



## Western Maryland Public Meeting Comments

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

### ***What do you want from this meeting?***

1. Glad the Commission is in western Maryland and she hopes that the state has a better understanding of the concerns of mountain Maryland
2. What is the base year for the emissions goals? Lower than what it was in 2006
3. Why was 2006 chosen as the base year? Because the commission started in 2007 and our most current inventory was for 2006 and other states have similar goals but have different starting dates and you need to make even with the other states.
4. The 25% is based on renewables (and conservations) and yet 18 of the 22 counties already prohibit industrial wind farms so how do we get to those numbers without their buy in?
5. The documents reference forests but Maryland doesn't have protections or zoning for forests. There are no CCCs in place for forests

### ***PUBLIC COMMENTS***

#1, Steven Buckingham, Frederick county minister: the earth is our home and life on this planet will be impacted unless we have new tactics. As UU, we work with other faiths to balance between individual needs and other organisms. To live we must consume and dispose and we need to burden it less to maintain the essentials of our lives and respond from our moral and spiritual life. Strongly support the GGRA because it balances environmental and economic needs and we urge a continuation and strengthening of the current plan. We live in western Maryland because we love living near nature and dot want to see it destroyed or degraded for profits.

#2, Ann Briston, Marcellus shale safeguard tats force: in a report about methane gas is similar to what we are seeing in Garrett county, 10,000 pounds Of fugitive gas emissions. Maryland must have baseline numbers before it moves forward with natural gas. Two assessments, life cycle and baseline should be looked at so that alternative energies aren't negated as a true bridge.

#3, Barbara Beeler, friends of deep creek lake: broaden the programs for bay to include all waterways in the state. Invasive species reduction adaptive features so that we are managing the waterways because they are impacted by the climate changes.

#4, Sen. Roger Manno: he is now on the AELR committee and has a concern. Gov. Hogan repealed the nitrogen oxide regulation in his second day in office which has never been

done in 400 years. So he is not publishing the regulations even though it has passed and this is a negative impact on the GGRA as they are the law of Maryland and has to go through emergency regulations.

#5, Mark Stuzman, Engage Mountain Maryland: a town in Garrett County no longer draws gas and covers 50 square miles and holds and distributes gas in winter months and 80 well bores and releases 10,000 pounds of methane into the atmosphere. Would like to work with the state as a citizen group to help reduce emissions. With Maryland's intent to reduce emissions so the GGRA should recommend to repeal fracking in the state in two years.

#6, Woody Getz, as an individual from Frostburg: member of an elected body works with MEA for the smart energy community program. Wants to look at the top down regulation opportunities and grassroots work bottom up. Frostburg worked to generate own electricity and use less electricity by 2022 and the community can pick the mix. Anyway that that kind of model can be applied throughout the state would be ideal for the GGRA.

#7, Eric Robison, safe western Maryland (wind turbine lawsuit): looking at the time frame for public comment really bothers him. There are so many components and impacts that can't be distilled in two minutes and especially in Appalachia since those people aren't necessarily able to make comments in the time frame or can't write but are tremendously impacted so we need more outreach to more areas of the state.

Stuart: In an effort to address that, we are planning to go throughout the state to discuss the report, we captured your email addresses to send the draft to you prior to completion and we plan on staying in touch with a work plan for 2016 to come back out to hear in more depth. Also we need your help to identify who is missing from the conversations.

#8, Michael Weddle, physician and Garrett County resident and homeowner: concerned with fracking on value to home and the impacts on climate change. Studies in Nature, Scientific America, Journal for Climate Change, Cornell University there are a bunch of studies. In 2008, there was a 90% reduction of GGRA by 2050 and that would be tremendously helpful.

#9, Reverend Karen Crosby, St. Johns in Frostburg: they have been in Allegany since 1840 and have a historical connection to coal. The companies are scraping every remnant of coal to put

The church is working to reduce plastic at meals, reroof and rewired the church and want to look into solar on the panels but located in a historic district so that may be a concern and something the GGRA could think about. Looking to strengthen the GGRA. Frostburg did just approve solar panels for businesses and resident in the historic district.

#10, Natalie Atherton: we need a revolution because this is a huge issue and yet we are just talking about band aids. We need to have a moral revolution and we can't keep working within the confines of over consumptive lifestyles. Don't trade the smaller things and let people pollute.

#11, Tim Whitehouse, poolville Maryland and PSR: encourage a 2050 vision of 90% reduction of gg emissions and how to engage residents as energy consumers seeing themselves as producers. Also recognizing low income communities since they are impacted most and worst and the principal has been recognized but we have some of the most portly controlled coal plants in the country and the MDE regulations are a big step backwards to ensure that the coal plants have the strongest restrictions in place and the actions need to be in existence. There needs to be an honest assessment of the barriers that make changes difficult. Hope the commission makes the distinction between renewable meaning no GG emissions and those things like incineration and biomass because they do pollute and aren't truly renewable

#12, William Neil: the time you ask for doesn't exist, two minutes isn't enough. We are boxed into corners and slow and careful dialogue is how we have been working with since abolitionist and FDR working against fascist issues and we continue to slow path. Public and private investments for natural gas need to be used for solar and renewable. 1. Say no to fracking 2. We need a public investment like solar city. 3. We will have to undergo a Pearl Harbor catastrophe to get people to change. "The time does not exist" - James Baldwin quote so we need to work now and quickly. We are way behind.

#13, Marcia Tirocke, resident: 3 years ago moved to Garrett county and have never been happier. Thinking of fracking frightens her and we need to be focusing on renewable energy. There are No safety protocols or state of the art clean up materials and all the companies do is try to hide the destruction. "This is obviously some strange use of the word safe I want previously aware of" - hitchhikers guide to the galaxy

#14, Derek Johnson: solar panels on his house when he first moved to Garrett but only leases them through sungevity. There is no reason why every south facing, unobstructive roof can't have solar collectors on them. Garrett county seems to have the most renewable energy in the state - just signed 3 contracts for solar and they will be providing more energy than the county government uses. There should be more of these models. He produces about half the energy he uses now and the rest comes from Ethical electric.

#15, Additional Comments

: zero ware is very important and we need to vamp up the efforts in western Maryland

#16, Jim guy, fracking opponent and systems engineer: he is concerned about misinformation and people who are influenced by big interest and monetary issues. Is possible to have a peer reviewed journal reading list to share with people and ask them to read it so they are better informed.

Idea for outreach: small group discussion, simulate the kitchen table