



MARYLAND COMMISSION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Serena McIlwain, Chair

2024 Legislative Session Review

Presented by MCCC Members Kim Coble and Mike Powell

April 23, 2024

Outline

- Changes to MCCC Membership
- Legislation Called for in the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan
- Climate Bills that Passed
- Climate Bills that Stalled
- Other Climate Setbacks

Changes to MCCC Membership

SB 777 - State Treasurer and Comptroller - Membership Responsibilities

- Synopsis: “Removing the State Treasurer... or the State Treasurer's designee from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, the Board of Directors for the Maryland Environmental Service, and the Coast Smart Council; and establishing the Comptroller or the Comptroller's designee as a member of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and the Coast Smart Council.”

HB323/ SB 337 - Environment - Commission on Climate Change Membership - Addition

- Synopsis: “Adding the Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee, and the Chair of the Public Service Commission, or the Chair's designee, as members of the Commission on Climate Change.”

Impact: Starting this year, the MCCC will include MDEM, the PSC, and the Comptroller. The Treasurer will no longer serve on the MCCC.

Legislation called for in the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

- **Develop New Funding Sources**
 - **No progress** - No significant new funding sources were passed
- **Modify the Renewable Portfolio Standard**
 - **No progress** - Legislation to remove waste incineration from RPS did not pass
- **Require new multifamily buildings to be EV-ready**
 - **No progress** - Although some jurisdictions already have this requirement, statewide legislation to require new multifamily buildings to be EV-ready did not pass
- **Modify EmPOWER**
 - **Progress** - GHG reduction goals and beneficial electrification will be part of the program
- **Modify the state's ability to regulate GHG emissions from the manufacturing sector**
 - **Progress** - MDE will be allowed to require certain manufacturers to reduce GHG emissions or maintain emissions at 2023 levels
- **Modify the state's EV purchasing incentives**
 - **No progress** - Legislation to create a point-of-sale rebate did not pass

Climate Bills that Passed (pending the Governor's veto or approval)

- ✓ Allows MDE to require GHG reductions from certain **manufacturers** (HB 990)
- ✓ Requires **EmPOWER** to achieve GHG reductions (HB 864)
- ✓ Allocates **\$90 million** in FY25 for GHG reduction projects (Budget Bill)
- ✓ Requires electric utility companies to allow **vehicle-to-grid** (V2G) systems to interconnect to the electric distribution network and pay EV owners for grid benefits. Also, allows for the creation of **virtual power plants** (VPPs) (HB 1256/SB 959)
- ✓ Increases the maximum generating capacity for certain **net metered generating facilities** and requires the PSC to establish a solar incentive program (HB 1435/SB 783)
- ✓ Allows certain **offshore wind** projects to submit revised plans (HB 1296)
- ✓ Requires gas utility companies to develop **networked geothermal** systems (HB 397/SB 570)
- ✓ Requires **state-owned buildings** to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions (SB 258)
- ✓ Requires at least 40% of funding for the **comprehensive flood management** grant program to be used for projects located in or benefiting underserved or overburdened communities; and authorizes up to \$20 million for the comprehensive flood management (HB 449/SB 148)
- ✓ Directs **15% of data center tax revenue to SEIF** (HB 579/SB 474)

Climate Bills that Stalled

- ☒ EV-ready standards for multifamily buildings (HB 889/SB 695)
- ☒ Changing the state's EV incentive to a **point-of-sale rebate** (HB 689)
- ☒ Removing **waste incineration** from the Renewable Portfolio Standard (HB 166/SB 146)
- ☒ Creating a **fee on coal and natural gas** transported in the state (HB 1008)
- ☒ Requiring MDE to evaluate **environmental justice impacts** (HB 24/SB 96)
- ☒ Establishing a **Climate Education Week** (HB 993)
- ☒ Establishing the **Utility-Scale Solar Design and Siting Commission** (HB 1328/SB 1082)
- ☒ Assessing the **climate impacts of major highway capacity expansion** projects (HB 836/SB 81)
- ☒ Requiring MDE and the MCCC to **evaluate a cap-and-invest** program (HB 1272)
- ☒ Requiring fossil fuel companies to **pay for damages** caused by their products (HB 1438/SB 958)
- ☒ Requiring **new buildings** to operate without fossil fuel burning equipment (HB 1279/SB 1023)
- ☒ Altering requirements for **gas utility plans** for proposed gas infrastructure replacement projects (HB 731/SB 548)

Other Climate Setbacks

- **Legislation passed that will increase registration fees for EV owners, which could discourage EV adoption.** The Climate Pollution Reduction Plan acknowledged that EV registration fees could increase but suggested a comparable increase in fees for fuel-burning vehicles.
- **Legislation passed that will delay the adoption of energy efficiency targets for buildings covered by MDE's Building Energy Performance Standards.** The Climate Solutions Now Act required MDE to establish energy efficiency targets in its regulation due to be adopted in 2023.