



MARYLAND COMMISSION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Serena McIlwain, Chair

Energy Industry Revitalization Working Group - Updates and Discussion

July 16, 2024

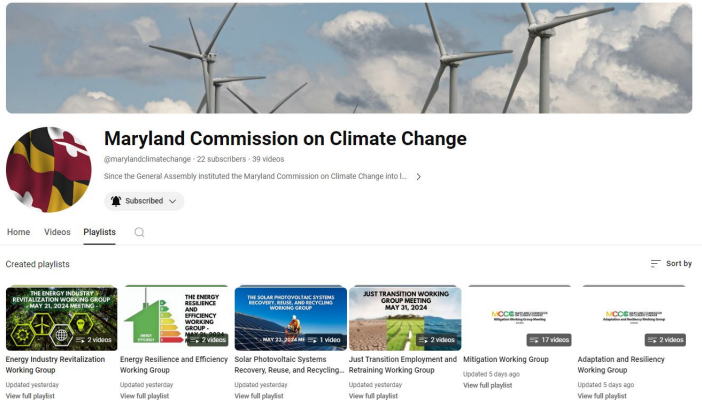


Outline

- MCCC Updates
- Scoping Interpretation
- Overview of Considerations for Recommendations
- Discussion
- Public Comment

MCCC Updates

- Meeting recordings are posted on the [MCCC YouTube page](#) under the playlist for EIRWG
- Mitigation Working Group discussed potential \$1B/yr+ funding needs
- **EIRWG Goal: Vote on recommendations received in August 13th meeting** and submit 1-3 recommendations to MCCC Steering Committee by early September



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel for the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. The channel name is "Maryland Commission on Climate Change" with the handle @marylandclimatechange, 22 subscribers, and 39 videos. A bio states: "Since the General Assembly instituted the Maryland Commission on Climate Change into L...". Below the channel name is a "Subscribe" button. The "Created playlists" section is visible, listing several working groups with their respective video counts and update dates:

- Energy Industry Revitalization Working Group (2 videos, updated yesterday)
- Energy Resilience and Efficiency Working Group (1 video, updated yesterday)
- Solar Photovoltaic Systems Recovery, Resilience, and Recycling (1 video, updated yesterday)
- Just Transition Employment and Retraining Working Group (1 video, updated yesterday)
- Mitigation Working Group (17 videos, updated 5 days ago)
- Adaptation and Resilience Working Group (2 videos, updated 5 days ago)



Maryland panel pondering the multibillion-dollar climate question

BY: JOSH KURTZ - June 20, 2024

An obscure but influential commission has begun to tackle a multibillion-dollar problem for the state of Maryland: How to pay for government's ambitious climate goals.

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Quarterly Meetings

Dates and times are subject to changes. All meetings are open to Marylanders.

2024 Commission Meetings

April 23, 2024, 10 am - 12 noon
July 23, 2024, 10 am -12 noon
September 25, 2024, 1-3 pm
November 14, 2024, 10 am -12 noon

Meetings are video recorded and can be found on the [Commission's YouTube channel](#).

Scoping Interpretation – Scope of Duties

Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 2-1303.2

The Working Group shall:

- (1) Advise the Commission on issues and opportunities related to small business revitalization and the **transition to renewable energy's** effects on small businesses;
- (2) Conduct a study of the impacts of **transitioning to renewable energy** . . .

Charge:

The charge of the EIRWG is to make recommendations that maximize opportunities and minimize impacts to Maryland small businesses that arise with *decarbonization* efforts.

6 Guiding Principles for Just Transition

1

QUALITY CLEAN JOB CREATION



2

OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING & EDUCATION



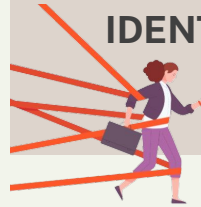
3

PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN CLEAN JOBS & IMPACTED COMMUNITIES



4

IDENTIFYING & ELIMINATING STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT



5

HIRING & RETAINING UNDERREPRESENTED WORKERS



6

COLLABORATING WITH STAKEHOLDERS, ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZING WORKERS



Purpose of Today's Discussion

Purpose: The purpose of this discussion is to gather feedback from EIRWG members and participants, to better understand the top priorities on how to support decarbonization efforts for small businesses throughout the state. This will help shape draft recommendations.

- Opportunities and Best Practices
- Challenges
- Shovel-Ready Examples and Incentive Opportunities
- Topics for Further Discussion

Survey Responses

Opportunities and Best Practices

- Trade, manufacturing, competitive markets, public-private partnerships

Challenges

- Increases in electricity pricing, high initial investments, uncertainty

Incentives

- Flexible tax incentives for small businesses
- Low-interest loans and grants
- Technical assistance and support during transition
- Public awareness campaigns and educational presentations for small businesses

Additional Feedback

- Affordability and grid reliability should be taken into consideration
- Thoughtful consideration of timelines, technology, trade offs, costs, and scalability

General Opportunities and Best Practices

1

Financial & Technical Assistance

Opportunity to be forward-looking, to use recommendations to support existing/new small businesses. Funding sources and programs to support small businesses, facilities, and affected communities through transition.

2

Job Creation

Decarbonization will require electrification and renewable energy efforts that provide opportunities for small businesses to create new jobs.

3

Education & Access

Small businesses can benefit from easily accessible information on energy incentives, energy cost management, and decarbonization methods.

4

Collaboration

Partner with other organizations to maximize benefits of education and job creation to minimize job loss. Knowledge-sharing and lessons learned from decommissioning and repurposing process in other jurisdictions.

5

Repurposing & Revitalization

Retired power plants can be reused or repurposed to support the grid and/or community needs. These options can be taken into account during the decommissioning process.

Existing Resources Supporting Opportunities

- **Green banks**
 - Example: Maryland Clean Energy Center has the Maryland Energy Innovator Accelerator ([link](#))
- **Maryland Energy Administration Incentives** ([link](#))
 - Example: [Mechanical Insulation Grant Program](#) – subsidies for mechanical insulation installation in MD-based buildings.
 - Example: [Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan](#) – loan to identify and install energy conservation improvements.
- **DSIRE** ([link](#)) – database to find various incentives, offered from local, state, federal, utility, and other programs.
- **Small Procurement requirements**
 - Ensure that products are affordable, of quality, available in a timely manner (*i.e.* ensure ethical and responsible purchases)

Incentive Opportunities for Partnership Leadership



Green Banks

Maryland has green banks that offer competitive financing rates for clean energy projects.

A recommendation could expand existing incentives for small businesses.



Business Incentives

Money towards small businesses to support energy prices.

Money towards energy producer to minimize consumer costs.



Education Incentives

A recommendation could help source funds to help educate impacted workers on skills & trades expected to grow in demand; or create new models like near-retirees-as-mentors.

Discussion

- What are some energy industry revitalization opportunities and best practices, particularly related to small businesses and energy generating facilities?
- Think about an example local mom and pop small business. What decarbonization solution would be accessible?
- Do you have any experience navigating any of the aforementioned existing resources? If so, how so?

General Challenges



The WG should proactively consider how to address facility closures and layoffs for small businesses closely tied to nonrenewable energy.



The projected costs associated with the shift to renewables may be difficult for small businesses without the capital to invest in new energy systems.



Small businesses in Maryland span across diverse industries with unique needs and abilities. It is important to consider potential needs within the various sectors when making recommendations.



Small businesses depend on stable and predictable supply chains. The WG should consider ways to increase resiliency of existing supply chains, which can include supporting locally and domestically sourced materials, increasing supplier redundancy, or reducing vulnerabilities in distribution.



Discussion

- What are some other shovel-ready examples and incentive opportunities related to energy industry revitalization?
- Are there any approaches that can reach multiple industries and small business types?
- How can small businesses be protected from the anticipated impacts from climate change, such as extreme weather events and extreme heat?

Draft Recommendation: Background

General Background:

- NEVI is changing the landscape of EV charging infrastructure
- 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.

Draft Recommendation



Maryland creates a pilot program to drive sustainable economic growth in Maryland convenience stores that integrates best practices for healthy and affordable food options. This program would reduce food deserts and promote healthy lifestyles in places like Baltimore by incorporating:

- Locally sourced produce (Maryland connection, such as farm-to-table model)
- Organic, fair trade, and other value-driven products

A pilot program would help serve as a baseline to identify benefits for small businesses, consumers from an economic standpoint, in addition to a social welfare standpoint.

Industry classifications

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information
- Finance and Insurance
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Other Services (except Public Administration)
- Public Administration

Public Comment