

2024 Status of Programs, Annual State Agency Report - Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions for CY 2023 Energy Efficiency for Affordable Housing

Environment Article § 2-1305(c)

December 31, 2024

This report provides an estimate of reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as a result of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (Department) programs during calendar year (CY) 2023. This report is pursuant to State Government Article §2-1305, as defined in House Bill 514 Chapter 429, 2015.

Program Descriptions

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD") is a principal department within the Executive Branch of Maryland State Government. DHCD administers programs directed at a wide cross section of the Maryland economy. DHCD's financing products leverage public, private and nonprofit investments. Deployed projects create jobs, generate state and local tax revenue, and enable communities to address their affordable housing and redevelopment goals. DHCD provides solutions for renters looking to purchase their own home, for small businesses that are looking to expand, for energy efficiency efforts to reduce the energy burden of limited income families, to protect the environment, and for homeless services. DHCD's community development programs enhance existing neighborhood resources, support economic development, rebuild infrastructure, and improve the quality of life for all Marylanders.

Within the Department, the division of Housing and Building Energy programs manages a suite of loan and grant programs for Maryland homeowners, renters and other building owners. These programs reduce energy costs and address critical health and safety issues for Maryland residents and limited income families.

In CY 2023, the Department's energy programs installed upgrades that saved 7,440 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) in the first year of installation. Considering the estimated lifetime of energy measures, the Department's programs realized a reduction of 63,891 MTCO₂e in CY 2023 from projects completed from CY 2016 to CY 2023.

The Department is continuing to incorporate other programs that it administers into its calculation of greenhouse gas reductions. In this report the Department has in addition included the CY 2023 reductions for both its Multifamily Rental Housing Finance section and the NetZero Program.

The Department's Housing and Building Energy Programs division includes the following grant programs:

- **The Weatherization Assistance Program** installs energy conservation measures for eligible limited income households. These measures also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the cost of maintenance for these homes. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Strategic Energy Investment Fund. The Department works with Local Weatherization Agencies (nonprofits and local governments) to complete these projects.
- **The EmPOWER Low Income Energy Efficiency Program and the Multifamily Energy Efficiency and Housing Affordability Program** help limited income households and affordable housing managers with installation of energy conservation measures in their homes and buildings. Funding is provided by ratepayers of the five (5) participating EmPOWER Maryland utility companies. These funds are regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission.
- **Emergency No-heat/No-cool** to resolve emergency heating and cooling related crises faced by low-income Marylanders. From November 1 - March 31 ("no heat season") the program provides heating system repair/replacement for applicants with non-functioning heating systems. From June

1 - September 30 (“no cool season”) the program provides cooling system repair/replacement for applicants with non-functioning cooling systems. The program is also able to provide replacement for non-functioning hot water heaters from April 1st - September 30th (“hot water season”).

The following grant programs are closed, but the energy conservation measure’s lifetime savings continue to be in effect.

- **The Targeted and Enhanced Weatherization Program** combined typical weatherization improvements with measures that reduced health and safety risks in the home. This program for limited income homeowners in the Baltimore Gas & Electric territory outside of Baltimore City was funded through the Customer Investment Fund created during the merger of Constellation and Exelon. This program was funded with a one-time grant and has been fully expended.
- **The Improved Efficiency for Affordable Multifamily Housing Program** was funded through the Customer Investment Fund, and it covers the costs of energy conservation measures for affordable multifamily projects in the Baltimore Gas & Electric territory. This pilot program was funded with a one-time grant and has been fully expended. Construction completed in CY 2018.

The Department also offers a growing portfolio of energy loan products.

- **The BeSMART Home Energy Loan Program** offers financing to homeowners across the state for energy efficiency replacement and/or upgrade of appliances, heating, cooling and ventilation systems and whole house envelope improvements.
- **The Net Zero Construction Loan Program** funds the construction of new or existing single and multifamily housing in Maryland. The project must be Net Zero or Net Zero Ready (Home Energy Rating System score of 50). The Department deployed this program at the Perry Point Veterans Housing Project, using funding from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund and leveraged with the BeSMART loan program for efficiency measures. Construction finished in CY 2018.

The Department administers a number of programs outside of the Housing and Building Energy Programs that provide significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. DHCD is working to account for all of these programs in its greenhouse gas reduction calculations. The first of these programs to be included in the calculation is below.

- **Multifamily Housing** expands quality, affordable rental and transitional housing opportunities for Marylanders by financing the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of rental communities and transitional housing, and by administering rental assistance programs and the Federal Limited Income Housing Tax Credit program.

Program Objectives

Under the Housing and Building Energy Programs, the Division provides grants and low-cost loans with flexible terms for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency improvements in single family and affordable multifamily rental housing developments. The program is being undertaken as part of the State’s efforts to:

1. reduce the energy cost burden on Marylanders,
2. increase energy efficiency,
3. reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

4. promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources,
5. provide a healthier environment in which to live,
6. create and preserve affordable rental housing opportunities,
7. create jobs, and
8. foster business development and sustainable mortgages by reducing the energy burden on residents and property owners.

Implementation Milestones

The 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act Plan Update published October 2015 stated that the Department’s programs could reduce 0.02 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) by 2020 (LIEEP, MEEHA, WAP).

In CY 2023, the Department’s energy programs completed energy efficiency upgrades of **17,874** households. These improvements represent a first-year reduction of **7,440** metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) - The average life of savings for each energy project is eight years. For the **69,641** households that received energy efficiency upgrades since CY 2016, in CY 2023 the realized savings over eight years were **63,891** MTCO₂e.

Year	Households Served
CY2016	5,517
CY2017	5,828
CY2018	4,569
CY2019	9,239
CY2020	8,905
CY 2021	8,474
CY 2022	7,864
CY 2023	19,245

Estimated Emission Reductions for CY 2023

In CY 2023, the Department’s Housing and Building Energy programs installed energy efficiency retrofits for single family households, renters, and multifamily tenants. The programs delivered **735,487** in MMBtu savings. Below is a table of savings by program.

CY 2023 SAVINGS IN THE INSTALLATION YEAR		
Program	MMBtu Saved	MTCO₂e
EmPOWER - Single Family (State)	42,535	1,039
EmPOWER - Multifamily (State)	24,923	497
Other Programs (State, Federal)	1,095	0.55
DOE Weatherization Assistance Program (Federal)	10,049	229
Multifamily Rental Housing (Federal, State, Special)	5,715	2.85
NetZero (Special) BeSmart	949	0.474
First Year Reductions: TOTAL	85,266	1,769

For the work installed in CY 2016 to 2023, the division estimates that the average life of its measures is eight years. For the projects installed in CY 2023, these projects will continue to reduce GHG emissions

every year until 2030. Some measures will provide savings well into the future, beyond 2030, that this calculation does not capture.

In CY 2024, the savings from CY 2016 will exceed the useful life estimate and the savings will no longer be calculated for these projects in future years.

CY 2023 – SUSTAINED SAVINGS OVER LIFETIME OF EQUIPMENT		
Year	First Year MTCO ₂ e	Sustained MT CO ₂ e
CY 2016	8,164	54,200
CY 2017	7,971	60,366
CY 2018	6,128	65,334
CY 2019	11,237	56,582
CY 2020	9,038	62,908
CY 2021	7,335	54,802
CY 2022	6,580	59,905
CY 2023	7,440	63,891

Note: Emission factors change over time based on the efficiency of the electrical grid. This means that 1 kWh reduction in CY 2016 resulted in more GHG emissions avoided than 1 kWh in CY 2023

The Division’s reduction in greenhouse gas emissions was calculated using project specific energy reductions estimated per measure. The Division used the 2023 emission factors provided by PJM, the Maryland region electric grid operator, the Department of Energy’s eGRID sub-regional data and data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s national greenhouse gas inventory.

Fuel	Value	Unit	Source	Link
Electricity				
CO ₂	810.835	lbs/MWH	PJM	System Mix 2021, https://gats.pjm-eis.com/GATS2/PublicReports/PJMSystemMix/Filter
CH ₄	0.061		DOE	2018 eGRID, https://www.epa.gov/egrid/power-profiler/
N ₂ O	0.008			
Natural Gas				
CO ₂	0.05444	kg/scf	EPA	https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/emission-factors_2014.pdf
CH ₄	0.00103	g/scf		
N ₂ O	0.0001			
Oil				
CO ₂	10.21	kg/gallon	EPA	https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/emission-factors_2014.pdf
CH ₄	0.41	g/gallon		
N ₂ O	0.08	g/gallon		
Global Warming Potential				
CO ₂	1	SAR, 100 Year	IPCC	https://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch2s2-10-2.html
CH ₄	21			
N ₂ O	310			

Year	CO ₂ (lbs/MWH)
CY2016	992
CY2017	948
CY2018	924
CY2019	851
CY2020	791
CY2021	843
CY2022	811
CY2023	813

Enhancement Opportunities

In CY 2023, the Department continued to pursue opportunities to expand its assessment of greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Department sees an opportunity to expand its greenhouse gas emission reductions assessment into its rehabilitation programs. The department is currently working through how to accurately capture and report these reductions.

Funding

In each of the last three fiscal years, the Division's financial commitments (direct benefits to Marylanders and administrative costs) averaged \$30 million. This is largely supported by the EmPOWER funding which requires renewal every three years.

Challenges

During CY 2023 the Department continued to feel the remnant effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically supply chain issues. Slowdowns to project timelines and shortages of required equipment caused a delay in project completions. This resulted in lower-than-expected program production for CY 2023. Despite these challenges the Department continues to work to expand and refine the collaboration between its programs to provide a more complete picture of its greenhouse gas reduction.

Relevant Information

The portfolio of programs within the Department of Housing and Community Development has a direct impact on the economic vitality of the State.

The Housing and Building Energy Programs support residents and businesses in direct funding of energy efficiency projects that create or sustain jobs. Energy bill reductions free up funds that can be spent on family well-being or as investments. The programs improve health through reduced air and water pollution from power plants, but also directly remediate hazards such as mold, asbestos and lead in the house.

Through the Department's other programs, it is indirectly supporting energy efficiency by providing funding for projects that are required to meet criteria that inherently promote energy efficient improvements. By enforcing these requirements these other programs are similarly able to provide meaningful energy savings for Maryland residents and reductions in pollution.

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