



Mayor and Council of Rockville

Telephone: 240-314-8870

Email: eshingara@rockvillemd.gov
CONTACT: Erica Shingara, Chief
of Environmental Management

HB 583: CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW ACT of 2021

SUPPORT

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chairs Barve and Davis and members of the House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committees for the opportunity to comment on HB 583 - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021. The Mayor and Council support HB 583 and State efforts to demonstrate climate and energy leadership.

HB 583 contains robust climate goals and a multi-pronged approach to achieving them which will benefit local governments as they invest in a clean economy and protect public health and the environment. HB 583 strengthens the current statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirement of 40 percent to 60 percent from 2006 levels by 2030 and requires the State to achieve net-zero statewide emissions by 2045.

We support the many provisions in the bill, including State commitments to purchase zero-emission vehicles in the State fleet which will foster more favorable market conditions and contract opportunities to enable local jurisdictions to transition their fleets to cleaner technologies. We also support requirements for the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to adopt new energy conservation requirements for new buildings and high-performance building standards. HB 583 also establishes strong State tree-planting goals and directs \$15 million in annual funding from the state's Bay Restoration Fund to plant 5 million trees during the next decade, including 500,000 trees in underserved, urban areas. Importantly, the bill includes environmental justice considerations to build climate equity and resilience within disproportionately affected communities and establishes a Just Transition Employment and Retraining Work Group to examine the various issues and opportunities related to job loss and creation as the State implements energy and emissions reduction measures.

We support the General Assembly's efforts to establish comprehensive state-wide action to mitigate climate change as outlined in HB 583. We urge the Committees to provide this legislation with a favorable report. We thank the Committees for considering Rockville's comments as it deliberates the merits of this legislation.