

NAACP Maryland State Conference Environmental and Climate Justice 2023 Session Summary

The NAACP Maryland State Conference Environmental and Climate Justice Committee supports legislation that invests in renewable energy sources, preventing and fighting environmental racism. We work at the state level to educate our membership and constituents on legislative campaigns to help pass renewable energy and energy efficiency standards. Simultaneously, we work at the local level with businesses, unions, similarly-goaled organizations, and others on developing projects to ensure communities of color access revenue-generating opportunities in the new energy economy while providing safer, more sustainable mechanisms for managing energy needs for our communities and beyond. We support legislation that invests in clean, accessible transportation, reduces fossil fuel pollution, improves energy equity, and combats the harms of environmental racism. This summary gives an overview of the legislation we supported in 2023 and the legislative outcomes.

PASSED

- **The Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources (POWER) Act** ([SB 781/HB 793](#)) - This legislation supports the expansion of offshore wind power by setting an offshore wind goal of 8.5 GW by 2031, initiating a state process to build coordinated transmission infrastructure, and investing in the full-build out of the existing offshore wind lease areas.
- **Energy Savings Act** ([SB 781/HB 904](#)) - This legislation builds on Maryland's successful EMPOWER program by altering the goals of the program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase electrification.
- **Sustainable Buildings Act** ([SB 92/HB 6](#)) This legislation will update the building requirements and standards to conserve energy and reduce impacts on birds. It also increases funding for energy efficiency improvements for low-income Marylanders, such as new insulation, better windows, and LED light bulbs.
- **Energy Efficiency for Low-Income Households** ([SB 524/HB 169](#)) - This legislation will ensure low and medium-income Maryland households have access to the benefits of existing energy efficiency and conservation programs.
- **Low and moderate-income (LMI) Energy Efficiency Act** ([SB 144/HB 169](#)) - This legislation will support LMI households to lower their energy bills, improve energy efficiency and have healthier home environments.
- **Permanent Community Solar** ([SB 613/HB 908](#)) - This legislation will support the long-term continuation of the Community Solar Pilot Program, which helps low- and moderate-income customers access the advantages of renewable energy.

DID NOT PASS

- **The Climate and Environmental Equity Act of 2023** ([SB 743/HB 840](#)) - This legislation sought to help end environmental racism by strengthening the process to obtain permits for projects that threaten our air, land, water, and people.
- **The Maryland the Beautiful Act** ([SB 791/HB 1031](#)) - This legislation sought to conserve a significant portion of Maryland's land as green spaces and ensure equitable access to the greenspaces.
- **The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023** ([SB 590/HB 718](#)) - This legislation sought to exclude energy derived from trash incineration from being eligible to be classified as renewable energy.