

## **2022 Maryland Climate Justice Platform Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, Increasing Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 100% renewable electricity would support new high-paying Maryland jobs, and increase GDP.

**WHEREAS**, Maryland is a coastal state with 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, making us one of the most vulnerable states in America to sea-level rise.

**WHEREAS**, Race is the #1 indicator of placement of toxic facilities. Minority and low-income communities are overburdened by air and water pollution from energy generation and are underserved by the benefits of climate action. Poor air quality leads to over 100,000 deaths in the U.S. each year, but BIPOC communities are 79% more likely to live near air pollution sources. Due to continuous exposure to toxic emissions, these communities are at greater risk of cancer, neurological issues, heart and respiratory illness, with black children being 500% more likely to die of asthma. In Baltimore City, home of BRESKO, the rate of asthma emergency rate visits is 2.5 times higher than the Maryland average.

**WHEREAS**, Trash incineration emits pollution that creates a public health crisis. Incineration facilities such as Baltimore City's BRESKO plant emit high levels of health-hazardous air pollution, harm water, and soil quality, contribute to respiratory, cardiovascular, and other ailments, and add to climate disruption.

**WHEREAS**, Maryland should enact policies that incentivize new and clean sources of renewable energy that reduce greenhouse gasses and other hazardous air and water pollution while preventing harm and committing equitable investment in environmental justice (EJ) communities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the undersigned organizations support:

-- Setting a binding goal in 2023 of 100% carbon-pollution-free electricity in Maryland by 2035, with an interim goal of 80% by 2030, and removing incentives for the incineration of trash in Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

-- Ensuring that at least 40% of all clean energy investments and benefits accrue to historically disadvantaged communities in Maryland, per the policy embraced by the US Department of Energy. We must address climate change while repairing harm suffered by overburdened and under-served black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and other working-class communities.

-- Increasing access to public transit and green transportation alternatives, particularly in overburdened, under-served communities. Providing support for the transition of low-income neighborhoods to renewable energy sources while ensuring economic benefits are realized by residents.

-- Including prevailing wages and project labor agreements for the construction of utility-scale clean energy projects (5 megawatts or larger). A key component of climate change equity must ensure that all jobs in the clean energy economy are good jobs with family-supporting wages, health care, retirement security, and collective bargaining rights, including registered union apprenticeship opportunities.

Signed,

350.org Baltimore  
Assateague Coastal Trust  
Baltimore 350  
Baltimore Asian Resistance in Solidarity  
Baltimore Blue Green Just  
Baltimore Green Space- A Land Trust for  
Community Managed Open Space Inc.  
Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United  
Methodist Church Creation Care Action &  
Advocacy  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore  
Calvert Citizens for a Healthy Community  
Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore  
CASA  
Caucus of African American Leaders  
Cecil Solidarity  
Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry  
Central Maryland Beekeepers Association  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Clarksburg Sunrise  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Climate Reality Montgomery County  
Climate XChange  
ECO City Farms  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
Environmental Focus Group/Kittamaquindi  
Community  
Environmental Justice Team Cedar Lane UU  
Friends of Quincy Run Watershed  
Genergi, LLC  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic  
Heron-There Farm, Croom Maryland  
High Note Consulting, LLC  
HoCo Climate Action  
Homewood Friends Meeting (Quaker)  
IBEW Local 26  
Indivisible Howard Co  
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)  
Jewish Community Relations Council of  
Howard County  
Kittamaquindi Church  
Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
MaryPIRG Student Climate Action Coalition  
MoCo Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Mother Earth Project  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
NAACP Maryland State Conference  
Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp

No Boundaries Coalition  
Our Revolution Prince George's County  
Prince George's Green  
Public Justice Center  
Quaker Voice of Maryland  
Rachel Carson Council  
Rebuild Maryland Coalition  
SABER  
Safe Skies Maryland  
Salisbury University Student Government  
Association  
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter  
St. Vincent's Green Team  
Strong Future Maryland  
Sunrise Movement Baltimore City  
Sunrise Movement Frederick  
Sunrise Movement Silver Spring  
Takoma Park Mobilization  
The Climate Mobilization  
The Girl & the Vine  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of  
Maryland  
WISE  
Women's Action Coalition, Greater Allegany