



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# MCCC Recommendations for Climate Action & The Climate Solutions Now Act

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Kim Pezza, Climate Change Program, Maryland Department of the Environment

[Kim.Pezza@maryland.gov](mailto:Kim.Pezza@maryland.gov)

# Presentation Overview

- **What is the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC)**
  - Key Recommendations in the MCCC 2022 Annual Report
  - Transportation Sector Recommendations
- **Climate Solutions Now Act**
  - 60% by 2031 on a path to net zero by 2045
  - Transportation Sector Provisions



Purpose: Advise the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change.

- Established in 2007, Codified into law in 2015
- Representatives from state agencies, the legislature, business and non-profit organizations
- There have been 4 working groups: Adaptation and Resiliency; Education, Communication and Outreach; Mitigation; and Science and Technical
  - 4 more working groups were added in the Climate Solutions Now Act
- MCCC produces an annual report with recommendations for action on climate change for the Governor and MD General Assembly

# Key MCCC Policy Recommendations



**Transportation** - passenger vehicles, trucks, buses, transit, commuter programs, zero-emission vehicle purchase and infrastructure incentives, fuel standard, transit oriented development



**Clean Power Generation** - increase pace of solar development, equitable benefits and goals from EmPOWER and Dept. Housing Community Development



**Buildings Decarbonization** - adjust EmPOWER to account for GHGs, incentivize all electric bldgs. with zero emission space and heating equipment, PSC regs to transition to near zero emissions



**Capture and Utilization** – CCUS for cement manufacturers and methane capture for landfills and wastewater treatment plants



**Thermal Energy REC program** - decarbonize buildings, support sustainable forests





# Rapidly Accelerate the Transition to Zero-Emissions Vehicles (ZEV)

- Aspirational target of 75% of new Light Duty Vehicles to be ZEV and plug-in hybrids by 2030
- Low-interest loans to lower monthly costs of ZEV ownership
- Adopt Advanced Clean Cars II Regulations
- Adopt Advanced Clean Truck Rule and offer incentives
- Propose a Low Carbon Fuel Standard
- Funds to help install EV charging equipment at existing multi-dwelling buildings



# Increase Support for Alternative Transportation

- Higher % of federal funds used for transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure and Transit Oriented Development programs
- Changes to MD Commuter Choice program to increase participation
- Funds to augment rail and bus mass transit and support micro transit services
- Recertification of Transit Oriented Development areas

MCCC 2022 Annual Report: [mde.maryland.gov/MCCC](https://mde.maryland.gov/MCCC)



# Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (SB528)



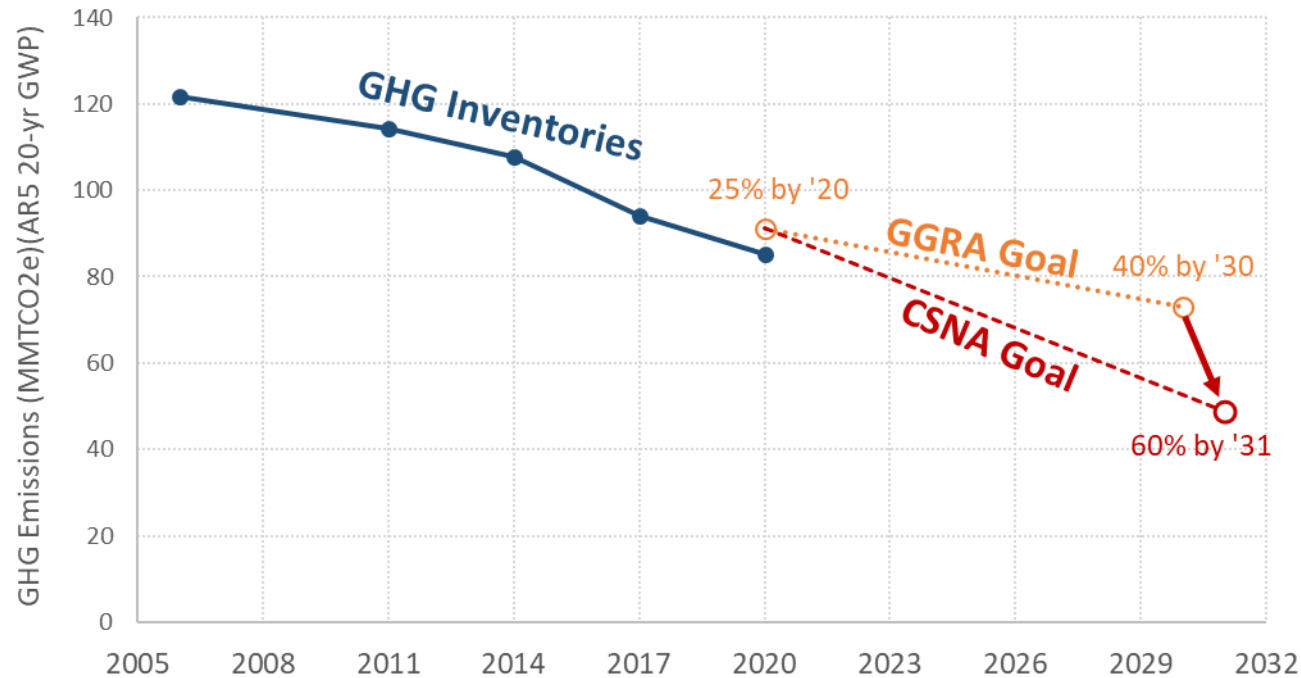
- Reduce GHG emissions by 60% by 2031, baseline of 2006
  - Draft Plan by Jun 30, 2023
  - Final Plan by December 31, 2023
- Reach net-zero emissions by 2045
  - Final Plan by December 31, 2030
  - Revised plan December 31, 2035

The plan must include policy recommendations for the continued operations of Maryland's existing zero carbon electric generators, produce a net economic benefit to the state and net increase in jobs, and use the 20 year GWP for methane.



# Reaching Climate Solutions Now Act Goals

Maryland now has the most ambitious near-term goal in the U.S.: 60% by '31



Long-term goal: net-zero emissions by 2045, consistent with other leaders





# Climate Solutions Now Act: Summary of Provisions

- Development of a Building Energy Performance standard (BEPS) for large buildings
- Starts a 15-month planning process to electrify all new residential and commercial buildings
- Requires that by 2030, 75% of electricity procured for use in the state facilities comes from no- or low-carbon sources
- Creation of a climate transition and clean energy hub
- Several provisions for Environmental Justice
- Support for Labor and Just Transition
- Creates a Climate Catalytic Capital Fund
- Increase percent of utilities investment in energy efficiency
- Annual assessment and report of electric distribution systems support of state climate goals
- Fund healthy soils program
- And more!

# Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022



## Transportation

- After 2025 requires purchase of electric school buses as funding (federal infrastructure funds) becomes available
- Establishes an electric school bus pilot program based on partnership between utilities and school districts
- Requires that 100% of passenger cars in the State vehicle fleet be ZEV by 2031, and other light-duty vehicles in the state fleet be ZEV by 2036.
- Calls for an evaluation of charging infrastructure needs





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# THANK YOU

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MDE Climate Change Program:

[www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange)

Maryland Commission on Climate Change:

[www.mde.maryland.gov/MCCC](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/MCCC)

## New MCCC Working Groups

- Just Transition Employment and Retraining
- Energy Industry & Revitalization
- Energy Resilience & Efficiency
- Solar PV systems recovery, reuse & recycling