

NO NEW FOSSIL FUELS IN MARYLAND



A Declaration of No New Fossil Fuel Development in Maryland

Fossil fuels pose a direct harm to our water, air, health, and climate. We, the under-signed organizations, call on our Maryland leaders to oppose ANY future proposals to build new power plants, pipelines, compressor stations or other significant infrastructure projects in the state related to the extraction, transport and combustion of dirty energy. The era of ever-expanding consumption of oil, coal, and natural gas must now end. Money-saving efficiency gains, combined with ever-cheaper wind and solar power and other non-polluting sources of energy, can meet any expansion of the state's energy needs in the future without harming human and natural communities in the state.

Background

- Fossil fuels, while creating tremendous wealth and convenience for Marylanders, have also created irrefutable and widespread harm to the state. Maryland has the highest rate of premature death to air pollution in the nation. Maryland is a coastal state with over 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, thus making us one of the most vulnerable states in America to sea level rise. Twenty two communities in Maryland will face a chronic inundation of flooding by 2035. Water quality is especially vulnerable to damage from fossil fuel extraction and transport. This includes coal ash contamination of ponds and rivers, drinking water impacts from fracking for gas in nearby states, and oil spills in Maryland rivers from pipelines.
- To maintain a healthy climate worldwide, scientific assessments document that at least 80% of the world's known reserves of oil, coal, and gas **MUST BE LEFT IN THE GROUND**. A key step to meeting this ecological imperative is to avoid any and all new infrastructure for fossil fuel use and extraction. Any new pipelines, any new drilling rigs, and any new gas-fired power plants directly deepen the hole we are in. We must stop digging that hole.
- Alternatives to fossil fuels have never been more affordable or more available in Maryland. Solar prices have dropped by more than 70 percent nationwide since 2010. And wind power now competes head-to-head with coal and gas in many parts of the country.
- Meanwhile, wind and solar power provide tremendous economic benefits over fossil fuels. On average, over three times more jobs are created for every dollar invested in clean energy versus fossil fuel power. And, nationwide, more people currently work in the U.S. solar industry than in the entire coal industry combined. Thus, any significant new fossil fuel investments in Maryland mean fewer jobs and less economic benefit to the Commonwealth than the clean-energy alternatives.

- Moreover, a further reliance on large and centralized fossil-fuel generation plants represents a national security threat as cyberattacks and other security breaches make it possible for terrorists and rogue governments to disrupt major swaths of the US economy. A switch to a diverse range of renewable-energy sources distributed through micro grids with advanced storage will provide much greater resilience in the face of cyber threats and extreme weather.

Conclusion: For all of these reasons, we urge Maryland’s public officials – from the smallest local governments to the Statehouse to the US Congress – to join us in opposing any new proposal from any company to construct any significant infrastructure to extract, transport, or combust fossil fuels in Maryland.

NOTE: This declaration applies only to NEW and substantive fossil fuel generation plants and infrastructure. It does not restrict: 1) Improvements in the safety, efficiency, seismic resilience, or routine operations of existing infrastructure; 2) the provision of service directly to end users; 3) development of emergency backup capacity.



Chesapeake Climate Action Network



Maryland State Conference of the NAACP



League of Conservation Voters



Food and Water Watch



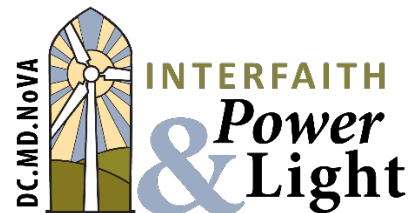
Maryland Sierra Club



Maryland Environmental Health Network



The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland



Interfaith Power and Light



Waterkeepers Chesapeake



Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility



Unitarian Universalist Cedar Lane



Greenbelt Climate Action Network



**THE CLIMATE
MOBILIZATION**

Montgomery County Climate Mobilization



Howard County Climate Action