demand.

Proposed Draft Recommendation #2: Increase funding to the MCEC MEIA program to enable increased growth of small businesses bringing advanced energy, climate mitigation and adaptation solutions for market adoption more expeditiously.

3. The State Should Establish a Dedicated Liaison/Clearinghouse to Help Small Businesses Navigate Available Funding and Financing Opportunities For the Clean Energy Transition

· Example approach is in the form of a Large Language Model (LLM) that serves as a helpdesk.

4. The General Assembly with the State Should Develop and Implement Comprehensive Workforce Transition Plan and Associated Programs

Proposed Draft Recommendation #4: The General Assembly should support the State, including the Maryland Department of Labor, in the creation and implementation of a workforce transition plan to address the growing and changing labor needs of the energy sector. Implement programs to train, retrain and re-skill workers, prioritizing workers affected by facility closures in nonrenewable energy sectors. This should include partnerships with community

colleges and vocational schools to offer relevant courses and certifications in renewable energy technologies, as well as state and local government partnerships to offer job placement services and financial support during the transition. Workers in nonrenewable energy industries are likely to face job losses. Retraining and job placement services will facilitate their transition, revitalize local economies, and build Maryland's clean energy economy.

5. The General Assembly Should Define Electric Reliability Safeguards with Maryland PSC and the PJM Interconnection

Proposed Draft Recommendation #5: The General assembly should define and implement electric reliability safeguards that must be met prior to the closure of any electricity generation facilities in Maryland. These reliability safeguards should be formulated in coordination with the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) and PJM Interconnection and include the following key elements:

- **Reliability Metrics and Standards:** Define clear metrics such as reserve margins, grid stability indices, ratepayer price caps, and the frequency of service interruptions. These should be consistent with PJM's reliability standards and overseen by the PSC.
 - **Pre-Closure Reliability Assessment:** Mandate a thorough reliability assessment for each proposed facility closure to evaluate potential impacts on grid stability, reserve margins, and peak demand capabilities. The assessment should be conducted by an independent third party and reviewed by both the PSC and PJM.
-