

MARYLAND
CLEAN ENERGY
JOBS
INITIATIVE



What has driven me to commit myself to protect the air, the water, and the land...is love. I believe when God calls us to “Love your neighbor as yourself,” he is calling us to protect his earth and all those that live upon it.

Bishop Eugene Sutton

The Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative is a grassroots campaign that is working to enact legislation in Maryland to ensure that 50% of Maryland’s electricity comes from renewable sources by 2030. Current law requires that state utilities buy 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020. The initiative seeks to build a coalition of community, labor, faith, and business groups that will create the momentum and support to pass this legislation in the 2018 legislative session.

[Video of Bishop Sutton and other Baltimore leaders talking about the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjonnSzrDH8&t=5s>]

This goal of the campaign is to advance legislation that will accomplish four things:

-  Expand renewable energy in Maryland to 50 percent by 2030
-  Fund clean energy businesses owned by women and people of color to ensure that this growing economy is inclusive.
-  Create solar job training programs for Maryland residents by funding clean energy workforce development to establish career pathways for more Maryland workers to fill this growing industry.
-  Phase out incentives for trash incineration in the Renewable Portfolio Standard to move Maryland closer toward being a state powered by the sun.

Why this is important to Maryland

Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to the effects of sea-level rise and climate change. With more than 3,000 miles of coastline and 265,000 acres that are less than five feet above sea level, the effects of climate change could be dramatic in Maryland.

Maryland generates more than half of its electricity from fossil fuel sources. Fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil) produce most of our electricity and they produce the vast majority of carbon emissions by releasing toxic chemicals that pollute our air and water. Renewable energy generates electricity from sustainable sources like wind, solar and geothermal power with little or no pollution.

The good news is that the geography of Maryland lends itself easily to renewable energy industries.

What you can do today

Support the campaign by signing the pledge: Over 600 organizations in Maryland have endorsed the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative to date, including the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and many other faith organizations and congregations in the state. If your parish would like to sign, you can get a copy of the resolution [here](#)

Find more information about climate change here:

<http://greengrace.episcopalmaryland.org/climate-change-already-in-a-neighborhood-near-you/>

Switch to a clean energy supplier for your home

You can learn how to do that here: <http://greengrace.episcopalmaryland.org/clean-affordable-energy/>

Know your carbon footprint

You can learn more here: <http://greengrace.episcopalmaryland.org/carbon-footprint/>

It doesn't matter what the federal government does. In the end, it's people making individual decisions (that make a difference): "I want to reduce my energy costs. I want to be more environmentally friendly. I want to spend my money on something else because I want my kids to breath cleaner air or I want to drink purer water..."

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG