

# Agency Climate Implementation Plan

Maryland Department of Public  
Safety and Correctional Services

November 1, 2024





# Preliminary Climate Implementation Plan

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Climate Implementation Plan required by Executive Order, “Leadership by State Government: Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan”

In accordance with Governor Moore’s [Executive Order 01.01.2024.19](#), “Leadership by State Government: Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan,” the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services affirms its commitment to:

- Work to address climate change and ensure a just transition to a clean economy;
- Advance environmental justice by working to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change for underserved and overburdened communities, including the application of Justice40 goals, initiatives, and funding;
- Equitably implement all existing laws, regulations, and policies related to climate change, incorporating robust community and stakeholder engagement; and
- Continue to maximize federal funding opportunities on climate.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services hereby submits its own Climate Implementation Plan (CIP) to demonstrate its commitment to a whole-of-government approach to addressing climate change and fully implementing Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

# Part 1: Agency Actions Under the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan calls on the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to reduce waste:

House Bill 264/Senate Bill 483 established a law in Maryland under the heading of Solid Waste Management Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion. Food Residuals or materials derived from processing or discarding of food, requires facilities of a certain size to divert food residuals from final disposal at a landfill or incinerator to an organics recycling facility. DPSCS correctional facilities (of which there are a total of thirteen) employed the following practices in order to comply with the law:

- A. Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) contacted the organics recycling facility that is within the 30 mile radius of their facilities and the recycling facility indicated that they would not be able to accept their food residuals at this point in time.
- B. A compactor for Food Residuals has been installed at Jessup Correctional Institution (JCI), Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup (MCIJ), and Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW). The compactor is hauled by our contracted waste hauler Republic Services to the Bioenergy Devco organics recycling facility in Jessup once per week.
- C. Western Correctional Institution (WCI) and North Branch Correctional Institution (NBCI) in Cumberland, are exempt at this juncture as they have no organics recycling facility within the 30 mile radius.
- D. The Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC), Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown (MCIH), and the Roxbury Correctional Institution (RCI), our Hagerstown facilities, have contacted the one organics recycling facility within the 30 mile radius (Key Compost in Frederick) and they indicated that they could not accept a compactor at this point. Additional steps taken to comply with the law in the Hagerstown facilities include:
  - 1. Requesting a quote from Key Compost for provision and pick-up of containers for food residuals. To date we have not received a quote.
  - 2. Republic Services provided a quote for the hauling of food residuals from Hagerstown to the Bioenergy Devco organics recycling facility in Jessup. The quote was well above an additional 10 % above the dumpster/disposal rate and according to MDE guidelines this justifies a request for a waiver (which has been requested).

3. We have also been in touch with a company named Table2Ground which produces equipment that would break down and decompose organic waste into pre-compost within 24 hours and resulting in an 80-90 % reduction in volume. The Table2Ground equipment is being evaluated as a means to produce compost material which could be used in the gardens in the Hagerstown facilities.

DPSCS acknowledges the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation and intends to adopt it aggressively in 2024 and beyond. It is expected that such adoption will result in emissions reductions beyond those expected by Maryland's adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks regulation, especially since DPSCS utilizes other vehicle types.

DPSCS will seek to comply with the Clean Power Standard, once finalized by MEA. In anticipation of a Clean Power Standard, DPSCS will strive toward the most likely requirements for increase in utilization of clean power sources, which primarily would be solar power in the state of Maryland. DPSCS in conjunction with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) are in compliance with the mandated zero emission vehicle fleet replacements. DPSCS currently has 6 electric vehicles and we are expecting 15 additional EV's this fiscal year. The Office of Property and Fleet management is currently purchasing Hybrid type vehicles wherever there is a suitable need for replacement. However, the Department is re-thinking that strategy in recognition of the fact that five year cost of ownership decreases substantially with pure electric vehicles due to low maintenance costs and much lower charging vs re-fueling costs, so hybrid vehicle purchases are not as attractive after consideration as they may seem at first glance.

Maryland Correctional Enterprises, a division within DPSCS, has started a few initiatives to help improve the environment in FY24:

- Purchased two electric vehicles totaling **\$63,776.00**. MCE worked with DGS to create 8 charging stations at the MCE Headquarters to continue to build its electric vehicle fleet.
- Periodically, the MCE Meat Plant spends to have meat scraps picked up by a vendor who processes them into dog food. (FY24 = **\$1,881.00**).

MCE is in a position that very few agencies are in- providing goods and services to other agencies. MCE has many environmentally friendly products. Many products are made with materials that support sustainability, some of these products have earned certifications from respected eco programs: Green Seal, SCS Global Services, and Greenguard. MCE highlights many of these products throughout its catalog for the benefit of the customer

base.

DPSCS recognizes that solar power installation, plus simultaneous installation and *utilization of battery storage* will have a synergistic effect and contribute greatly to the resiliency of the existing power grid, future reductions in the cost of energy use and decrease dependency on public utilities and private companies for power.

Many incarcerated individuals came from and will likely be returning to communities that are disproportionately affected by greenhouse gas emissions. DPSCS recognizes a dual benefit to incarcerated individuals and their communities if we provide varied trade-educational opportunities with increased focus on roofing, light construction and general contracting, electrical, plumbing, elevator repair, air conditioner installation and repair, heat pump installation, horticulture and composting, and agriculture to provide skills for incarcerated individuals, experience from work in and around DPSCS facilities, improvement in their surroundings, and enhanced likelihood of employment post-release— especially in light of Maryland’s Net-Zero goals. DPSCS will collaborate with the Maryland Labor Department to also expand workforce development programs for which incarcerated individuals might be eligible.

These goals complement engaging with DSCI to *expand opportunities for training of incarcerated individuals to prepare for green jobs of the future, including solar panel (rooftop and via ground scaffolding) installation, composting, and tree implantation*. DPSCS recognizes that ground-level solar panel installation also can provide shade useful for some crops and hopes to explore the synergy between farms and solar farms.

DPSCS recognizes the value in the massive tree planting initiative set forth by the Governor’s Climate Directive. The department intends for training to be provided to staff and incarcerated individuals to join the tree-planting effort around facilities and in conjunction with community efforts.

Under the leadership and coordination of the Governor’s Federal Office, DPSCS will apply for federal funding to implement actions that support the achievement of this plan.

## Part 2: Recommending Actions to Address Climate Change

Recognizing the importance of State law (MD Code, Environment, § 2-1305), DPSCS shall

review its planning, regulatory, and fiscal programs to identify and recommend actions as above in Part 1, to more fully integrate the consideration of Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction goal and the impacts of climate change. The review shall include the consideration of (i) sea level rise; (ii) storm surges and flooding; (iii) increased precipitation and temperature; and (iv) extreme weather events.

In compliance with the law, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is taking or recommending the following actions to more fully integrate the consideration of Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction goal and the impacts of climate change.

- A. The Baltimore Therapeutic and Treatment Center (BTCC) is planned to begin construction in the Baltimore pretrial complex in 2030, to provide a state-of-the-art drug crisis center, re-entry unit, subacute hospital, skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, and advanced mental health diagnostic and treatment center. BTCC will follow the LEED design. BTCC and the support buildings associated with it will have a zero carbon footprint. The design elements drive that. We will break out the LEED Design cost from the \$35 million design fee. Both BGE and Vicinity have committed to the zero initiative. Along with that, Vicinity is in the process of converting their Charles St. Steam plant to a total electric facility. With this commitment from Vicinity, **all of the Baltimore pretrial facilities'** heat and hot water generation will have a zero carbon footprint. DPSCS will sign a 20 year agreement with Vicinity as the sole supplier.
- B. We have been working on an ESCO contract with DGS energy for over a year now and we are close to having those costs in hand. The Energy performance contract in Hagerstown will impact all three facilities for energy reduction thereby reducing the carbon footprint. The ultimate goal is to get the central steam plant off of fuel oil and converted to total electricity. With ESCO contracts the construction cost is covered by ongoing energy savings. The costs so far are man hours and a survey by the design consultant, HDR.
- C. Eastern Correctional Institution and Maryland Correctional Training Center, which are part of DPSCS, grows crops, with the assistance of incarcerated individuals (II). These II's acquire agricultural skills, work credit and income. All harvested produce is donated to the local communities within their respective regions. DPSCS recognizes the value of this initiative and is looking to expand this agricultural component in the Cumberland and Jessup regions.

Additionally, ECI derives power from a cogeneration plant, with a pending conversion from wood chips as the fuel source to Natural Gas. This is not a zero carbon but it is in keeping with the reduction in emissions goal.

## Part 3: Considering Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions and Impacts on Disproportionately Affected Communities

In compliance with the law and Executive Order 01.01.2024.19, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is taking the following steps to meet these requirements.

DPSCS recognizes that construction planning in the past resulted in many DOC buildings having no centralized air conditioning, and extreme heat events place a number of incarcerated individuals and the departmental employees who serve them at increased risk for heat injury.

*Noting the increasing impact of extremes in heat on all, and their disproportionate effect on our incarcerated population as well as the departmental employees who serve them, we strive to obtain funding to provide for at least one major building in each of our regional campuses to upgrade/replace the HVAC system, annually for four consecutive years.*

Ultimately, DPSCS strives to retrofit facilities to provide heat pumps, efficient HVACs and improved insulation. Where new construction is planned, these projects should account for HVAC and heat pump needs, or use of steam for heat and hot water, as well as simultaneous deployment of solar/wind and battery installation with the facility constructions to offset subsequent energy costs long term. In smaller facilities we strive to ensure installation of additional high velocity industrial fans for cyclical removal of hot air from buildings that do not have air conditioning or sufficient ducted ventilation systems.

Training and education, especially related to the trades, and apprenticeship experiences in the DPSCS system, will allow incarcerated individuals to participate in upgrading the physical structures and surroundings. We understand that these efforts will have a positive impact on the incarcerated population, and green job training and experience for these individuals will also allow them to return to their communities with an additional marketable skill or skills, and positively impact those communities.

These initiatives, in our opinion, will lower Maryland greenhouse gas emissions in the long term and most likely in the short term as well. By directly improving prospects for incarcerated individuals' success upon release, and bolstering morale for incarcerated individuals remaining incarcerated, the initiatives will also positively impact the

disproportionately affected communities to which many will return. (MD Code, Environment, § 2-1305)

We recognize that Governor Moore’s Executive Order 01.01.2024.19 requires each agency to report on how the agency will advance environmental justice by working to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change for underserved and overburdened communities.

## Part 4: Resources for Implementation

### Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

Agreement on the order of steps to move the initiatives described is still forthcoming, involving areas of DPSCS including Capital Construction, Fleet Management, Training, Education, Dietary and Maryland Correctional Enterprise.

### Implementing this Climate Implementation Plan

Funding and budgetary discussions are ongoing within DPSCS and we recognize the need for significant cost analysis before we apply for funding at State and federal levels and via community agencies. These analyses will also consider data gathering and reporting of relevant outcomes such as KPIs (Key Performance Indicators).

## Part 5: Outcomes from Implementation

Just as purchase of electric vehicles may still be somewhat more expensive than purchasing vehicles with internal combustion engines, but less costly or toxic or contributory to carbon emissions within five years and beyond, green “upgrades” can not only help DPSCS move toward Net-Zero emissions by 2030, they can also demonstrate lower ongoing maintenance and energy costs to the department, while also improving job prospects for individuals being released from the DOC system around the state of Maryland.