

# Smart Energy Now!

## Campaign Talking Points & Fact Sheet

Thanks to the tireless work of supporters like you, Maryland passed the strongest statewide cap on carbon in the country last year. Unfortunately, Maryland does not have a long-term plan in place to meet the goals laid out in the landmark Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act. To avoid a possible train wreck, Maryland must make smart decisions moving forward, and that's where you come in!

As a Smart Energy advocate you'll help inform the public, the press, and elected officials on the need for a comprehensive energy plan in Maryland. This handy document is designed to help you do just that.

### Talking Points

#### Building a House Without A Blueprint

- You wouldn't build a house without a blueprint but right now, Maryland agencies are making big decisions about our energy future without a comprehensive plan.
- Maryland is a national leader in cutting global warming pollution and promoting clean energy. We have committed to visionary goals that will create thousands of new jobs in Maryland and now we need a clear blueprint that charts the way towards achieving those goals.

#### Clean Energy Goals at Risk

- Without a clear blueprint, we cannot be sure we will achieve the hard-won clean energy goals of the past decade, including the most recent statewide cap on carbon passed just last year.
- Currently, the Maryland Public Service Commission considers energy proposals, like power plants or transmission lines, on a first-come, first-served basis, without comparing them to alternative means of meeting our state's energy needs such as renewable energy or energy efficiency measures.

#### Get Smart – Planning for a Clean, Affordable and Reliable Energy Future

- We are proposing a plan that would put Maryland on the path towards a clean, reliable and affordable energy future by ensuring that energy efficiency and renewable energy are on a level playing field with dirty energy options.
- To make sure we hit our clean energy goals, we're working to require the Public Service Commission to:
  - Prepare a state energy analysis every 2 years, and a long term, 10-year energy plan that ensures we will meet our state's energy needs while being consistent with all state environmental laws.
  - Follow those plans when reviewing individual energy generation and transmission proposals.

## Fact Sheet: Maryland's Energy Future and Efficiency

Getting smart about energy means using the fastest, cheapest, cleanest, and most reliable approaches to meeting Maryland's energy needs. By this measure, it's hard to find a smarter approach for keeping our lights on than energy efficiency. Increasing energy efficiency in Maryland would generate jobs, prevent the need for billions of dollars investments in new coal plants and transmission lines, and deliver long term savings to Maryland consumers on their energy bills. But without a comprehensive energy plan energy efficiency isn't being given the priority it should.

Here are some interesting facts about the benefits of energy efficiency and other clean energy options versus, new coal generation and transmission lines:

### **Efficiency = A untapped, valuable, home grown energy resource**

- The energy that Maryland homes, businesses, and industrial facilities currently waste through inefficiency represents a vast, untapped, and valuable, and local energy resource.
- In a recent study, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) found that the typical state could reduce electricity consumption by 24 percent below predicted levels in 20 years, through cost-effective energy efficiency measures.<sup>i</sup>

### **Efficiency = Jobs, Jobs, Jobs**

- Energy efficiency increases, and other clean energy advancements spurred by the implementation of Maryland's Green House Gas Emissions reduction act of 2009 would create hundreds of thousands of jobs in Maryland in the next 20 years<sup>ii</sup>.
- According to a recent study by the ACEEE, a robust national efficiency initiative could generate as many as 1 million jobs in the next 20 years<sup>iii</sup>.
- Energy efficiency jobs are good local, jobs that can't be outsourced. You can't send a house to china to have it weatherized.

### **Efficiency = Smaller Bills + stronger economy<sup>iv</sup>**

- Efficiency investments could provide the same benefits as generation from new nuclear generation for a third of the cost per kilowatt hour.
- A national level study by the ACEEE showed that a 30 billion dollar investment in energy efficiency could save the economy 100 billion dollars in natural gas costs.
- Through energy efficiency we can create more wealth consuming less energy. For example, Between 1979 and 2006 the US went from using 15,000 BTUs of energy per dollar spent to 8,750, thanks to energy efficiency improvements.

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<sup>i</sup> Maryland PIRG Foundation. *Energy Saved, Dollars Earned: Real-World Examples of How Energy Efficiency Can Benefit Maryland Consumers*. January 2008, 11.

<sup>ii</sup> International Center for Sustainable Development, *Economic Development Potential of Clean Energy Technology in Maryland and Feasibility Study for a Maryland Clean Energy Center*. December, 2006.

<sup>iii</sup> American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. *Energy Efficiency in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009: Impacts of Current Provisions and Opportunities to Enhance the Legislation*. September 2009.

<sup>iv</sup> Maryland PIRG Foundation. *Energy Saved, Dollars Earned: Real-World Examples of How Energy Efficiency Can Benefit Maryland Consumers*. January 2008.