

Exciting Maryland legislation on climate, environment, and sustainable energy

The Maryland General Assembly is considering several promising bills in 2023. Regional and local action is critical for protecting our environment and limiting climate change. Maryland serves as a model for other states.

Intrigued? The Temple Sinai Green Team is monitoring the progress of the MD legislation. The following bills have advanced in both the State Senate and House. **Please go to the links to learn more about each bill – and to use a prepared script to contact your MD senator and delegates.** It's easy! To increase the impact of your letter, consider adding 2-3 sentences to the script explaining why the legislation is important to you. (The links are to the Maryland Sierra Club website.)

Over the next six weeks, the 2023 MD General Assembly will vote each bill up or down. So contact your MD representatives now!

The senator and three delegates representing you in the Maryland General Assembly can be found via the “Legislative” or “Look Up” tabs at [Maryland General Assembly Representatives](#).

Expand Solar Energy in Maryland - Continue the Community Solar Program

HB 908 / SB 613

In order to grow our solar capacity, support our sustainable energy efforts, and expand access to affordable solar energy for all Marylanders, Maryland should make permanent the successful Community Solar pilot program.

[Community Solar factsheet](#)

[Script supporting Community Solar](#)

Save Energy - Shift Buildings From Gas to Electricity through EmPOWER Reform

HB 904 / SB 689

EmPOWER Maryland, Maryland's energy efficiency program, needs to be updated so that it focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The revised program would support switching from fossil fuels to climate friendly, efficient electric heating and appliances. A related bill passed in 2022, but vetoed, would increase EmPOWER support for low- and moderate-income MD households.

[Energy Savings factsheet](#)

[Script supporting Energy Savings](#)

Electrify Diesel Trucks and Buses – Protect Our Climate, Protect Our Health

HB 230 / SB 224

The Clean Trucks Act will require vehicle manufacturers to sell more zero-emission trucks and school buses in Maryland. Changing from diesel to electric will reduce not only greenhouse gases but also air pollution and related diseases.

[Clean Trucks factsheet](#)

[Script supporting Clean Trucks](#)

Maryland the Beautiful – Protect Our Forests, Farms, and Wildlife Habitats

HB 631 / SB 470

Protect Maryland's forests, fields, wetlands, and wildlife by providing MD land trusts with the tools to secure available land quickly as well as funds for community stewardship. Land conservation also bolsters our climate change resiliency. This bill establishes goals of protecting 30% of MD lands by 2030 and 40% by 2040.

[Maryland the Beautiful factsheet](#)

[Script supporting Maryland the Beautiful](#)

Promote Maryland Native Plants – Support Pollinators, Wildlife, and Us

Our bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife are declining precipitously due to loss of native plants. This bill provides resources to help Marylanders plant natives, protect pollinators, and help restore wildlife habitats.

HB 950 / SB 836

Native Plants factsheet

Script supporting Native Plants

Questions or suggestions? Contact [Regina Ziegler](#)