



Agency Climate Implementation Plan

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
November 1, 2024





Agency Climate Implementation Plan

Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) Climate Implementation Plan
required by Executive Order, "Leadership by State Government:
Implementing Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan"

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2024.19, DJS 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 Juvenile Services (DJS) respectfully submits its Climate Implementation Plan (CIP) to demonstrate its commitment and approach to address climate change and implement Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

Executive Summary

The Department of Juvenile Services mission and vision align with the Governor's Executive Order to address and impact climate change as we transform the lives of young people by providing pathways and partnerships for their success. Our values of youth, their communities, and our workforce while promoting continuous learning, responsibility, growth, and teamwork through interagency coordination and grassroots partnerships should enhance DJS' ability to meet the goals of Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. DJS embraces this unique opportunity to assess, identify, and promote green purchasing, transportation alternatives, job readiness and service to the community while fostering the "whole of government" approach to impact climate change.

We believe that the opportunities presented in the following plan leverage the Department's ability to realize success and provide meaningful impacts in the lives of all Marylanders.

Part 1: Agency Actions Under the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

While the Department of Juvenile Services is not explicitly called on in the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan we are supporting Maryland's in the following ways.

Maryland's 5 Million Trees Initiative

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan calls on the State to plant 5 million trees by 2031. DJS will seek to identify areas to plant trees. With this effort DJS will be able to support Maryland's climate action, increase environmental literacy and ecological connectedness for the youth it serves, and provide greater opportunities for service.

Part 2: Recommending Actions to Address Climate Change

The Department of Juvenile Services is reviewing its existing policies and programs to integrate and address climate change action in Maryland.

Workforce Pathways for Youth

DJS will evaluate its workforce programs to find ways to include training that connects youth with green jobs. DJS recognizes the work ahead needed to decarbonize various sectors of Maryland's economy— construction, industrial, transportation, waste, natural working lands, and power sectors, which creates opportunities to provide workforce pathways for youth and impact the skilled labor shortage. DJS will consult with the Department of Labor, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's [Just Transition Retraining and Employment Working Group](#) on this effort and partner where it makes sense to do so.

Green Purchasing

DJS has five procurement officers with a Green Purchasing Specialization from DGS. DJS will maintain its participation in the Green Purchasing Specialization program and will continue to make climate-smart purchasing as a tool to address climate change in Maryland.

Some examples of climate-smart purchasing strategies include reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a complex challenge that DJS is determined to not only meet, but also to change our staff and client habits. We are continuously finding ways to reduce emissions from our operations, investing in new technologies and reviewing processes to decarbonize our facilities. DJS has chosen these solutions to climate change: invest in renewable energy, increase its use of sustainable transportation (electric vehicles), and protect forests by planting trees.

Green Cadet Program

One of the programs at DJS is our Green Cadets program. Youth from the DJS Green Cadets Job Readiness Program perform community oriented services. For example, the Green Cadets had the pleasure of volunteering at the Helping Up Mission, a men's shelter and recovery program located in Baltimore City to address the disproportionately affected communities and citizens. The youth helped out by serving lunch to approximately 40 clients - they prepped food, served lunch, and washed dishes afterwards. It was an invaluable experience for the young men in the DJS Green Cadet Program. In partnering with Baltimore City's DPW, they also work in disproportionately affected communities, cleaning alleyways and parks to help transform communities to a nice liveable space.

Buildings

DJS has maintenance staff that provide maintenance services in our 11 facilities. DJS does complete maintenance to all of our facilities involving repair work to fix and maintain mechanical equipment, building, and machines. DJS staff performs plumbing work, painting, flooring repair and upkeep, electrical repairs, and HVAC system maintenance to ensure our buildings and their systems are undergoing good and regular maintenance.

Good and regular maintenance practices ensure that building systems are working optimally and building occupants are in safe and healthy buildings.

In addition to ensuring good maintenance practices DJS will look for opportunities to impact climate change through its buildings in the following ways.

- Create a facility operations policy that prioritizes and maximizes energy efficiency. Include items such as optimized building temperature set points with weekend, nighttime, and holiday temperature turndowns (the utilities have free programs and low cost training to help building managers maintain efficiency), prohibition of space heaters, etc.
- For any project justification forms submitted to DGS for work on existing buildings and for capital projects, we will include decarbonization in the request.

- Investigate the use of solar, wind, and other green energies as part of our facilities master plan in both the design and project phases consistent with decarbonization solutions.
- Provide timely and complete data to DGS' database contractor so that we can track our progress.
- For any new or replacement HVAC and heating equipment, DJS will help State Government lead by example through the procurement of highly-efficient electric heat-pumps which supports Maryland's forthcoming Clean Heat Rules and Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS).
- DJS is currently hiring a new Director of Capital Projects and will make sure the incumbent is aware of the Decarbonization Planning contract that was set up by DGS.
- In compliance with BEPS, DJS will ensure our covered buildings are benchmarked in Energy Star Portfolio Manager.
- DJS is currently working with the Department of General Services to conduct decarbonization planning for the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center.
- DJS will explore using tools like The Building Efficiency Targeting Tool Energy Retrofits (BETTER), a free software toolkit by the Department of Energy. Using software like BETTER enables building operators to quickly and easily identify the most cost-saving energy efficiency measures in buildings and portfolios using readily available building and energy data. With minimal data entry, BETTER benchmarks a building's or portfolio's energy use against peers; quantifies energy, cost, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction potential; and recommends energy efficiency measures (technological and operational) for individual buildings or portfolios, targeting specific energy savings levels.

Vehicles

DJS has a fleet of 250 vehicles total, including 10 hybrid and 8 electric vehicles. DJS is taking the following actions to make our vehicles more climate-smart.

- Our agency will analyze where electric charging infrastructure could be added to support electric vehicles in our fleet.
- DJS is working with the Department of General Services to obtain electric chargepoint cards so that it can increase the number of electric vehicles.

- While we recognize maintenance on electric vehicles is typically less than the combustion engine counterparts, our agency will make sure we discern and coordinate any training needed by State mechanics to properly maintain the vehicles.

Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

DJS will work with the Maryland Department of Transportation to do our part in transportation demand management. Our agency will work with the Maryland Department of Transportation to receive and disseminate materials that help state employees, and youth and families that we serve to gain a better understanding of alternative transportation options available to them. These transportation demand management efforts align with the State's goal of reducing vehicle miles traveled and harmful air pollution.

Clean Energy

DJS will evaluate its buildings and campuses for areas, including rooftops and grounds, that could be utilized for clean and renewable energy generation technologies.

Recycling

DJS will evaluate its current recycling efforts for ways to increase recycling rates and reduce waste. These efforts include evaluating the number of recycle bins, the placement of recycle bins, and the signage.

Organic Waste

Reduce landfill capacity and methane generation, the DJS will engage with our maintenance and dietary staff to create composting barrels or sites. The organic waste will be utilized in our youth/staff facility gardens adding a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Continuing and Ongoing Collaboration

As this Climate Implementation Plan is implemented, our agency will continue to work with the Department of the Environment (MDE) and other state agencies to address climate change with Maryland's "whole of government" approach. Our agency will stay in communication with MDE in order to monitor and track progress. To ensure

compliance with the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, our agency will continue to make climate a key consideration in our long term planning of policy and the agency's operations.

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

DJS is taking the following measures to help address the impacts of climate change on disproportionately affected communities.

Maryland's 5 Million Trees Initiative

The Maryland 5 Million trees initiative calls for 10%, or 500,000 trees to be planted in urban areas. Many of the youths DJS serves come from underserved urban areas. DJS will seek opportunities for these youth to plant trees in their communities.

Workforce Pathways for Youth

By increasing workforce pathways for youth, DJS seeks to increase equity by providing training opportunities that give youth from disproportionately affected communities a better chance at receiving green job opportunities.

Part 4: Resources for Implementation

DJS is taking the following measures to implement its Climate Implementation Plan.

Elective Pay

Our agency will work with the Department of Budget and Management to help maximize federal funding opportunities to address climate in Maryland, including the IRS Elective Pay program which allows governments to take advantage of tax incentives, including money for electric vehicles, clean energy generation technologies, energy storage, and electric charging equipment and infrastructure. Additionally, our agency will keep Elective Pay funding in mind as a way to stack and braid tax credits with existing funding, grant opportunities, other federal programs, loans, and/or other financial products to help bridge any gaps between traditional items procured and the green premium of climate-smart items.

Federal Grant Opportunities

DJS will seek federal grant opportunities to help bring federal money to Maryland to amplify its efforts to provide workforce pathways for youth. The Federal Department of Labor's [Workforce Pathways for Youth Rounds 4 and 5](#) grant is one opportunity DJS will explore. DJS sees this as an area where we are uniquely positioned to align our agency's mission with Maryland's Climate Goals and many of the priorities of the Moore-Miller administration's [2024 State Plan](#).

Part 5: Outcomes from Implementation

By taking the actions outlined in this Climate Implementation Plan the following outcomes can be expected.

- The tree planting efforts described in Part 1 will increase carbon sequestration and public health benefits, and reduce the urban heat island effect.
- A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and utility costs as well as an increase in public health benefits through climate-smart building decarbonization efforts.
- A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur oxides (SOx) from fleet electrification and transportation demand management efforts.
- An increase in green workforce development through the workforce pathways for youth.
- A reduction in organic waste reduces the need for landfill capacity and reduces methane generation.
- An increase in Federal funds by working with the Department of Budget and Management to obtain tax incentives for items and projects eligible in the IRS' Elective Pay program.