

**Remaining Submitted Recommendations for Mitigation Working Group to Discuss at 11.4.20 meeting.**

Recommendations that were discussed and approved at the 10/6 GHGMWG meeting were presented to the full Climate Commission on 10/27. One was returned for further consideration by this group and is included below.

Remaining Discussion Items:

**1. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Goals and other Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) Plan Provisions and Implementation:**

1.3: [MWG decided to revise on 10/6; REVISED VERSION STILL TO COME\*\*]  
Sierra Club: MCCC should recommend that the General Assembly require climate change actions by all state agencies.

**2. Environmental Justice and Climate Justice** [all items resolved and advanced to Commission]:

**3. Transportation Sector:**

3.2: [Climate Commission requests the MWG address local transit buses, as well; potential language added] To improve transit service and reduce emissions from buses, and building upon MDOT/MTA's early zero emissions bus deployments, MDOT/MTA should:

- a. Reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance projects in the MTA Capital Needs Inventory over the next six years in order to adequately serve the public and reduce vehicles on the road;
- b. Continue to accelerate zero emission bus purchases, such that all new state bus purchases are zero emissions starting in 2025; and
- c. Continue to expand ZEV options on State-administered master contracts available for purchase by county transit systems and collaborate with county systems on infrastructure deployment.

3.7: [Climate Commission requests the GHGMWG address the state fleet, as well] Maryland and the Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Council (ZEEVIC) should continue to support zero emissions private vehicles by supporting the strongest

legally possible vehicle emission standards and opposing Federal rollbacks, promote and/or require charging infrastructure in multi-family dwellings, and support continued and expanded incentives for purchase of zero emissions vehicles, designed to benefit low-income, underserved, and over-burdened communities.

#### **4. Electricity Sector:**

4.1: LCV/TNC/NRDC: The Public Service Commission and other relevant agencies and commissions should participate in a detailed study around the current function of our grid and necessary changes to create a more customer-centered, affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable energy system. The PSC can draw heavily on the experience of the PC-44 process to address current and predicted issues related to resilience, reliability, cost, deep decarbonization and technological advancements.

4.2: LCV/TNC/NRDC: Require the Public Service Commission to complete a cost-benefit analysis of energy storage that incorporates energy and non-energy benefits as well as avoided costs from storage deployment.

4.3: LCV/TNC/NRDC: Develop a megawatt or megawatt hour storage mandate based on peak shaving/shifting and integration of renewable sources. Other states have used 5% of summer peak energy to develop their goals.

4.5: LCV/TNC/NRDC & SC: Reintroduce HB 531 (2019) that requires the Public Service Commission to take a more active role in energy planning and elevate climate change as a component of all decision making.

4.7: LCV/TNC/NRDC: Double the net metering cap to 3,000 MW to accommodate continued growth of the Community Solar Program and roof top solar projects.

4.8: LCV/TNC/NRDC & SC: The General Assembly should establish a clear, enforceable schedule to responsibly manage Maryland's transition off its remaining coal-fired power plants by no later than 2030, including the creation of a workforce and community transition plan to support laid-off workers and impacted communities.

4.9: LCV/TNC/NRDC & SC: The General Assembly should set forth a 100% clean energy by 2040 plan that is made up of clean, renewable electricity from wind, solar, and storage technologies, and focused on providing the benefits of clean energy to overburdened and underserved communities first.

4.10: LCV/TNC/NRDC & SC: The Commission should recommend the Governor and state agencies halt the construction or permitting of any gas-fired power plants in the state that are not already online and fully operational.

4.11: MDA/DNR: Use waste from managed forests and the lumber industry in Maryland for energy. Need to ensure the demand for biomass would not



contribute to unsustainable forest management practices that would deplete forest carbon stocks over the long run.

4.12: MDA/DNR: Animal waste to energy projects reduce on-farm waste, produce valuable energy supplies for the farm and grid (qualify as Tier 1 renewables), and create marketable nutrient by-products that can supply organic matter and micronutrient applications for crop fields.

#### 5. Buildings Sector:

5.3: Maryland should target 50% of space heater sales to be electric heat pumps (air source or ground source) by 2025.

The General Assembly should direct the Public Service Commission to ensure that EmPOWER programs, incentives, and implementation plans are sufficient to meet a target of 50% of space heater sales being electric heat pumps (air source or ground source) by 2025.

[Returned for further consideration by MCCC on 10/27]

5.4: New Buildings and State Buildings [MWG decided to revise on 10/6;  
\*\*REVISED VERSION STILL TO COME\*\*]

#### 6. Natural and Working Lands; Sequestration:

6.1: LCV/TNC/NRDC: Develop a sequestration mandate, based on the technical study completed by the Harry RnHughes Center for Agro-Ecology, with approved techniques to increase sequestration. Focus on why our sequestration has remained consistent over the course of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. Potentially to be discussed in conjunction with the Adaptation Working Group.

6.4: MDA/DNR: Develop and implement programs to protect soils and build carbon stocks and attract private investment through payments for carbon credits and other ecosystem services as public awareness grows and markets evolve.

#### 7. Short-Lived Climate Pollutants:

7.2: [Revised version from MDE-TNC follow up]

MDE should update its supplemental GHG inventory estimating the impact of methane pollution leaking from natural gas production and distribution systems using the latest available estimates of leakage rates, and under the latest versions of both the 20-year global warming potential and 100-year global warming potential for methane.

#### 8. Process:

8.1: NAIOP: Create a sequencing plan that prioritizes the order of policy implementation.

8.3: NAIOP: Establish MWG policy discouraging assigning issues to subgroups and utilizing third party facilitators when subgroups are formed.



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