

## &gt;&gt;&gt; NEWSLETTER &lt;&lt;&lt;

**JUST TRANSITION WORKING GROUP (JTWG)**

Notes by Cindy Osorto, Chair of the JTWG

**TOP MARYLAND CLIMATE NEWS OF WINTER 2025**

This newsletter provides information, resources, events, legislative updates, and more to spark positive climate action, collaboration, and collective impact.

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Just Transition Employment and Retraining Working Group (JTWG) of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) remains committed to the work it began in 2024: supporting best practices for workforce needs relating to the implementation of a nation-leading state climate law. The Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 requires that the state, across sectors, reduce greenhouse emissions by 60%, compared to 2006 levels, by 2031, and get on a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045.

The MCCC advises the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change. The JTWG advises the MCCC on equitable workforce development and training, including energy efficiency, transportation, renewable and clean energy, natural working lands, and other sustainable technologies and approaches, while considering economic development opportunities at community levels. Welcome to the first edition of the JTWG newsletter!



# LEGISLATIVE HOT LIST

The following list is a noncomprehensive list of 2025 bills relating to Just Transition principles that also align with the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan of 2024.

- **SB 250** - Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation – Would allow the Department of the Environment (MDE) to staff up to better protect public health as well as water, air, and land resources.
- **HB 155/ SB 247** - Housing and Community Development – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions – Issuance of Loans and Achievement of Targets – Amends DHCD’s programs to better reach low-income communities and reduce the indoor air pollution that causes cancer, asthma, and other problems.
- **HB 220/ SB 10** – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025) – Does the thing that a bunch of environmental folks have requested for years: removes the incinerator from receiving Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) incentives.
- **HB 506/ SB 428** – Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act – Would support best practices in sustainable farming and provide farmer training within Maryland.

**MCCC** MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



# NETWORKS AND RESOURCES

## »»» INCENTIVES «««

- (Deadline: March 31) [VentureWell Ocean Enterprise Accelerator](#) provides an introduction to entrepreneurship for those who are passionate about marine and coastal innovation.
- (Deadline: April 15) [J.M. Kaplan Fund](#): \$175k in grant funding for early-stage projects in heritage, conservation, and social justice.
- (Various) [Maryland Energy Administration](#) continues to have a wide range of available incentives for renewables, energy efficiency, transportation, resiliency, energy equity, communities, and buildings.

## »»» EVENTS «««

- (DC) March 20-29: [DC Environmental Film Festival](#).
- (DC) April 12 (**join me!** I'll be a panelist): [HOP25: Helping Our Planet](#).
- (College Park, Maryland) April 23-24: [Global FEWture Alliance \(Food-Energy-Water nexus\) 2nd Annual Symposium](#).



## »»» STAYING ENGAGED «««

- This Maryland Energy Policy Podcast ([Spotify](#) and [Apple](#)) discusses a wide range of relevant energy policies aligned with positive climate action.
- [The Greater Cumberland Committee](#) (TGCC) features a calendar of events relating to economic development.



LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? REACH OUT TO [CINDY.OSORTO1@MARYLAND.GOV](mailto:CINDY.OSORTO1@MARYLAND.GOV) TO RECEIVE FUTURE UPDATES.