



SB 414 - Environment- Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committees

March 31, 2021

Position: Favorable

Maryland's reliance on polluting fuels puts our health and safety at risk. Our state energy policy must conserve more energy, use the energy we have wisely and efficiently, and rely only on sources of energy that are clean, renewable and tread lightly on our planet. We support SB414, the Climate Solutions Now Act, because it improves upon our state's current plan and puts us on a better path to reach these goals.

If we are serious about reducing air and water pollution and avoiding the worst effects of climate change in Maryland, we have to stop burning fossil fuels to power our homes, buildings, and transportation.

Burning fossil fuels within our homes creates [indoor and outdoor air pollution](#), which contributes to the development of respiratory diseases, heart disease and cancer. In its annual report, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommended that 50 percent of space heating equipment sales be electric heat pumps by 2025. Tok

he commission also recommended that the Maryland Building Codes Administration require new construction to be all-electric for single-family homes by 2025, commercial buildings by 2026, and public buildings as soon as possible.

On April 6th, Maryland PIRG Foundation and Environment Maryland Research and Policy Center will release a new report that delves into the latest advances in efficient electric technologies, which make going all-electric in buildings a win-win for consumers and the environment.

It's time to stop burning fossil fuels

With every day, it becomes even more clear that the impacts of global warming are accelerating. 2019 was hotter than any previous year in human history, breaking records last set in 2018 and 2017. We're feeling the effects – from severe flooding across the state and more frequent red-ozone days, to increasingly powerful storms and droughts throughout the U.S. and world.

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Globally, we must reduce emissions from all sources to zero – ideally within the next 25 years. The Mid-Atlantic states are in a position to do much more, and we should. We need to take further action to increase energy efficiency, clean up our electricity, our transportation system, our buildings and our industries.

Because scientists agree that we must stop burning virtually all fossil fuels by mid-century to tackle climate change, Environment Maryland and Maryland PIRG are committed to reducing our state's global warming emissions to zero quickly as possible. That's why state leadership, through measures like the Climate Solutions Act, are so important.

Getting on the right track

Our state's current reduction framework does not come close to accomplishing the recommended cuts in emissions that we need in order to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

This legislation puts us on the right track to achieve our climate goals by updating Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction mandate to 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045. Anything less ambitious than that simply will not be enough to combat climate change and protect Marylanders' health and safety.

You have the opportunity this session to put us on a path to a better future. A future with clean air and a livable climate. A future with efficient transportation and building, powered by clean, renewable energy.

We thank you for your leadership and urge you to vote favorably on SB414.