

ECO Recommendations 2025

1. Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Climate Action:

In light of current volatility in policy and funding, as well as worsening extreme weather, the Governor should issue a renewed executive order to the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate for agencies to annually seek stakeholder input, update and share their Climate Implementation Plans (CIPs), and incorporate climate awareness and messaging into their existing public facing communications such as advertising, websites, and social media. Agencies should annually report on their progress publicly on the Maryland Department of the Environment webpage.

Additional Context: The initial executive order mandated CIPs as a one-time plan from agencies with no reporting of progress or reevaluation for changing conditions. This recommendation adds additional public transparency to agency climate action.

2. Climate Education Month:

Building on the success of the annual Maryland Climate Teach-In, including the Governor's proclamation of Climate Education Week in 2024 and 2025, the Maryland General Assembly should introduce and pass an updated version of FY 2024 House Bill 993 to declare the month of April, coinciding with Earth Month, as "Maryland Climate Education Month."

Additional Context: The declaration of a permanent Maryland Climate Education Month would support Maryland's legislated environmental literacy standards, MSDE's Blueprint for the Future, as well as current and proposed Chesapeake Bay Program goals for school district outcomes.

It, along with the Maryland Climate Teach-In (which provides free resources to educators), provides a special opportunity for state agencies, county and municipal governments, and private organizations to come together to celebrate climate awareness and expand education on ways to mitigate climate change and improve resilience in our regional and global environment. Expanding to a full month minimizes conflicts with Maryland's legislative calendar as well as school district testing and spring breaks. The Teach-In supports efforts in our schools to support stewardship and in advancing green careers.

3. Building Partnerships, Solutions, and Trust:

The Governor and executive agencies should actively engage residents, nonprofits, businesses, experts, and environmental groups as partners to shape climate solutions. By gathering stakeholder ideas and investing in climate education, inclusive events, cost-effective strategies, and cross-sector partnerships, the state can ensure transparent, participatory action that builds trust, diverse leadership, and better outcomes.

Additional Context: By involving stakeholders from planning through implementation, the state can ensure more effective, equitable, and widely supported climate action.