



MARYLAND COMMISSION  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Serena McIlwain, Chair

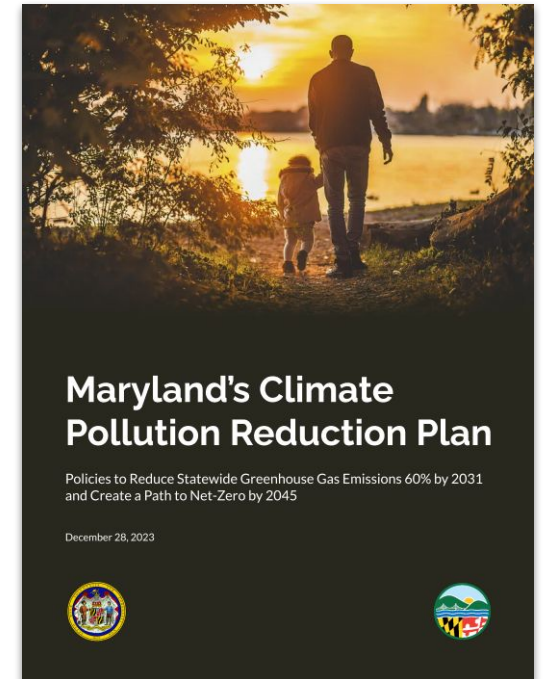
# 2025 Legislative Session Review

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April 16, 2024

# Outline

- Progress on Implementing the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan
- Climate Legislation that Passed

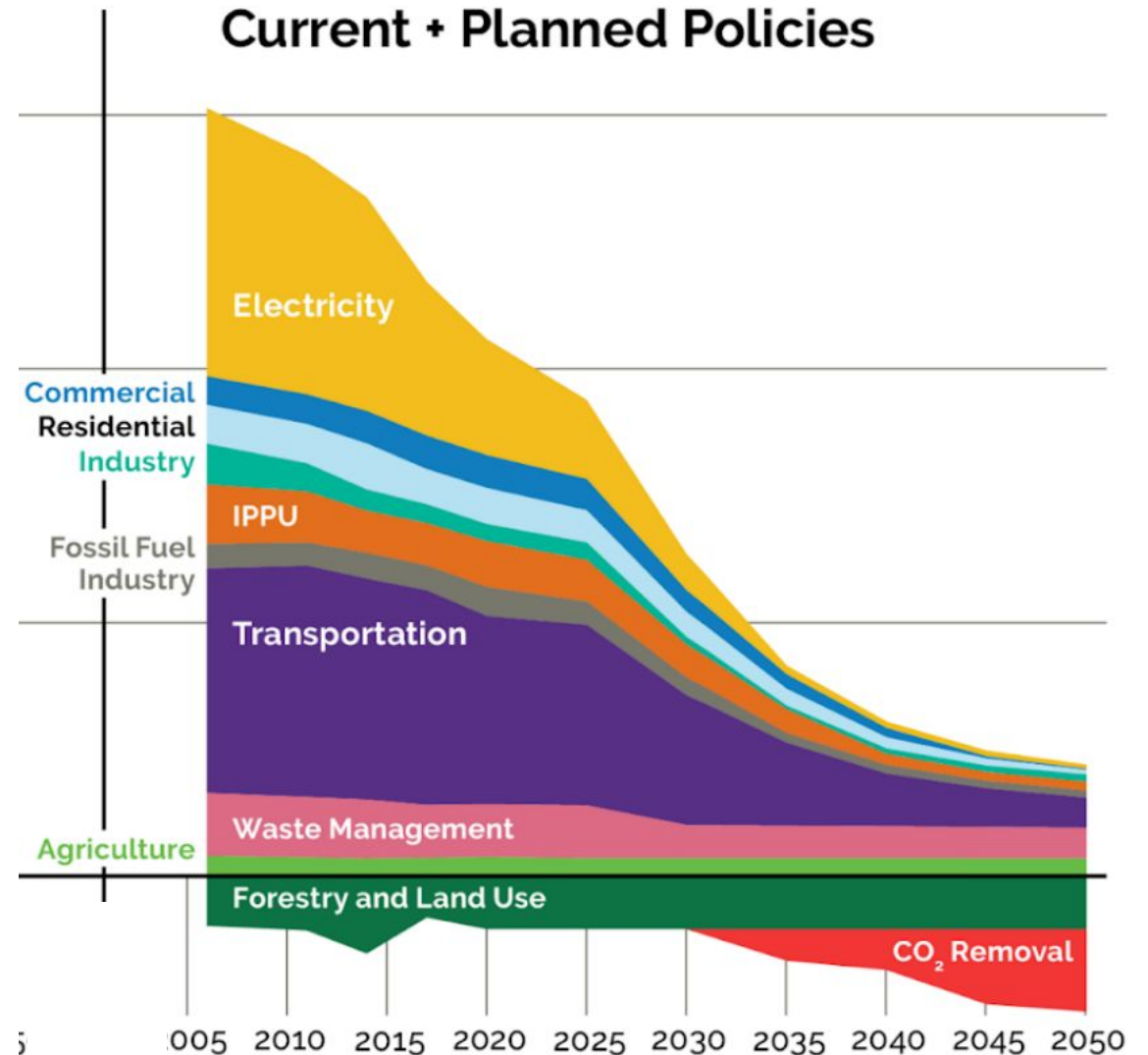


# Part 1

## Progress on Implementing the Legislative Actions in the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

# Climate Pollution Reduction Plan: Legislative Actions (part 1 of 2)

- **Develop New Funding Sources**
  - **Some Progress** - Some additional climate investments (\$100M) were made in the FY26 budget (HB 350/ SB 319). Specific Plan concepts not implemented, e.g. Coal Transport Fee did not pass (SB 882 / HB 1088).
- **Modify the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)**
  - **Progress** - The legislature removed waste incineration as a renewable energy resource under the State's RPS program.



# Climate Pollution Reduction Plan: Legislative Actions (part 2 of 2)

- **Require new multifamily buildings to be EV-ready**
  - **No Progress** - There is still no State requirement for new or existing multifamily buildings to have EV charging equipment available to residents.
- **Modify the state's EV purchasing incentives**
  - **No Progress** - HB 216 did not pass.

# Climate Commission 2024 Recommendations: Legislative Actions

- Allocate funding for education and outreach (ECO #1)
  - No Progress
- Pass the “Climate Education Week” Bill (ECO #3)
  - No Progress- Bill not introduced this year
- Expand EV infrastructure programs (EIRWG #2)
  - No Progress
- Identify permanent funding for MCEC Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator (EIRWG #3)
  - No Progress
- Authorize a Cap & Invest Study (MWG #1)
  - No Progress





# Climate Commission 2024 Recommendations: Legislative Actions

- Pass a RENEW Study (MWG #2)
  - **Progress** - SB 149 passed
- Transition from one-way a/c to heat pumps (MWG #3)
  - **No Progress**
- Add electrification as an allowed use of RGGI funds (MWG #4)
  - **No Progress** - HB 1273 did not pass
- Take action to accelerate solar deployment (MWG #5)
  - **Progress** - SB 931 passed
- Pass G.R.E.E.N. (MWG #6)
  - **No Progress** - SB 105 / HB 145 did not pass



## Part 2








# Climate Legislation that Passed in 2025



# Climate Bills that Passed (pending the Governor's veto or approval) Part 1 of 2











- ✓🌳 Establishes **8 planning principles (land, transportation, housing, economy, equity, resilience, place, and ecology)** in local comprehensive plans (SB 266/ HB 286)
- ✓🔌 Requires the Maryland Green Building Council to update or develop guidance prospectively relating to more efficient **outdoor lighting** with state and federal considerations (HB 452)
- ✓🌳 Updates **MDE fees** to reduce reliance on general funds for air, water, and land protection (SB 250)
- ✓🔌 Requires energy, environmental, and economic analysis of Maryland **data centers** (HB 270)
- ✓🚲 Prioritizes **construction funding for sidewalks and bicycle** pathways to support transportation safety, such as Vision Zero by Chapter 377 of 2019 (HB 628)
- ✓👨🌾 Establishes the **Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program** and enhances **conservation** practices, including regenerative farming, healthy soils, ethical fish harvesting, etc (HB 506)

# Climate Bills that Passed (pending the Governor's veto or approval) Part 2 of 2

- ✓  Creates a pathway for **energy generation growth** within Maryland, including relating to emissions reductions, rate regulation, cost recovery, infrastructure, and planning (SB 937/ HB 1035); Incorporated elements of various bills, including relating to DHCD and EmPOWER (HB 155 / SB 247), STRIDE (HB 419 / SB 998), large load customers (HB 900), utility cost considerations (HB 960), distribution/transmission planning (HB 398/ SB 316), and waste to energy (SB 10/ HB 220)
- ✓  Establishes the **Strategic Energy Planning Office** within the Public Service Commission to conduct certain energy market assessments (HB 1037/ SB 909)
- ✓  Reduces barriers to solar development (SB931)
- ✓  Requires the Comptroller, MDE, and Commerce to collaborate on a **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Study** that considers costs and emissions (previously called RENEW, HB 128/ SB 149)
- ✓  Alterations to the **Building Energy Performance Standards** (HB 49/ SB 256)
- ✓  The **Budget** (HB 350 / SB 319)
- ✓  Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines (HB 1270 / SB 399)

 Economywide /  Electricity /  Transportation /  Buildings /  Industry /  Waste /  Agriculture /  Forestry and Land Use

# Climate Bills that Stalled

- Partially incorporated into larger energy package
  -  Reforms to the RPS to create a Clean Energy Standard (**ENERGIZE**) (SB 434/ HB 505)
  -  Reforms to clean energy procurement approaches (**AACE Act**, SB 316/ HB 398)
  -  Removing waste combustion from the RPS (**RECLAIM**) (HB 022/ SB 001)
-  Alterations to the **Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and Customer-Sited Solar Program** (HB 1273)
-  The **Coal Dust Clean Up and Asthma Mitigation Fund** (SB 882/ HB 1088)
-  **Transportation Major Highway Capacity** Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025, HB 84/ SB 395)
-  Electric Vehicles - Repeal of Excise Tax Credit and Establishment of **Rebate Program** (HB 216)
-  Maryland Building Performance Standards - Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric- and Solar-Ready Standards (**Better Buildings Act** of 2025, SB 804/ HB 973)
-  Postponing enforcement of **Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks** (HB 1556)
-  Attorney General authorization for suits against large coal, oil and gas companies (HB 340)