



Legislation Text

File #: R-4-18, Version: 1

Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative - For the purpose of supporting the goals of the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative and calling on the State of Maryland to implement its proposals to improve our citizens' access to clean energy jobs.

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE
City of Annapolis**

Resolution 4-18

**Introduced by: Alderman Rodriguez, Mayor Buckley, Alderman Savidge,
Alderman Tierney, Alderman Arnett and Alderman Henson**

A RESOLUTION concerning

Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative

WHEREAS, clean, renewable energy creates jobs in Maryland. The state has more than 170 solar companies and over 5,400 solar jobs. The wind industry, meanwhile, has brought more than \$380 million in private investment into Maryland's economy to date. These jobs lead to good-paying careers within these industries and across related economic sectors. Increasing Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 50% renewable electricity by 2030 would support new high-paying Maryland jobs, and increase GDP due to construction of new Maryland-based renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is a coastal state with 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, thus making us one of the most vulnerable states in America to sea level rise. Climate change also means more severe storms, increased precipitation, deepening periodic droughts, and other detrimental impacts. Increasing Maryland's RPS to 50% clean power by 2030 would reduce 8.1 million metric tons of CO₂, which is the carbon equivalent of taking 1.7 million cars off the road each year; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel-based and other forms of outdated energy generation emit pollution that creates a public health crisis. Air pollution from old and carbon-intensive energy is costing Marylanders' their education and their paycheck through missed school and work and increasing health care expenses. Increasing Maryland's RPS to 50% by 2030 would improve the air in our region, preventing up to 290 premature deaths and over 3,000 asthma attacks per year; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's RPS law is a tool intended to incentivize new and clean sources of renewable energy that reduce greenhouse gases and other hazardous air and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, trash incineration emits high levels of health-hazardous air pollution, and its inclusion in the current RPS law crowds out investments in new, clean and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, certain communities - especially many communities of color - are overburdened by air and water pollution from energy generation, and are underserved by the benefits of climate action. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change has recommended that Maryland's climate action policies should improve resilience in vulnerable communities, produce public health benefits, and produce economic benefits that are equitably distributed across Maryland's population; and

WHEREAS, Maryland should enact policies that encourage the clean energy industry to grow, while seeking to increase the diversity of business owners and employees benefiting from that industry.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the Council supports the Clean Energy Jobs Initiative and its proposals: Increasing Maryland's RPS law for electricity to 50% renewable energy by 2030; Investing in clean-energy workforce development while targeting economically distressed parts of the State and individuals who have historically experienced barriers to employment; Making more funding available for investment capital and loans to help minority- and woman-owned businesses enter and grow within the clean energy economy; Phasing out incentives for the incineration of trash under Maryland's current RPS law for renewable power.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the City of Annapolis House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, and the Maryland House Speaker.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that this resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.

EXPLANATION

Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.
[~~Strikethrough~~] indicates matter stricken from existing law.