



MARYLAND COMMISSION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Serena McIlwain, Chair

The Energy Industry and Revitalization Working Group - Study Updates and Recommendations Discussion

Led by: Andrew Place, Senior Advisor, MDE, and Chair of the EREWG
August 13, 2024

Outline

- Roll Call and Introduction by Chair
 - Outreach Update
- Presentation: Ivie Baker – Maryland Small Business Development Center
- Presentation: Dr. Kathleen Kennedy – Update on Working Group Study Component
- Discussion on Draft Recommendations
- Member Discussion and Vote
- Public Comment

Outreach Updates

- *Reminder:* Last month it was proposed that there be a pilot program to build out EV charging stations alongside healthy foods/ improved customer experience.
- Follow-up was conducted and resulted in a few contacts being potentially interested in applying for MEA's incentive programs.
 - Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association (MAPDA)
 - Maryland Retailers Association



Outreach Updates (continued)

Transportation Incentives – Maryland Energy Administration

(1) *Expanding EV Charging Access in Underserved Communities*

- Developing new program to provide financial incentives for installation of EV charging stations in underserved and low-income communities.
- Further looking to areas that have historically faced barriers to clean transportation options.
- Please reach out to transportation.mea@maryland.gov for feedback.



Outreach Update: Diego Lopez

Transportation Incentives – Maryland Energy Administration



(2) FY25 Maryland EVSE Rebate Program

- **Rebates:** up to 50% of cost of acquiring and installing a qualifying EVSE, append at \$700 for residential, and \$5,000 for commercial applicants
- **Funding:** \$2.5M total available (60% residential, 40% commercial), lifted after 4/1/2025
- **Eligibility:** individuals, businesses, gas stations, building owners and managers
- **Application Process:** application must be submitted electronically or by mail within 6 months of full payment for the EVSE and install

Presentation

Ivie Baker: Small Business Development Center

Presentation

Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, University of Maryland

Member Discussion on Draft Recommendations

Last time, we discussed one 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.

Recommendation #1

Pilot a program that draws in funding and incentives for convenience stores and gas stations, which incentivizes these small businesses to provide EV charging infrastructure, and provides improved food options for all users. Provide funding, financing and incentives to enable adoption of clean transportation solutions to facilitate consumer access to small businesses.

Proposal: 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: (a) locally sourced produce (Maryland connection, such as farm-to-table model), and (b) 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.

Draft Recommendation #2 - Introduction

Proposal: Provide dedicated and predictable funding to expand the [MCEC Energy Innovation Accelerator MEIA program](#) to enable increased growth of small businesses bringing advanced energy, climate mitigation and adaptation solutions for market adoption more expeditiously.

Background:

This program supports decarbonization projects accessible to small businesses, and helps create new investible clean energy business.

- Combines expertise of innovators/entrepreneurs with strategic partners, local business executives etc.
- [Energy-executives-in-residence](#) program allows professionals to work with mentors and receive financial support.
- [Facilitates](#) early stage technology to commercialization.

Benefits:

- Businesses can gain individualized financial and technological advice from industry experts.
- Businesses can choose how involved they would like their mentor(s) to be in the process.
- Mitigation and minimization of anticipated financial impacts on small businesses through energy transition.



Recommendation #2

Support for advancement of advanced energy and climate technology commercialization

Expand [MEIA](#) program to enable the achievement of GHG goals and maximize potential for the economic benefits of associated job creation, consideration should be given for supporting commercialization of new early-stage climate technologies and innovation advancement as well as enabling or incentivizing the adoption of commercial off the shelf or market ready technologies and solutions for small businesses.

Proposal: Provide dedicated and predictable funding to expand the MCEC MEIA program to enable increased growth of small businesses bringing advanced energy, climate mitigation and adaptation solutions for market adoption more expeditiously.

Background: MCEC's MEIA program shall be expanded to support small businesses in the energy transition. The MEIA program currently serves small businesses across industries. By expanding this existing program and increasing funding, small businesses can more effectively and easily utilize the resources available. Through this program, small businesses can look to industry experts and business mentors for guidance within the financial component of their industry. 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.

Recommendation #3

Establish a Small Business Energy Transition Plan and Fund

Develop a program to assist small businesses in transitioning to renewable energy and adopting energy efficiency measures. This should include financial grants or low-interest loans for energy upgrades, technical assistance, and strategic planning resources. Small businesses face significant challenges in adapting to renewable energy requirements due to limited financial resources and the expense of new electrical infrastructure. Support programs will help mitigate these challenges and foster a smoother transition.

Implement streamlined applications and conditions for clean energy grants and loans and avoid strict mandatory timelines in favor of a phased approach. A gradual transition allows for incremental adjustments, giving businesses and workers time to adapt. It also provides an opportunity to address unforeseen economic challenges that arise during the transition.

Recommendation #4

Develop a Comprehensive Workforce Transition Plan and Associated Programs

Create 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.

Recommendation #5

Define Electric Reliability Safeguards

Define and implement electric reliability safeguards that must be met prior to the closure of any electricity generation facilities in Maryland. This should be formulated in coordination with the Maryland Public Service Commission 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.

Public Comment