The Maryland Commission on Climate Change

A Preview of Key Issues for the Commission’s 2016 Report

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Maryland Commission on Climate Change Orientation
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Session Overview

- Introduction - MDE

- A preview of potential recommendations for the 2016 report of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC)
  - Adaptation and Response Working Group (ARWG)
  - Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO) Working Group
  - Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG)
  - Mitigation Working Group (MWG)
MCCC - Historical Milestones

- Originated in 2007
- Developed 2008 Maryland “Climate Action Plan”
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act of 2009 (GGRA)
- Commission codified into law in 2015
  - Recommended enhancements to the 2009 GGRA in December of 2015
- GGRA of 2016 signed into law in April 2016
- Basic charge of the Commission:
  - Provide recommendations on how to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change
The Annual Report

• Each year the MCCC is required to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly
  – November

• The report should focus on key recommendations to move the State forward to address climate change
  – Efforts to reduce GHG emissions
  – Efforts to adapt and increase resiliency
  – Efforts to communicate and educate around the issue of climate change
  – All supported by a strong technical and scientific effort
The Commission’s 2015 Report

• Finalized in December of 2015

• Key recommendations included in the MCCC’s 2015 report included:
  – The State should develop and implement a plan to achieve a 40% reduction in GHGs by 2030
  – This plan should increase the focus on achieving those GHG reductions in a manner that improves the States economy, creates and protects jobs and protects consumers
  – Any legislation to implement a 40% by 2030 requirement should maintain the framework and safeguards provided in the 2009 GGRA
The GGRA of 2016

• Reauthorized and enhanced GGRA of 2016 signed into law on April 4, 2016

• Builds from the recommendations of the MCCC
  – Senator Pinsky and Delegates Stein and Barve sponsored and shepherded identical bills that moved steadily and smoothly through the General Assembly
  – Many other MCCC members played critical roles

• Core elements of new law
  – 40% GHG emission reduction by 2030
  – Must support a healthy economy and create new jobs
  – Maintains structure and safeguards from 2009 law
GGRA - A Balanced Approach to Address Climate Change

• The law continues to include a balanced set of requirements and safeguards
  – GHG emission reductions, economic progress, new jobs and more…

• Key safeguards include:
  – Manufacturing sector not covered unless through a federal rule
  – Mid-Course status report from MDE on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, jobs and the economy
  – Mid-Course reaffirmation of goals by the General Assembly
    • … or the law sunsets
Other Critical Balancing Provisions

- Reauthorized GGRA maintains all of the key issues that are part of the balance that allowed the 2009 and 2016 legislation to pass with support from all interested parties

- For example, the 40 by 30 Plan must:
  - Produce a net economic benefit to the State’s economy & a net increase in State jobs
  - Encourage new employment opportunities in the State related to energy conservation, alternative energy supply, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction technologies.
  - Ensure that the plan does not decrease the likelihood of reliable and affordable electric service and statewide fuel supplies
More Balance

• The 40 by 30 Plan must also:
  – Not disproportionately impact rural or low-income, low-to-moderate-income, or minority communities or any other particular class of electricity ratepayers
  – Not directly cause the loss of existing jobs in the manufacturing sector
  – Consider the impact on rural communities of any transportation related measures
  – Provide credit for voluntary action
  – Consider whether the measures would result in an increase in electricity costs to consumers in the State
  – Attract, expand and retain aviation services
  – Conserve, protect, and retain agriculture
  – Minimize leakage
The Basic 40 by 30 Schedule

• 2016, 2017 and 2018 - MDE, other State agencies, MWG and stakeholders research and build the 40% by 2030 reduction plan
  – Stakeholder meetings across the State

• December 31, 2018 - Draft plan to Governor and General Assembly

• December 31, 2019 - Final plan to Governor and General Assembly

• October 1, 2022 - MDE owes mid-course status report
  – Emission reductions
  – Jobs, the economy … more

• October 1, 2022 – Manufacturing study due

• December 1, 2023 – Law terminates if not reauthorized
The 2016 MCCC Report
A Preview of Potential Recommendations

- Progress on adaptation and resilience
  - Matt Fleming (DNR) - ARWG Lead

- Furthering education, communications, and outreach efforts
  - Lori Arguelles (Alice Ferguson Foundation) - ECO Working Group lead

- Emerging science and technical issues
  - Don Boesch (UMCES) - STWG Lead

- Making progress in reducing GHG emissions and complying with the GGRA
  - Tad Aburn (MDE) - MWG Lead