

Maryland is Serious About Addressing Climate Change

How the Maryland Commission on Climate Change is preparing our state

With 3,100 miles of shoreline, Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to climate change, and we're already seeing its impacts. The good news: Maryland is also a climate change leader, thanks in large part to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC).

The MCCC includes state agency professionals, scientists, business and economic leaders, educators and public health and environmental advocates — all working together to help Maryland limit greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, adapt to climate change impacts and protect our residents and our economy as we prepare for the future.

The MCCC is chaired by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, Ben Grumbles. The MCCC advises the Governor and the General Assembly and engages with the public on the status of the state's efforts to mitigate the causes of, prepare for and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes future plans and recommendations for legislation, if any, to be considered by the General Assembly.

WHY MUST WE ACT?

Reducing greenhouse gases and other air pollutants and adapting to climate change will protect our environment, health and economy — including tourism, agriculture, private property and public infrastructure.

Maryland's balanced approach to climate change includes improvements to the economy, new and retained jobs and continued progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

MARYLAND IS ALREADY EXPERIENCING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING:



SEA-LEVEL RISE

Sea-level rise of more than one foot in the last century, causing increased coastline flooding and erosion.



WATER TEMPERATURE

Increasing water temperatures in the Chesapeake Bay, which reduces suitable habitat for blue crab and oysters.



HEAVY RAINS

More frequent heavy rain and flooding events, which can devastate local communities.



HEAT WAVES & DROUGHT

Intensifying heat waves and drought, which damage agricultural crops, raise energy bill costs and put vulnerable populations at risk.



TOURISM IMPACTS

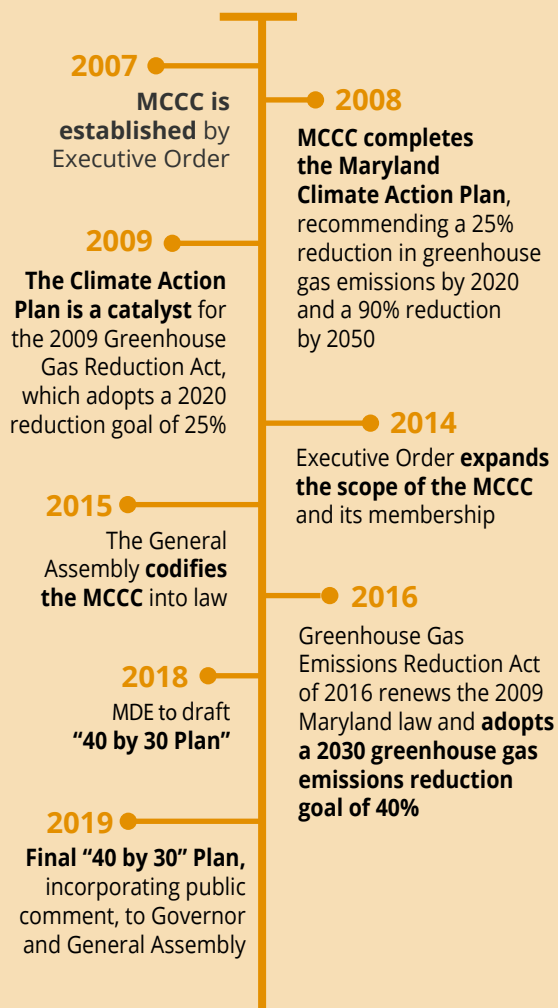
Climate change impacts threaten tourism through reduced opportunities for winter snow sports and loss of beach coastline.

If we don't address climate change, Chesapeake Bay restoration goals will be more difficult to achieve. Biodiversity of plants and animals associated with forests is likely to decline. Rapidly changing habitats may force more than 30 bird species away from their Maryland ranges, including the iconic Baltimore Oriole.



Events such as the devastating 2016 Ellicott City flash flood could become more frequent in the future.

MCCC TIMELINE



The MCCC uses the best science available to prepare for climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. MCCC members are dedicated to informing Marylanders about climate change and protecting all — including our most vulnerable citizens — from the impacts of climate change.

The MCCC is made up of 26 members representing state agencies, the legislature, local government, businesses, environmental non-profit organizations, organized labor, philanthropic interests and the state university system. Their efforts are supported by a steering committee and four working groups, composed of members who also represent both public and private interests in climate change. The four working groups are:

- 1. Mitigation:** Focusing on regulatory, voluntary and market-based programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting economic development and job creation.
- 2. Adaptation and Response:** Advancing a strategy to reduce Maryland's climate change vulnerability and increase resiliency.
- 3. Scientific and Technical:** Updating and informing the MCCC on the science of climate change.
- 4. Education, Communication and Outreach:** Enhancing public outreach about climate change and educating Marylanders about work to address its causes and impacts.

The MCCC recognizes that climate change is a global problem and that Maryland's programs and policies must be part of a larger climate action plan. Maryland's efforts contribute to national and international commitments to reduce the impacts of global climate change and can serve as a model to inspire similar action from our neighboring states.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE?



For more information, including meeting calendars and contact information, please visit the Maryland Commission on Climate Change website at:

www.mde.maryland.gov/mccc