



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act

Environmental Challenge

Marylanders have shown that curbing global warming is a top priority. Our small state has a large carbon footprint and is also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. Taking responsibility for our emissions and curbing our own global warming pollution not only makes environmental sense, it also makes economic sense. That's why we must pass the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act this legislative session.

Investing in clean energy and energy efficiency will create thousands of jobs right here in Maryland. A report prepared by the University of Massachusetts this fall found that a \$100 billion nationwide investment in clean energy infrastructure over the next two years would yield 36,739 jobs in Maryland.

President Obama is considering a massive economic recovery plan that emphasizes making buildings more energy efficient and creating more sources of alternative energy. Passing the GGRA will put us on a path towards energy efficiency and clean energy so that we have a plan and are ready to use those funds to their fullest extent.

Bill Framework

Environmental, youth, business, health, faith, and community groups all support the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act. This Act sets a goal for reducing our global warming pollution 25% by 2020 and then leaves it up to a state agency to find a way that suits everyone – from steelworkers to businesses to the health community – to reach that goal. What's even better is that legislation that's already been signed into law has the potential to get us 70% of the way toward meeting the goal. Passing GGRA ensures that Maryland will be on a path to reaching 100% of the goal by 2020.

- *After months of conversations with stakeholders, we have reached common ground, and are introducing a new and improved version of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act with broad support from industry, labor, and the environmental community.*
- *Maryland's Commission on Climate Change has already done a great deal of work in drafting the key elements of such a blueprint: the Climate Action Plan. The Plan includes policies designed to achieve reductions beyond the 25% goal called for by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.*
- *According to the Governor O'Malley's Commission on Climate Change, reducing our global warming pollution 25% by 2020 would save Maryland \$2 billion.*
- *We have the tools and the know-how we need to achieve these reductions. We just need a commitment from the state, and a plan from MDE, to hit our goals and stay on course.*

For more information, please contact:

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