



2012 Legislative Agenda

Restore the Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is arguably Maryland's most precious natural resource and an important part of America's natural heritage. Unfortunately, the Bay has suffered decades of degradation. Every summer, pollution from urban and farmland runoff, outdated sewage systems and septic systems overwhelms the Bay and creates vast dead zones where nothing can survive. State decision makers should adopt a number of specific, concrete policies to restore clean water. Environment Maryland supports:

- Adopting common sense standards for **managing manure and sludge use on farms**, and in particular prohibiting land application of manure or sludge on fields whose phosphorus levels are over a science-based maximum threshold, above which water quality will likely be damaged.
- Establishing stricter rules for the construction of new homes on **septic systems**, to limit water pollution from outdated or failing systems.
- Fully funding the **Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund** to provide incentives for practices that reduce pollution into the Bay.
- Increasing state funding to complete **wastewater treatment plant upgrades** by raising the Bay Restoration Fee, and ensuring that local municipalities have resources to construct **stormwater management** systems sufficient to preserve urban waterways and prevent pollution from flowing downstream into the Bay.

Repower Maryland with clean energy

Clean, efficient energy consumption will help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and limit the impact of global warming on Maryland. At the same time, we will revitalize Maryland's economy by saving money through reduced energy usage and by increasing jobs through developing clean energy industries in the state. Environment Maryland supports:

- Adopting policies to effectively incentivize the construction of **Maryland's first offshore wind farm**, such as establishing an offshore wind "carve-out" in the state's renewable portfolio standard. By tapping this tremendous resource, Maryland could one day power 1 million homes with clean, pollution-free energy.
- Increasing Maryland's solar power production by allowing Marylanders to earn credit on their home electricity bills when they invest in a **community solar** project on a local warehouse, house of worship or other facility.
- Requiring **disclosure of building energy use** at time of sale, to help create a market force behind more efficient buildings, both residential and commercial.
- Putting Maryland on the path to **get off oil** by establishing statewide goals to reduce oil consumption and a creating a comprehensive plan to achieve those reductions through investments in advanced vehicle technology, better funding for public transportation, and smarter land use decisions.

Environment Maryland's mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way. That's the idea behind Environment Maryland. We protect Maryland's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.



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Reduce global warming pollution

Global warming is a profound issue already impacting Maryland's air quality, waterways, and most valuable natural areas. If Maryland, the United States and the world continue to emit large amounts of global warming pollution, the state will likely face further, dramatic impacts. To prevent the worst impacts of global warming, Environment Maryland supports:

- Crafting and implementing a **comprehensive plan to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions** 25 percent below 2006 levels by 2020, as required by the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Act of 2009.
- Strengthening the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)** by ensuring that it reduces emissions by at least 10 percent from current levels by 2020, and that revenues are invested in programs to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Protect MD from natural gas drilling

Gas drilling poses a number of threats to our water, air, and land. The increasingly common practice of combining horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing (aka "fracking") is making gas drilling viable in more and more places, but it is also creating greater harm to the environment and our health. In neighboring Pennsylvania, where fracking is prevalent, it is already leading to rolling disasters. Environment Maryland supports:

- **Banning fracking in Maryland**, to prevent it from damaging our precious land, water and open spaces.
- **Prohibiting the processing or transportation of fracking wastewater in Maryland.**

Preserve open spaces

Future growth in Maryland should ensure that our precious open spaces, parks and waterways are protected. That means focusing growth in our cities, core suburbs, rural towns and transit hubs and investing in public transit and fix-it-first transportation projects, and reducing our overall oil consumption. Environment Maryland supports:

- Promoting **local, sustainable farming** that is better for our land and water by expanding opportunities for sustainable farmers in Maryland to sell their products, specifically by strengthening the state's Farm to School Program.
- Fully funding **Program Open Space** so the state can continue protecting our most valued natural treasures.
- Ensuring that any additional funding for transportation be prioritized towards **fix-it-first projects and public transit.**

Improve Marylanders' quality of life

State leaders should protect our land and water from plastic bag or toxic chemical pollution, and Maryland should also strengthen recycling requirements to minimize solid waste. Environment Maryland supports:

- Reducing plastic bag litter in Maryland waterways by creating a **fee on single-use bags**, thereby promoting the use of reusable bags.
- Requiring farmers and lawn care companies to **report the quantities of pesticides and fertilizers** that they use.
- Banning **arsenic-laden additives in chicken feed** used or sold in Maryland, to prevent arsenic from polluting waterways.
- Expanding Maryland's requirements for **recycling** to minimize the generation of solid waste that ends up in landfills.