



Building Community Partnerships Spring 2018 Status Report

MDE's Air & Radiation Administration (ARA) is working to build partnerships with communities and other stakeholder groups interested improving air quality and making progress to address climate change. To accomplish this, MDE is coordinating with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC), the Commission's Education, Communication & Outreach Working Group (ECO), and the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC). Developing these partnerships results in awareness of our role in improving air quality and addressing climate change, identifies new roles for communities and creates partnership opportunities for collaborative projects.

ARA plans to continue building these partnerships and is open to opportunities to establish new relationships with communities and other stakeholder groups. If your organization would like to meet with MDE about climate change and air quality, please email climate.change@maryland.gov. For information on individual partnership meetings please see: <http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/Pages/CommunityMeetings.aspx>

Partnership Activities

Turner Station Conservation Teams - Topic: Maryland's air quality and activities of the MCCC.

Outcome: Attendees provided feedback on increased flooding in their community that may be related to climate change and their interest in more localized air monitoring and diesel emission reduction opportunities. Discussions continue.

St. Helena Community Association/St. Helena Neighborhood Association/Old Dundalk Neighborhood Association - Topic: Maryland's air quality and activities of the MCCC.

Outcome: Attendees provided feedback on air quality and climate change. Discussion on diesel emission reduction partnership opportunities is ongoing.

Safe Alternative Foundation for Education (SAFE) - Topics: SAFE, a charitable foundation that provides after school and summer programs for middle school students in West Baltimore and the relationship of clean energy with improved air quality.

Outcome: Continued dialogue on potential collaborative partnerships to assist SAFE's students.

Bon Secours Community Works - Topic: MCCC initiatives, air quality/energy related issues, and potential partnership opportunities.

Outcome: MDE and MCCC representatives have worked with Bon Secours to develop a pilot Climate Ambassadors Program to train people to discuss climate change. Initial trainings are happening now!

Greater Baybrook Alliance (GBA) - Topic: Air and energy related concerns of residents in the Curtis Bay, Brooklyn and Brooklyn Park neighborhoods.

Outcome: After an initial meeting with leadership, the ARA Director and members of his staff attended GBA's Steering Committee meeting to provide an overview of Maryland's climate change and air quality programs including a description of progress made and challenges ahead. Potential diesel emission reduction partnership also discussed.

All work possible through a partnership with:

MARYLAND COMMISSION · on · CLIMATE CHANGE

Ben Grumbles, Chair

Pasadena Area Communities – Topic: New sulfur dioxide (SO₂) air quality standard and activities of the MCCC
Outcome: Ongoing discussions of SO₂ issues and citizen science monitoring projects.

Baltimore Port Alliance (BPA) - Topic: Potential partnerships on air quality improvement projects, including diesel emission reductions.

Outcome: ARA toured Port terminals with a variety of stakeholders to build awareness of Port operations and actions being taken to address air quality. Updates on the status of the VW Settlement Fund have been provided.

MD Chamber of Commerce - Topic: Ideas for the proposed Climate Champion Program and opportunities for partnerships with the Chamber's Energy & Environment Committee.

Outcome: The Climate Champion Contest via the Maryland Green Registry is now open. (<http://bit.ly/2FfYYgN>)!

North Point Peninsula Community Coordinating Council - Topic: Maryland's air quality and activities of the MCCC.

Outcome: Attendees provided feedback on local air quality issues. Continuing discussions of partnership opportunities focused on diesel emission reductions and other air quality issues.

Inter-Agency Port Workgroup (MDE, MDOT and MPA) - Topic: Actions to implement the Port of Baltimore Voluntary Air Agreement to help improve air quality.

Outcome: Monthly meetings with the Maryland Port Administration and Department of Transportation resulting in an increased understanding of respective agency roles and responsibilities related to air quality and collaborative approaches to address citizen and advocacy group concerns. To date, over \$2 Million has been invested into diesel emission reduction activities around the Port.

Diesel Roundtable - Topics: (1) Detailed information on the technologies and grant programs available to reduce diesel emissions and progress made in achieving reductions and the challenges ahead. (2) The VW Settlement Fund process and the types of projects the Fund may support.

Outcome: Continued dialogue with stakeholders that do not often come together, including community members, business representatives, advocacy groups, State and local agency personnel, and other stakeholders.

Dundalk Renaissance Corporation (DRC) - Topic: Community outreach and partnership opportunities.

Outcome: Ongoing discussions of diesel clean-up and other partnership opportunities with local community associations and schools.

Curtis Bay (several small group meetings) – Topic: Air quality, municipal waste combustors and climate change.

Outcome: Continued discussion on partnership opportunities. Broader meeting planned for 2018.

Maryland Community of Communities - Topic: Air quality and climate change concerns, other issues of interest and opportunities to work collaboratively.

Outcome: Continued discussions on a variety of air quality topics including a citizen science monitoring partnership.

Maryland Environmental Health Network - Topic: Air quality and climate change concerns, other issues of interest and opportunities to work collaboratively.

Outcome: Continued discussions on a variety of air quality topics.

Frostburg State University - Topic: Panel discussion on climate change with an emphasis on state agency roles and actions being taken and additional briefings to University climate action team.

Outcome: The students were very engaged and developed an increased awareness of actions being taken in Maryland to address climate change. Additional engagement in Western Maryland is planned in 2018

HY-TEK Pilot Plant at Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant- Topic: Tour plant that uses a strain of algae to capture GHG

UMBC – Topic: Panel discussion on climate change to an upper-level public policy class

Outcome: TBD

Baltimore Industrial Group – Topic: Air quality, air policy and regulations, and the MCCC.

Outcome: TBD