

NAACP
Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE



DISCOVERY REPORT

**A Roadmap for Environmental and Climate Justice Committees
Across the NAACP Maryland State Conference**

Foreword

It is 2022 and the effects of Climate Change are harming Black and Brown people first and worst. The NAACP, the leading force for civil and human rights, is taking action and empowering Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Committees to help the Maryland State Conference (MSC) uncover and denounce current infractions, work to eliminate, and build resiliency and readiness for an uncertain future.

This document is built on primary and secondary research from interviews with NAACP MSC Branch Presidents and ECJ Committee Chairs. It presents a guide or roadmap, outlining the current situation across Maryland and across the NAACP, and the key ECJ issues that dominate in each county. This document does not pretend to be exhaustive of all issues in each Branch or prescriptive in its outset. It intends to provide an effective starting point, based on many years of environmental activism, for evolving NAACP-MSC-ECJ committees to build on and develop their own most effective organization.

Due to the number of ECJ issues in Maryland, counties are grouped by region and each region has been assigned, as a recommendation, one or two key ECJ goals on which to lead. While most Branches suffer from all issues, it would be overwhelming for each to try to address them all. By grouping ECJ committees regionally, we can show a united front, stronger numbers, and effectively home in on core issues without overburdening already busy volunteers. The issues have been grouped into the following categories: Food & Farming; Groundwater Pollution; Air Pollution; Superfund Sites; CAFOs; Gas and Pipelines; Green Energy Access and Training.

All key sources of information are linked to give each committee the option to investigate issues further. The report also lists potential local coalition members to grow strength in numbers; it lays out the goal and steps to start tackling each topic; and it outlines potential recruitment (capacity building), outreach, and communications methods.

This report was commissioned by the NAACP Maryland State Conference
Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.
Research and Data compiled by:



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The Situation in Maryland

[Maryland](#) has 6.156 million residents, 49% of whom identify as White alone, 31.4% Black alone, 11.1% Latino and 6.9% Asian, with Native Americans and Pacific Islanders less than a full percentage point. Black and Brown people are the majority.

[86% of all Marylanders believe that climate change is happening](#) (compared to the national average of 63%) and more than three-quarters support their local and state governments taking action—especially regarding renewable sources for energy (69%). Most residents would like the government to protect their community against harm caused by climate change. A total of 64% have stated that they feel their environment has changed and 51% say the weather has been getting worse. Less than 13 percent oppose governmental action.

In contrast, public awareness of some of the state's major sustainability policies is highly variable – ranging between 16% -70% who say they have heard of the initiatives – but a majority of Marylanders express support for nearly all of the policies assessed in the survey.

That said, a [March 2022 poll from Goucher College](#) indicated respondents were less likely to assign “major” impacts from climate change, including on human health, fishing and agriculture industries, and on air quality, suggesting that more education is needed to increase understanding of the urgency of dealing with climate change.

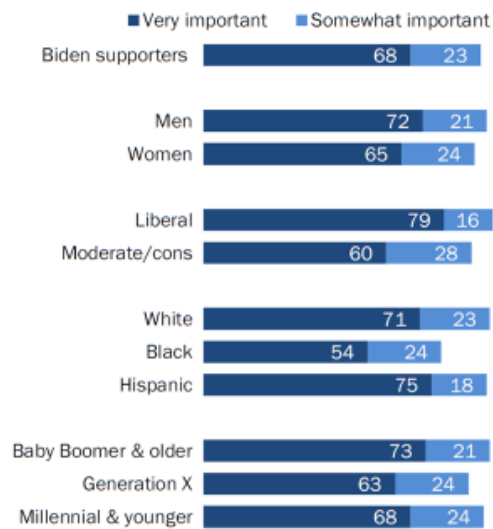
A [Pew Research Center pre-election survey](#) in October of 2020 showed that climate change concern correlates with liberal political views. Nearly seven-in-10 Biden voters (68%) said climate change is very important to their vote. By contrast, only 11% of Trump supporters said the same. In fact, climate change ranked last in importance (out of 12 issues tested in a recent survey) for Trump supporters. Climate change ranked higher on the minds of White and Hispanic than Black Biden voters. About half of Black Biden supporters (54%) considered climate change to be very important to their vote; larger shares of Hispanic (75%) and White (71%) Biden supporters said the same.

For the Black voter, the Coronavirus pandemic was the most important issue, followed by discrimination and racial justice, according to the [2020 American Election Eve Poll](#). This is hardly surprising considering that the poll took place at the height of the pandemic which disproportionately impacted the Black community and during the height of the George Floyd and Black Lives Matter protests. Interestingly, the poll also highlights that the drivers of change in America are young voters of color who have shown a strong commitment to ensuring that the country deliver better health coverage, equitable economic opportunity, and comprehensive criminal justice reform.

*This is where we, the NAACP at large,
and the NAACP's Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) committee needs to focus.*

Climate change broadly viewed as an important issue among Biden voters

% of Biden supporters who say climate change is _____ to their vote in the 2020 presidential election

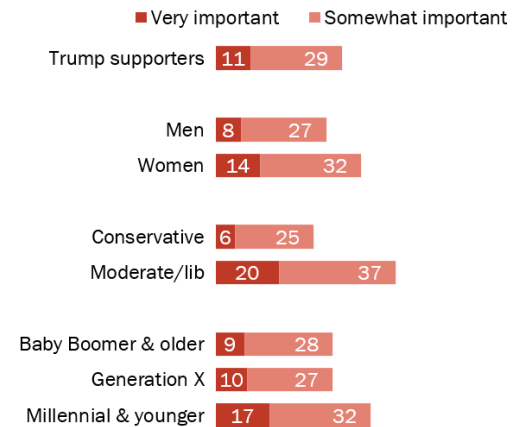


Note: Based on registered voters. Supporters of each candidate are based on those who say they are planning on or are leaning toward voting for that candidate in 2020. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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Small shares of Trump voters say climate is very important to their vote

% of Trump supporters who say climate change is _____ to their vote in the 2020 presidential election



Note: Based on registered voters. Supporters of each candidate are based on those who say they are planning on or are leaning toward voting for that candidate in 2020.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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The Situation in the NAACP - Maryland State Conference (MSC)

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the oldest, best recognized, and most effective Civil Rights movement and protection organization. Its mission is “to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.” The NAACP website states it has over 2,000,000 activists in 2,200 locations—only about 0.6% of the country’s population!

While the NAACP is the historical catalyst advancing civil rights, its perception of relevance—60 years after its most famous fight for freedom—has diminished according to [some](#). This is because Black people are now being more commonly seen in public office, schools have been desegregated, and many core goals have been achieved. However, there still is an enormous amount of work to be done here in Maryland and across the country. The NAACP currently appears to appeal more to an older and more conservative group of mainly Democratic Black and multiracial people, while younger generations engage mostly with more progressive liberal activist movements such as Black Lives Matter and 350.

The issues NAACP is fighting for today are deeply rooted in its history and are still acutely felt in the Black and Brown community: policing, justice systems, poor health outcomes, education, transit, housing, economic development. It is then understandable that climate change does not rank as a major issue amongst most Black Marylanders—the immediate fight for survival comes first. Environmental and Climate Justice is not yet fully understood as a force multiplier that intersects and connects with traditional NAACP committees.

While appealing to a younger crowd, the MSC-ECJ communications efforts need to take care to elevate older constituents, not to alienate them. For that purpose, one of the underlying messages through all recruitment campaigns must emphasize the origins, the recognition, and the pride of being a member of the NAACP, the oldest and most effective civil rights organization in the world. We can do this by reminding younger generations that the NAACP is the institution that coined the methods for advocacy and protest that are now used by the younger generation for the civil rights movement and for the climate movement. We can have a messaging series, connecting these generations and reminding all audiences that the NAACP is the home and founder of grassroots activism, social justice, and now climate justice.

This too, is where we must focus NAACP-ECJ messaging.

II. A. NAACP – MSC Opportunities

Based on several interviews with NAACP MSC leaders, we have identified several opportunities that can immediately be addressed through a series of strategies:

1) Leadership

The current structure within the NAACP gives traditional civil rights issues priority, leaving younger members in some branches feeling disengaged or even less important than the older guard. Opening leadership positions to **more ages and issues**, and elevating younger, highly engaged, and passionate people, will infuse new vigor into the institution. A more vigorous membership will also reframe many current issues that the NAACP advocates for and help raise awareness among the general public. It may clarify how issues currently impact the Black community and achieve a clearer and more dominant positioning in the minds of current members and the public.

2) Access

The NAACP must put security and safety first and has done so in a very effective manner. However, the efforts to protect members have led to a level of protectionism of data that can hamper operation, outreach, and engagement with members at a local, regional, and national level. (Contact information, demographics, phone numbers, etc.)

A directed yet anonymous outreach effort, such as a survey, could help. An anonymous survey could obtain basic information, ask for suggestions, interest in issues and committees or in serving in leadership positions, and ask about member talents, objectives, and connections. It could be a part of the on-boarding process for new members or for members no longer financial with the organization.

A simple avatar system could also be implemented for a chat forum, and to issue calls to action and to activism. This would address concerns of safety and security of the membership base. Developing and giving access to NAACP members to a unique and dedicated messaging tool could become a recruitment perk.

3) Intake and Training

The NAACP-MSC currently does not have access to data on recruitment, growth, or demographics of our Branches. After signing up with the NAACP, the new member receives a welcome e-mail and a membership card in the mail. But that is where new-member engagement ends at the state level. There is no personal outreach, exploration of talents, connections, personal goals and objectives and no training of new membership. Some branches engage in outreach however, the process is not consistent within the State.

The desire is for each member of the NAACP, new or existing, to be fully engaged and involved to the extent comfortably feasible. Every member should be able to speak in an informed manner about the committees and procedures of the NAACP and represent it effectively. Not knowing who many of the members are at Branch and State levels, makes it virtually impossible to create effective outreach programs. If we don't know who has what talents, education, profession, connections, needs, wants, and objectives, we cannot use these talents and knowledge which demotivates (new) members and impacts recruitment.

Branch chairs should be provided with a consistent intake protocol to get to know new members and direct them to the most fitting committee. In addition, each committee should be directed to the National online style guide which includes templates for social media outreach. At the Branch level, we should add a toolbox to include:

- statistics and data
- speaking points (to be updated on an as-needed basis according to a shared issues calendar)
- virtual training modules for advocacy, outreach, legislative proceedings, etc. to effectively welcome and engage new members.

4) Committees

As a result of traditional leadership, issue-based committees are also framed in a traditional way. This complicates the development of new committees such as Environmental & Climate Justice. By informing and educating leadership and existing members of the NAACP about environmental and climate injustices as a force multiplier to existing issues, intersecting with all of NAACP's traditional committees, we can show that ECJ is a very pressing matter. This may be best accomplished through communications that have an emotional appeal, such as personal stories, backed up by objective data.

5) Capacity

Once leadership and members have been informed and committed to ECJ, the NAACP must undertake an expansive recruitment effort across the MSC to grow capacity, especially among the younger Black and Brown generations. Grassroots outreach and basic familiarization to position the NAACP as a powerful, proud, and vibrant leadership organization should start at middle and high-school levels if not earlier.

III. MSC Environmental and Climate Justice Committee

A. ECJ Opportunities

We have a unique opportunity to expand and re-invigorate the NAACP-MSJ by connecting with the fundamental global climate movement: On one hand the movement for ECJ is driven by a very engaged, vocal, activist, progressive, liberal youth. On the other hand, the NAACP is the trailblazer that coined activist methods and tactics and is the flagship for equality of rights for the Black and Brown population.

The MSC-ECJ can make this connection and reposition the NAACP in the minds of all Marylanders as a core force in the fight against climate change and Climate Injustice. The ECJ Committee needs to:

- 1) focus on youth;
- 2) educate all new and existing members on the intersections of the committees;
- 3) provide the data and the tools to highlight climate injustice as a force multiplier; and,
- 4) train new and existing members on how to identify infractions and activate the base.

B. Strategy

1) Recruitment

NAACP at large must implement a member recruitment campaign that will appeal to the younger and activist population. This will require a more modern and spunky vocabulary and graphic execution of all points of contact with our target audience. This will include messaging, portrayal of a younger and more diverse audience, and focus on the core issues that youth (specifically Millennials and Gen-Z, which includes age range 10-41) are most concerned about: [racial justice \(particularly policing\) and climate change](#). The best (and cheapest) platform to reach these audiences on is online, through pre-roll and social media. Video clips will be key, and NAACP should explore a PSA (Public Service Announcement) campaign with the Ad Council. We can then edit footage and PSAs into social media clips. This type of online messaging can pave the way for grassroots engagement in schools and universities and leisure sites. Depending on budget, out of home (“OOH,” such as billboards, transit posters, etc.) should also be considered. Earned media – including articles, media appearances, influencer connections and endorsements by thought leaders of all ethnicities will be key.

2) Messaging

Messaging needs to mirror the above outlined format and platforms of the NAACP. Within the MSC, ECJ must focus on local issues and personal stories to generate an understanding of how climate change is exacerbating civil and human right injustices and to create an emotional

connection with the specific ECJ infractions. This will also help existing and new members understand climate injustice as a civil and human rights infraction and show the intersection of the existing committees with ECJ.

For Example – some backstories that can be dynamically and quickly related in formats discussed above (i.e., video clips) will consist of representatives speaking directly to camera, creating an emotional appeal through visuals and making personal connections.

Example 1. Shashawnda and her friends have asthma and cannot form a High School basketball team. They have asthma because the Wheelabrator was built in the middle of their Black and Brown neighborhood and continues to spew toxic mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides into the air – hurting them first and worst.

Example 2. Tess, her sister Linda, and mother Beatrix, all have cancer. They live in the Lothian community which has three mining operations, two landfills, and continued heavy truck traffic which exposes their Black and Brown neighborhood of Lothian to unsafe levels of toxins that have quadrupled the cancer rate in their community.

Thus, local ECJ topics need to be simply and succinctly explained by impacted members of the NAACP, making a direct call to action to join the fight in a way that appeals to young and diverse audiences. Locating individuals, families, and groups who can provide real ECJ testimonials and background stories will be key. In addition, MSC-ECJ branch committees will be provided the tools to amplify these voices, including:

- Consistent and clear speaking points and data about the issue (i.e., air pollution and impacts) and real local examples which must be updated regularly.
- Presentations, available online or in person.
- Training on outreach and advocacy.
- Leveraging of local programs such as junior youth councils and youth councils and providing these with information and ECJ and tools to expand across MSC.
- Coordination with other branches who have the same issues, i.e., water pollution occurs across the entire state. Letting one region take the lead and represent all will deepen the understanding and increase pressure on public officials and corporations.
- Leveraging partner organizations – from Sunrise to BLM to Audubon – and creating communal programs that can be implemented while expanding membership. NAACP activists can become the facilitators for many environmental movements by highlighting environmental injustices.

IV. ECJ – Branch Level

There are many national NAACP ECJ policies that Maryland can adopt, especially the focus on transitioning jobs to a new and green economy, such as offshore wind generation and solar training and maintenance; new building code control and implementation; green transit development; land ownership; infrastructure & access – including health & education.

A. Grouping

In our surveys it has become clear that regions will require a grouping of the counties until there is a larger NAACP base in each branch to create and run its own ECJ committee. We have also found that there are some white retired people who are self-defined “stand-ins” until a younger Black or Brown person can take the lead (i.e., Allegany, Dorchester, Worcester). Some of the counties who do have an ECJ chair want to pull members mostly from their health committees. Most counties, however, do not have a chair yet. In fact, the recruitment of younger, more engaged Marylanders will be key in the generation of these committees. (*Note: The county statistics used here were found at <https://www.maryland-demographics.com/>.)

B. ECJ Issues

The goal of this discovery report is to give new ECJ committees across the MSC a running start, highlighting ECJ infractions for each county so each branch can directly address the best way to tackle them. The number of ECJ infractions in each county is simply overwhelming. Considering the small number of MSC-ECJ committee members, the counties have been grouped by region (based on geography and statistical overlap) and assigned one to two core ECJ issues so that they can take the lead.

For example, Central Maryland has the most Superfund sites and the highest levels of air pollution caused by industry and transportation. For those reasons, the Central Maryland region should lead the fight on these two topics. However, that does not mean that the Eastern Shore doesn't have air pollution (mostly from CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)) or that the Superfund sites in Garrett, Frederick, or Harford County are any less egregious. The lead on each topic can obtain localized data and call upon other ECJ committees for help. This discovery report is not exhaustive but sets forth a roadmap for each branch ECJ committee. All sources are hyperlinked so that each new ECJ branch committee can obtain any additional information and background.

C. Regions

Following is the suggested breakdown of which counties will lead the way on which ECJ issues:

1. **Western Maryland:** Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Carroll (*) Counties

Groundwater pollution & food and farming

() While Carroll County doesn't usually fall into the Western Maryland category, their ECJ issues and demographic distribution make it more apt to be in that region.*

2. **Central Maryland:** Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City

Superfund sites & air pollution (smog)

3. **Southern Maryland:** Calvert, Charles, Saint Mary's Counties

Gas (LNG facility at Cove Point) & Cove Point Pipeline (in cooperation with Southern Eastern Shore's DelMar pipeline) and water pollution (PFAs & sinkholes)

4. **Eastern Maryland** - North Harford, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, and Talbot Counties

Solar and Wind- access and training

5. **Eastern Shore - South:** Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties

CAFOs (& DelMar Pipeline)

D. Shared Concerns

Shared concerns among the NAACP Branch leadership includes:

- 1) Lack of knowledge as to where and what environmental issues are in the counties.
- 2) Lack of understanding about what these issues mean: how do they affect health, income, etc.?
- 3) Lack of understanding of structural and environmental racism – how this multiplies the pernicious effects on the Black and Brown community. Through a deep dive into the regional demographic, health, and income data we will show how these infractions are sited across the Black and Brown community and disproportionately affects the Black and Brown community.

V. Western Maryland

The Western Maryland group includes Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll Counties. Fred Chavis, the Washington County NAACP branch president, is starting to shape an ECJ committee. Mr. Chavis may be able to run the program regionally until NAACP-MS-ECJ has a broader base to pull from. Both the Frederick County Branch President and the Carroll County Branch President are also keen to create an ECJ committee.

There are two key concerns in which the Western Counties in Maryland can take the lead as they appear to dominate this region:

- Groundwater contamination
- Food and farming

As mentioned, this does not mean that other issues are not present, but there are too many to be tackled by each branch.

A. The Counties: Statistics and Insights

Garrett County

With 29,155 people, Garrett County is the third smallest (and shrinking) county in Maryland out of 24 counties. The largest Garrett County racial/ethnic groups are White (96.2%) followed by Hispanic (1.2%) and Black (1.2%). In 2020, the median household income of Garrett County households was \$54,542. Garrett County households made slightly more than Baltimore city/county households (\$52,164) and Dorchester County households (\$52,799). However, 6.1% of Garrett County families live in poverty. The median age for Garrett County residents is 46.8.

The Black and Brown community is small (348 Black people in a total population of 28,800) and the county has a history of racism as exemplified by a human [lynching effigy](#) found in July 2020 and [KKK](#) encounters.

Allegany County

There are 72,002 Allegany County residents, most of whom are White (86.6%) followed by Black (8.2%) and Two or More (2.2%). In 2020, the median household income of Allegany County households was \$49,449. However, 10.1% of Allegany County families live in poverty. The median age for Allegany County residents is 41.4 years.

While there are nearly 6,000 Black people living in the County, few attend NAACP meetings. This could be due to geographical dispersion and lack of transit. The branch has a “self-identified stand-in ECJ chair” until a younger and ideally Black and Brown one can be found.

Washington County

With 150,575 people, Washington County is the 11th most populous county in Maryland. The largest racial/ethnic groups in Washington County are white (78.0%) followed by Black (10.7%) and Hispanic (5.4%). In 2020, the median income of Washington County households was \$63,510. However, 8.8% of Washington County families live in poverty. The median age for Washington County residents is 40.7 years.

The county has recently launched a [Clean County Initiative](#) with several interesting programs and a whopping 4,164,489 lbs. of trash removed from its land and waterways since 2019.

Frederick County

With 255,955 people, Frederick is the 7th most populated county in Maryland. The largest racial/ethnic groups in Frederick County are White (72.4%) followed by Hispanic (10.0%) and Black (9.5%). In 2020, the median household income of Frederick County was \$100,685. Frederick County households made slightly more than Carroll County households (\$99,569) and Queen Anne's County households (\$96,467). However, 4.4% of Frederick County families live in poverty and the median age for Frederick County residents is 39.

Frederick does not currently have an ECJ chair. However, the Branch President here is eager to start a committee.

Carroll County

In 2019, Carroll County had a [population of 168k people](#) with a median age of 42.4 and a median household income of \$96,769. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Carroll County grew from 167,522 to 167,699, a 0.106% increase and its median household income grew from \$93,363 to \$96,769, a 3.65% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Carroll County are White (Non-Hispanic) (89%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (3.45%), White (Hispanic) (2.51%), Asian (Non-Hispanic) (1.89%), and Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (1.68%).

Carroll County's Branch President is eager to start an ECJ committee, mostly for concerns of water pollution and drought. The county has taken the initiative in 1987 to designate a chief environmental inspector and four inspectors to take on building site inspections, drywell inspections for residential building permits, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) inspections, storm water management, and storm water management retrofit inspections.

All five counties share groundwater pollution and food and farming concerns and can lead the way on these topics for the MSC.

B. Groundwater Pollution

[Groundwater](#) is the source of drinking water for about half the total U.S. population and nearly all of the rural population, and it provides over 50 billion gallons per day for agricultural needs. Many areas of the United States are experiencing groundwater depletion. "Effects of groundwater depletion include drying up of wells, reduction of water in streams and lakes, deterioration of water quality, increased pumping costs, and land subsidence." ("[Groundwater Decline and Depletion](#)," USGS, June 6, 2018.) (For Maryland, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) offers some data on well levels [here](#).)

Underground water can get contaminated from industrial, domestic, and agricultural chemicals including from chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides that many homeowners apply to their lawns.

Contamination of groundwater by road salt is of major concern in northern areas of the United States. Salt is spread on roads to melt ice, and, with salt being so soluble in water, excess sodium and chloride is easily transported into the subsurface groundwater. The most common water-quality problem in rural water supply is bacterial contamination from septic tanks, which are often used in rural areas that don't have a sewage-treatment system. Effluent (overflow and leakage) from a septic tank can percolate (seep) into the water table and maybe into a homeowner's well. Just as with urban water supplies, chlorination may be necessary to kill the dangerous bacteria.

1) ECJ Issues

Underserved Black and Brown people suffer more from droughts, flooding, and water contamination than the rest of the population. Superfund sites are mostly located among these

communities. Floods damage underserved communities more frequently and for longer due to poor housing quality and lack of insurance to remediate damage.

The Washington County NAACP President is distributing water in his community to those affected because many don't have access to transit or funds to buy water.

The health impacts of being exposed to impure water—sourced from pipes or wells—are more frequent among people of color and of lower income.

(Please also refer to Ms. Abre' Conner, NAACP Director of the Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, House Testimony about the "Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Resilience: A Focus on Water" on September 21, 2022.)

2) Sources of Groundwater Pollution in Western Maryland

a) Superfund Sites

Acid Mine Drainage: [Acid mine drainage from abandoned coal](#) mines is the most severe and extensive water pollution problem in Western Maryland, West Virginia, and northern, central and western Pennsylvania. "Within the Chesapeake Bay Basin, drainage from abandoned coal mines poses a significant threat to water quality in the Susquehanna, West Branch Susquehanna, and Juniata River basins in Pennsylvania, as well as North Branch Potomac River and its tributaries in West Virginia and Maryland." ("[Acid Mine Drainage Loadings to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Literature Synthesis](#)," Chesapeake Bay Program.)

"Heavy metals can be leached from rocks that come in contact with the acid, a process that may be substantially enhanced by bacterial action. The resulting fluids are highly toxic and, when mixed with groundwater, surface water and soil, will have harmful effects on humans, animals, and plants." ("[Abandoned Mine Drainage](#)," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

The Vindex Abandoned Mine Lands and 450 miles of impaired streams are affected by this. The [Reclamation Site in Garrett County has been abated but water and soils are still polluted](#).

"The abandoned Kempton mine [pours 4 million to 6 million gallons of highly acidic water](#) a day into Laurel Run, a tributary of the Potomac River." ("[Red waters run deep in Western Maryland Mining: For years, drainage from old mines has contaminated residents' drinking water in Garrett and Allegany counties](#)," *Baltimore Sun*, June 2, 1997.)

Maryland is conducting water quality monitoring throughout the Deep Creek Lake watershed. The state "determined that Cherry Creek, a subwatershed, was impaired by acid mine drainage (AMD) as indicated by low pH measurements. ... Cherry Creek is impaired from its headwaters all the way to its confluence with Deep Creek Lake. ... Stream morphology is also an underlying cause of observed biological community degradation in the Deep Creek Lake watershed." ("[Watershed Report for Biological Impairment of the Deep Creek Lake Watershed in Garrett County, Maryland Biological Stressor Identification Analysis Results and Interpretation](#)," Maryland Department of the Environment, Revised Final, January 2012.)

Other Superfund sites: In addition to the Garrett County AMD issues, there are several other [Superfund sites in this region](#), all of which impact the ground water.

Yoder Slaughterhouse and Nu Way Cleaners*** in [Garrett County](#) are active but not on the National Priorities List (NPL) plus six others that are inactive: Texas Eastern Accident Station, Umbell Property, Harbison Walker Refractories New Savage, Oakland Mercury, Baush and Lomb Inc Oakland Plant and the Wood Products plant.

*** [A note on cleaners](#), some of which have an astonishing toxic legacy: according to the EPA: “Over thirty years of operation, the dry cleaners released alarming levels of contaminating compounds like perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). Both of these hazardous waste materials have been found in soil and groundwater at the properties. Exposure to PCE and TCE has been closely linked to an increased risk of cancer as well as damage to the liver.” (“[EPA Encourages Communities to Inquire About Superfund Cleanup](#)” EDR Connect.)

Limestone Road, Allegany County: “Inorganic chemicals and heavy metals including zinc and lead were detected in on-site soils. Surface water is contaminated with chromium, cadmium, and zinc. Site and residential wells have been found to contain manganese and nickel.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Superfund_sites_in_Maryland)

In [Allegany County](#), Cumberland Gas Light Co which is not on the NPL list and several inactive ones, including: Old Cumberland City County Dump, Willison Oil, Precise Metals And Plastics Inc, Aetna Lumber, Lavale Warehouse Fire, Celanese Fibers Co Amcelle Plant and Kelly Springfield Tire Co.

In Allegany County the Warrior Run Generating Station, a 205-megawatt cogeneration plant located south of Cumberland, Maryland, is owned by AES Corporation.

Allegany County Warrior Run can burn approximately 400,000 tons of coal from Maryland each year. 100% of the coal burned at Warrior Run was mined in Maryland. Water for the plant is supplied by the City of Cumberland water system. Ash from Warrior Run, which is highly alkaline due the limestone boiler, is used to fill four nearby surface coal mines. The plant produces about 370,000 tons of ash each year. And is the only power plant left in the state without public plans to cease operating. A recently introduced bill would require it to cease by Oct. 1, 2030.

Fort Detrick, Frederick County: Fort Detrick Area B is a 399-acre proving ground and was a disposal area for chemical, biological, and radiological material until 1970. Only very recently, in 2009, it was listed as a Superfund site on the NPL with four so-called "source areas": chemical waste disposal pits, a landfill, the Area B-Grid, and the Area B-20 South burn area. There are 30 additional possible areas. Groundwater has been contaminated with volatile organic compounds trichloroethylene (TCE) since 1992, as well as tetrachloroethene, both onsite and offsite. Eight 55-gallon drums of TCE buried in Area B in 1968 are believed one source of the contamination. No “Record of Decision” how each site will be remediated have been signed by EPA and Army.

- An additional issue for this Superfund site is the current plan for a four-lane byway through Fort Detrick's Area B which would obviously disturb the buried toxins.

While Fort Detrick is the only active and listed NPL Superfund site, there are 16 others in the county: Prosperity Cleaners Roddy Road Farm Dump, Apples Church Furniture Repair, USN Naval Support Facility (Thurmont), Fort Detrick Area A, North End Cleaners, NCI Frederick Cancer Research, Rays Auto Parts E R, Abramson Property, Marinace Ficam Site, Frederick Tool And Die Co Inc, Frederick Town Gas, Eastalco Aluminum Co, CSX Railyard - Brunswick, Trans Tech Adamstown Site and W Dorsey Property.

Central Chemical, Washington County: "Beginning in the 1930s, the Central Chemical (Hagerstown) site functioned as a blending and packaging facility for agricultural pesticides and fertilizers. Pesticides and fertilizers manufactured at other locations were blended at the site with inert materials to produce commercial-grade products. Most of the pesticide product blending ceased in 1965. All operations at the plant stopped in 1984. The buildings were demolished during the Spring/Summer of 2005. Waste materials from the blending processes, including waste generated during the cleaning of the processing equipment, were disposed on-site. The site was added to EPA's National Priorities List in September 1997. Cleanup activities are ongoing including soil and water treatment." ("[Central Chemical \(Hagerstown\)](#)", US EPA.)

[Washington County has 25 other Superfund sites](#), four of them active but not on the NPL list: Fort Ritchie, Pottorfs Keefauver Cleaners, Anderson Co, Fairchild Republic Co Plant 11 and Central Chemical Northwest Site are active. Inactive sites are Mack Trucks Inc, Angstrom Precision Inc, Genuine Parts Co Raylock Div, Certain Teed Metals, Rust Oleum Corporation, Sun Chemical Corp Gpi Div, W D Byron And Sons Inc, Chevron Chemical Co Williamsport, Magnus Co Inc, West Manufacturing Company, Hagerstown American Light And Heat Co, Chewsville Co Op, Newell Enterprises Inc, Central Chemical Warehouse, Koppers Co, Hagerstown Light And Heat Co (2 locations), Danzer Metal Works Co, and the Franklin Spickler Property Site.

In Carroll County, while there are no sites on the NPL, there are [five active Superfund sites and 16 archived ones](#). The active sites include: Black and Decker; Bachmans Valley Landfill, Avenue Cleaners, Modern Ideal Cleaners, and Gi Cleaners.

b) Floods and Runoff

Floods have increased in frequency and intensity posing another major climate risk in the region. In urban settings, there are more impervious surfaces and older municipal storm water systems, making it increasingly difficult to manage high levels of rainfall and excess water. As an example, the Baker park floodplain (City of Frederick) has been rendered inadequate as the floods have become more frequent and larger

While flooding impacts residents from a wide range of demographics, it is most damaging to low-income, minority groups. Flooding disproportionately affects low-income residents and

communities of color because the majority live in neighborhoods with little or no green spaces to absorb water and in areas that have historically received less flood protection investment.

In addition, these communities tend to live in basement or ground-floor apartments, which are hit hardest by urban flooding. For example, of the \$31 billion that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Flood Insurance Program paid in flood damage claims between January 2010 and August 2019, nearly 20% was in zip codes where at least one-quarter of the residents are Black. Although these communities are disproportionately detrimentally impacted, they have the fewest resources to manage the damage and disruption. Therefore, flooding highlights and further exacerbates inequities in income, housing, and the ability to adapt and respond. Floods can be life threatening, they reduce property value, regular insurance doesn't cover them, and they can cause mold.

In a [2014 report](#), the Chesapeake Bay Foundation found that:

“Polluted runoff from urban and suburban areas is the second largest source of water pollution in Carroll County’s creeks and rivers. In the Upper Potomac River watershed, about 21 percent of the nitrogen pollution comes from polluted runoff, and 24 percent of the phosphorus pollution. Dog waste, chemicals, lawn fertilizer and other contaminants run off county streets, parking lots, and other surfaces during a rainstorm, and in many cases discharge straight into county creeks. This runoff makes water unfit for human recreation and marine life.

“Runoff also increases local flooding. As an area is paved over, rain that would have soaked into the ground rushes with increasing volume and speed over the hardened landscape. The result: flooded basements and streets. Carroll County has worked to reduce this runoff, but as the county continues to grow so will the problem. The county needs a reliable source of funding to reduce polluted runoff.

“Carroll County has not met the goals of its current federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit according to the county’s 2012 annual report, even with a two-year extension of the permit period. The permit requires the county to reduce polluted runoff. The county restored 7.3 percent of untreated impervious surfaces WITHIN the permit time, not 10 percent which was the federal goal.” (“[Carroll County Has A Problem: Polluted Runoff](#),” Chesapeake Bay Foundation, January 2014.)

However, a [2020 Water Quality Report](#) states that water supplies are adequate: “The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each quarter and the system met all TOC removal requirements. During 2020 the minimum required TOC removal rate was between 12% and 44%. The average removal rate during 2020 was 28%.” (“[Freedom District 2020 Drinking Water Quality Report](#),” Carroll County, Maryland.)

c) Water Treatment Plants and Overflow

Infrastructure is lacking. Currently, water is being shipped into Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties since drinking water was affected by the Acid Mine Drainage in Garrett County. A Bay Restoration Fund grant was awarded to fund the planning and design of a project to upgrade the Grantsville Wastewater Treatment Plant so that it can achieve Enhanced Nutrient Removal standards.

A Chesapeake Bay Water Quality supplemental assistance grant was given to the City of Frostburg to help fund the next phase in a project to separate combined sewers within the City of Frostburg and reduce the frequency and volume of combined sewer overflows that occur during wet weather. In Allegany there are several Superfund sites that also pollute the water. Water overflow also affects the cities of Frederick and Brunswick in Frederick County. This aging infrastructure is present across the state through overflow and sinkholes. On Labor Day 2022, two large sinkholes in the city of Baltimore caused under-chlorination which resulted in E. Coli to be present in the water.

d) Drought

The flip side of floods are droughts which, while they appear to be becoming [less frequent](#) according to the National Integrated Drought Information System, with climate change in Maryland they nevertheless can occur. In Carroll County, for example, construction is eroding the land and the water levels have dropped, deteriorating the water quality (according to President Morris). The water tastes and smells badly and this is occurring disproportionately in Black and Brown communities. On drought maps, [Morgan Run seems](#) to be below usual levels. Low water tables mean a higher concentration of chemicals that seep through the ground into the water,

Depending on what type of run-off predominates in the region, this can be very dangerous to health.

3) Intersection of Water Issues with Existing Committees

- Health
 - Toxic water poisons the entire community and the environment and can be fatal
 - Exposure to mold from standing water causes allergies and breathing troubles
- Housing
 - The water supply for some underserved communities is patchy
 - Underserved communities often have poor water quality in their homes
 - Pipes need to be investigated – what are they made of?
 - Well water needs to be tested across the State to ensure no chemicals are seeping in
- Economic Justice
 - Cost of importing water bottles is an added burden on underserved communities
 - Land & property values drop due to lack of clean water
 - Many homes of Black and Brown people are close to Superfund sites and questionable water treatment plans
- Education
 - Children and adults need to learn about clean water and potential pollution sites
 - Ensure clean water in schools & colleges
 - Ensure clean water at workplaces

4) Potential Coalition Partners

Potential Coalition Partners to grow the movement for clean water improvement in the Black and Brown community include:

- Create a challenge involving the entire MSC to test their water (wells and pipes) and upload results to a central site
- Develop targeted and localized education material together with coalition partners and Maryland schools
- Teach about clean water sources, pollution, infrastructure, and advocacy
- Hand out water testing kits and teach how to use and interpret them
- Create a database of contaminants and test well water around these regularly
- Keep track of health data, specifically race disparities
- Keep track of expenses created by water supply problems
- Sue local authorities and polluters
- Consider producing a local documentary on this issue

5) Potential Outreach Activities

The key is to create awareness and empower the Black and Brown communities so we can take action. Strategies should be discussed with individual Committee Chairs, but some tactics include:

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Clean Water Fund
- County Sustainability Offices
- Defensores de la Cuenca
- Forestry and Department of Natural Resources extensions (in charge of watersheds)
- Jefferson County Foundation (West Virginia but is fighting [Rockwool Insulation Plant](#) that leaks toxic chemicals into the Potomac just upstream from Maryland)
- Local universities including Hood, FCC, St, Mary's, Frostburg
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE)
- Sierra Club
- Water.org

C. Food and Farming

1) Current Issues

Several issues come together under this category:

- The Superfund sites discussed above also affect the soil and contaminate our food
- Farming techniques are outdated (for all farmers) in the face of dwindling resources
- Use of dangerous chemicals in the farming process harms the environment and the people

- Climate change makes crops less predictable
- Some farmers have lost their land due to climate change (especially on the Eastern Shore)

2) ECJ Issues

These issues generate food insecurity and drive-up prices for good and nutritious resources for all communities. Racism clearly plays a part in such disparities, for instance:

- Be farm lots (100 acres plus) of land which are put into a trust
- Be distributed across Maryland
- Enjoy access to their own water (mostly wells) and on-site water testing
- Have their own renewable energy generation (solar, wind, or hydropower)
- Have battery and EV recharging stations
- Set up as regenerative farming lots and agroforestry: no chemicals used, mostly manual labor but much higher yield, sustainable farming (not cash crop farming)
- Have a resiliency coaching center:
 - Community building and organizing
 - Grant application
 - Water quality assessment

3) The Way Forward

For all the above, there are discussions across Western Maryland about creating a statewide Community Resilience Hub Network for Black and Brown communities which could act both as farms and training centers. This network would need to be promoted separately, with a catchy brand name maybe focused more on the ‘haven’ or ‘oasis’ aspect or an indigenous name.

These Hubs would ideally:

- Food deserts in the middle of rural and urban landscapes around our community (“Food desert is a geographic area where residents have few to no convenient options for securing affordable and healthy food.”)
- While the food quality in underserved neighborhoods tends to be less than in upscale supermarkets, the cost of food often is higher for underserved communities due to price gauging from supermarkets that take advantage of the lack of access to other sources.
- Land that belonged to Black and Brown communities has in many cases been usurped. One hundred years ago, Black farmers made up 14% of America’s farmers. Today, they account for less than 2%. (This mirrors a country wide issue: Across the US the number of Black-operated farmers peaked at about 926,000 in the 1920s with 15 million acres, nearly 12 million acres have left the ownership of Black farmers.)
- Discrimination in grants, credits, loans, and subsidies to Black farmers [by the USDA](#).
- Access to shared farming equipment is often restricted at a local level
- Dispersion of Black and Brown communities and a lack of transit hinder Black and Brown people from organizing and sharing of resources.

- Air quality assessment
- Renewable energy training centers (solar and wind installation, etc.)
- Regenerative farming
- Shared resource libraries

The NAACP is uniquely positioned to develop this program together with a series of coalition partners who are already in discussion of this model.

4) Intersection of Farm & Food with Existing NAACP Committees

- Health
 - Lack of access to nutritious and fresh food has severe health impacts at all ages
- Education
 - Black and Brown community need to learn about regenerative farming
 - Community building
 - Self-advocacy
 - Renewable energy installation
 - Maintenance
 - Grant writing
- Transportation
 - Resiliency Hub could have its own dedicated (electric) bus to shuttle dispersed members if necessary
- Economic Justice
 - Access to land, to property, to food, to jobs, income, etc.
- Political and economic power: the future of farming is regenerative and agroforestry. Introducing Black and Brown communities to these techniques and procedures will set up long term leadership roles (train the trainers).

5) Potential Coalition Partners

- [Maryland Market Money](#) is working on uplifting Black farmers.
- [National Young Farmers Coalition](#).
- [The Reed Center](#) (Frederick) for ecosystem integration is looking at lots to establish a land trust with the Allegany NAACP ECJ stand-in chair.
- The [Brownsville](#) Project (Allegany County Lynching, Truth, and Reconciliation Committee)
- Mountain View Farms
- Shashawnda Campbell and the South Baltimore Land Trust is already doing great work.

- There appears to be a generalized push, especially in Garrett County, to privatize some public lands and forests. It may be a good idea to keep track of this and ask to balance land released for development with land released for resiliency hubs /agroforestry.
- Suggest talking to schools and colleges willing to convert their campuses into resiliency hubs – including Frostburg University which took and built on Brownsville Land.
- Talk to MAEOE to see how we can incorporate education and potential school parcels.

D. Other Considerations

1) Potential Ambassadors

Currently the NAACP has little if any capacity to draw from its membership – especially the farther West we go. Activating a branch can mean rebuilding from the ground up under the ECJ umbrella. To develop these two core programs across Western Maryland, the NAACP will need to recruit young, dedicated, diverse, and energetic people.

Setting these programs up as independent NAACP-MS-C-ECJ efforts, branding them separately, announcing them among younger activists and schools, and explaining the value of the resiliency hubs would generate the capacity we need to make this program work.

2) Messaging Tactics, Frequency, and Platforms

There is currently no generalized outreach to the larger community across Western Maryland. Each branch has a more or less active Facebook page and most meet once a month and provide monthly updates via e-mail.

To assist this program’s launch, we recommend secure communications (see [MSC opportunities II.A.2](#).) and plan on a concerted grassroots outreach across schools and all Black and Brown civic groups in the region.

3) Other Key ECJ Issues Present in Western Maryland

- Lack of clean public transportation (including shade and shelters)
- No access to green technology (from solar panels to EV charging stations)
- Continuously expanding roadways which increase air pollution and runoff, and encroach on underserved communities
- Unaffordable toll lanes
- Lack of affordable and accessible green housing
- No Neighborhood Advisory Councils in underserved communities
- Lack of tree canopy cover in underserved urban settings
- Landfills: Reich’s Ford Road and Fort Detrick in Frederick County; 40 West Municipal Landfill, Maietta Rubble Landfill, and Resh Road Municipal Landfills in Washington County.

VI. Central Maryland

Due to their geographical proximity and shared ECJ issues, this group will include the following five central Maryland Counties and the City of Baltimore: Howard, Montgomery, Anne Arundel and Prince George's, Baltimore County and the City of Baltimore.

The Central Maryland Counties ECJ Committees will take the lead on two fundamental ECJ issues that afflict the entire state but predominate in Central Maryland:

- Superfund sites
- Air Pollution

A. The Counties: Statistics and Insights

Montgomery County

Montgomery County is the most populated in the state with 1,047,661 people, broken down as: [White \(Non-Hispanic\) \(42.6%\)](#), [Black or African American \(Non-Hispanic\) \(18.6%\)](#), Asian (Non-Hispanic) (14.8%), Other (Hispanic) (9.69%), and White (Hispanic) (8.45%). In 2020, the median household income of Montgomery County households was \$111,812, however, 4.4% of Montgomery County families live in poverty. Montgomery County residents' median age is 39.4.

Montgomery County, like the state, is a “majority minority” county, and is leading the way on ECJ. The county has a Climate Action Plan (CAP), a Racial Equity, Social Vulnerability, and Community Partnerships study and a Racial Equity Profile. A lot of what Montgomery County suggests in its 334-page CAP report can be used and extrapolated to the Central Maryland ECJ committee.

Prince George's County

With 910,551 people, Prince George's County is the 2nd most populated county in the state of Maryland. It is the only county where most residents are Black (61.2%) followed by Hispanic (18.8%) and White (12.3%). The median household income is \$86,994, slightly more than Baltimore County. However, 5.6% of Prince George's County families live in poverty. The median age for Prince George's County residents is 37.5 years.

Prince George's County ECJ chair is also the MSC chair, Staci Hartwell. Unfortunately, there are only two additional members on the committee and 13 at-large.

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County has a population of 575,421 the majority of whom are White (67.1%) followed by Black (16.4%) and Hispanic (8.0%). The median household income in 2020 was \$103,225 but 3.8% of Anne Arundel County families live in poverty. The median age for Anne Arundel County residents is 38.5 years.

Anne Arundel stands out for its long list of ECJ infractions. The ECJ Chair, Dr. Tracey Garretts active, trying to educate the community with some support from the Patuxent Riverkeeper, but the sheer volume of issues is overwhelming.

Howard County

Howard County has 322,407 people. The population is evenly divided between white and Black and Brown: White (50.7%) followed by Black (18.8%) and Asian (18.4%). In 2020, the median household income of Howard County households was \$124,042 but 3.6% of Howard County families live in poverty. The median age for Howard County residents is 38.7 years old.

Baltimore County

In 2019, [Baltimore County](#) had a population of 827k people with a median age of 39.5 and a median household income of \$77,358. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Baltimore County declined from 828,431 to 827,370, a 0.128% decrease. Its median household income grew from \$76,182 to \$77,358, a 1.54% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Baltimore County are White (Non-Hispanic) (55.6%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (29.5%), Asian (Non-Hispanic) (6.11%), White (Hispanic) (2.8%), and Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (2.46%). 15.6% of the households in Baltimore County speak a non-English language at home as their primary language.

While Baltimore County's average income level is a little below that of some other counties, the issues are the same and the age and racial composition fit as well.

Baltimore City

In 2019, [Baltimore City](#) had a population of 593k people with a median age of 35.9 and a median household income of \$50,177. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of

Baltimore City declined from 602,495 to 593,490, a 1.49% decrease. Its median household income declined from \$51,000 to \$50,177, a 1.61% decrease. The five largest ethnic groups in Baltimore City are Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (61.8%), White (Non-Hispanic) (27.4%), White (Hispanic) (2.94%), Asian (Non-Hispanic) (2.65%), and Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (1.68%). 0% of the households in Baltimore City speak a non-English language at home as their primary language.

B. Superfund Sites, Landfills & Military Bases

[A Superfund site is](#) any land in the United States that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health and/or the environment. NPL Superfund: The National Priorities List is a list of the most hazardous waste sites that have been identified by Superfund/ CERCLIS ("Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System") where only long-term remedial response actions can be conducted. Superfunds can be sub-classified as: Active: A non-archived Superfund site at which site assessment, removal,

remedial, enforcement, cost recovery, or oversight activities are being planned or conducted under the Superfund/CERCLIS program. Archived: A Superfund site that has no further interest under the Federal Superfund Program based on available information and is no longer part of the CERCLIS inventory.

A note on Superfund sites: While many sites are not considered a National Priority, [this doesn't mean they're not contaminating the community. In addition, many 'archived' sites – while not actively anymore- remain with contaminated water and soils and are still harmful](#). For that reason, a listing of all sites in each County is included.

1) ECJ Issues

One would be hard-pressed to consider 159 Superfund sites located in the City of Baltimore or 64 Superfund sites in Prince George's County—the two areas with majority Black populations—a coincidence. Or that most of the 35 sites in Anne Arundel County are concentrated around a Black and Brown neighborhood in Lothian. It is not surprising that heavy truck traffic, smells, poisoned soil, water, and air disproportionately affect the health of Black and Brown communities. Just compare these numbers to Frederick County with 17 Superfund sites or seven in Talbot County.

While we need to make some allowances regarding the location of Superfund sites in more populated areas, being closer to ports and business, the concentration of superfunds sites around majority Black and Brown communities is too extreme for this to be the deciding factor for most. In fact, Superfund sites should be located in the least populated areas where they can harm fewer people. Industrial, waste, and generator sites have no place in more densely populated areas.

Do minorities populate polluted locations more because they are cheaper to live in, or do polluters situate their sites in minority communities because they have less income and therefore less power? Both reasons are probably at play and they're both instances of structural racism and an ECJ issue.

The Central Maryland Counties are the most populated and most diverse counties in the state. Some, such as Montgomery County, are ahead of the curve and have a [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP) and even a [Racial Equity, Social Vulnerability, and Community Partnerships study](#) and a [Racial Equity Profile](#). Montgomery County acknowledges in its CAP report that structural racism exacerbates harm in Black communities and that Jim Crow era laws still have an effect upon the Black and Brown community including through laws and former practices such as sharecropping, redlining, exclusionary zoning, restrictive racial deed covenants, siting of environmentally hazardous facilities, and destruction of neighborhoods to build the U.S. Highway System – all continue to have longstanding and detrimental impacts.

In 2015, students at the University of Maryland School of Public Health conducted a health impact assessment in Anne Arundel County. Students took noise readings at the reclamation sites and wastewater plants, recording decibel levels and found that some of the recordings reached levels that can cause hearing loss. “About 20% of those living within a 3-mile radius of the

mining and reclamation sites are African Americans and 16% have incomes lower than the county average. The University of Maryland study notes that the percentage of people of color was higher closest to the facilities” and the population “is overburdened with pollution from multiple sources and facilities that show noncompliance and federal and state violation histories.” (["Mining, waste disposal raise environmental justice concerns in rural Maryland," Bay Journal](#), Nov. 10, 2021.)

2) Superfund Sites in Central Maryland

Montgomery County: There [are 10 active Superfund sites](#) in Montgomery County, none of which has made it onto the NPL— however, that does not mean these sites are innocuous. For example, the Naval Medical Command is a Superfund site located at 8901 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. The Environmental Protection Agency identifies sites such as Naval Medical Command because they pose or had once posed a potential risk to human health and/or the environment due to contamination by one or more hazardous wastes. Naval Medical Command is currently registered as an Active Superfund site by the EPA. Montgomery County in addition has the Naval Medical Center Navy Base in Bethesda and the Carderock Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center – both of which are active military bases that conduct biological and technological testing.

In Howard County, [there are six Superfund sites](#) – none of them, however, made it onto the NPL list.

Prince George’s County has 64 Superfund sites. The following four are active and listed as a National Priority:

- [Andrews Air Force Base](#) is a Superfund site located at Allentown Road, Andrews Air Force Base, and is “99th on the Environmental Working Group's list of the *top 100* most polluted military bases. The last test performed onsite in 2019 revealed a PFAS concentration of 34,500 parts per trillion and detected PFOAs, PFOS, and PFBS. In all identified areas, the current cleanup activities, aside from the already conducted short-term removal actions, involve long-term solutions, like groundwater monitoring and treatment or land use control. The chemicals that aqueous film-forming foam contains are highly toxic, and the medical conditions they inflict are catastrophic. Andrews Air Force Base is a Superfund site that the Environmental Protection Agency deemed contaminated and a significant health risk.” (["Andrews Air Force Base claims,"](#) Environmental Litigation Group P.C.)
- [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center](#) (USDA) is located at Beaverdam and Sheep Roads, in Prince George’s County. “The U.S. Department of Agriculture has owned and operated the area as a research park for soil, water, air, plant and animal sciences since 1910. Waste disposal activities at several former landfills and other disposal areas contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water with hazardous chemicals. Cleanup of some site areas is complete; remedial investigations and feasibility studies are underway

at several other site areas.” (“[Beltsville Agricultural Research Center \(USDA\)](#),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

Toxins found include “biphenyl (PCB) contamination in the soil of a maintenance yard (BARC 32) and former equipment storage area (BARC 31). PCBs are heat transfer fluids associated with old electric transformers that have some hazardous properties.

Transformers containing these fluids stored in the past at these two sites had apparently leaked PCB-containing fluids into the surrounding soil. The soil at these sites was also found to contain other environmental pollutants, including some pesticides, metals, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These contaminants were also included in the soil clean up.”

- [Brandywine DRMO](#) is an eight-acre Brandywine Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) site located in Brandywine, Maryland. “From 1943 to 1987, several U.S. Navy (USN) and U.S. Air Force (USAF) installations used the former DRMO property to store wastes and excess governmental materials. Site activities contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals. Removal actions to address contaminated soil and interim remedial actions to address contaminated groundwater are complete. The investigation to characterize the source of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) in groundwater is complete and the Record of Decision was signed March 28, 2018.” ([Brandywine DRMO, Background](#), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.) “Risks and pathways addressed by cleanup activities to date include health risks from people coming in contact with contaminated soil. The greatest health risk to people is through drinking contaminated groundwater.” (“[Brandywine DRMO, Health and Environment](#),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)
- “[Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard](#) is by Curtis Bay in Anne Arundel County. Although it’s considered among the top repair and ship construction businesses for the U.S. Coast Guard, its past is tainted with excessive asbestos use that left some workers with life-threatening diseases.” (“[Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard](#),” Mesothelioma.net.)

[Naval Air Test Center](#) is a Superfund site located at Intersection of 381 and Cherry - Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine. “The EPA’s activities at the 66-acre installation in Southeast Washington are part of its efforts to restore the Anacostia River, which has been heavily polluted by D.C. sewage discharges and toxic runoff from the Navy Yard and other sources.

“To minimize the flow of contaminated runoff into the river, the Navy” started in 1997 “to [convert] a parking lot near the Anacostia into a natural area, with grass and plants, according to court papers filed by the Justice Department. In addition, the GSA [began] a \$15 million construction project at the 55-acre Southeast Federal Center to replace a seawall bordering the Anacostia to ensure that toxic runoff from contaminated soil does not leach into the river, the Justice Department said.” (“[EPA Orders Cleanup Of Navy Yard](#),” *Washington Post*, Jan. 12, 1997.)

There are 13 additional sites that are active in PGC: Oxon Cove Landfill, Peelers Cleaners, Brandywine Launch, Croom Control, Beaverdam Creek Pcb, James J Rowley Training Center, the Scovitch Property, Fort Foote, United Rigging and Hauling, Waldorf Launch, Brandywine Drum Site, Joseph Smith and Sons, and Chillum Perc. Finally, there are 47 Superfund sites that have been “archived.”

In Anne Arundel County, Fort Meade is an active and NPL listed Superfund site. “The Fort George G. Meade (FGGM) site is located in northwestern Anne Arundel County, along the Little Patuxent and Patuxent Rivers, midway between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. FGGM has been a permanent Army installation on site since 1917. Site activities, including materials storage and waste disposal activities, contaminated wetlands, soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater with hazardous chemicals. Remedial investigations and remedy construction are underway.” (<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0300435>)

Known toxins are: Atrazine, Perchloroethylene (PCE), Pesticides and Insecticides, Trichloroethylene (TCE), and volatile organic compounds.

In addition, there are seven other active Superfund sites (not NPL): Middletown Road Dump, Luna Lane Explosives, Anne Arundel County Landfill, Snow Hill Lane Site, EPA Central Regional Laboratory, Generals Highway Sanitary Landfill, and Mid Atlantic Wood Preservers Inc. 27 Superfund sites have been ‘archived.’

There are also several other Military Bases in Anne Arundel County: Coast Guard Yard, the Surface Forces Logistics Coast Guard, the Naval Academy Base in Annapolis, and the NSA Annapolis Navy Base.

“Landfills are a major contributor to the world’s anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions because an enormous amount of CH₄ and CO₂ are generated from the degradation process of deposited waste in landfills. Landfill operation is also usually associated with contamination of surface and groundwater by leachate from the landfill (mostly if the landfill lacks adequate liners), pungent odor, loud disturbing noise from landfill bulldozers, bio aerosol emissions; volatile organic compounds. The storage of leachate in open lagoons can influence the levels of odors experienced in a landfill site. Residents living close to landfill sites have shown concern due to several hazardous pollutants emanating from landfill operations. Some other pollutants associated with deposition of waste on landfills include litter, dust, excess rodents, unexpected landfill fires, etc. The factors that influence the by-product or emissions from landfills include the kind and quantity of waste deposited, the age of the landfill, and the climatic conditions of the landfill sites. Complex chemical and microbiological reactions within the landfill often lead to the formation of several gaseous pollutants, persistent organic pollutants (such as dioxins, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), heavy metals and particulate matter.” (“Health and Environmental Risks of Residents Living Close to a Landfill: A Case Study of Thohoyandou Landfill, Limpopo Province, South Africa,” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, June 15, 2019.)

The worst rated landfill in Maryland is also in Prince George’s County, the Brown Station Road Landfill. (Second and third worst are Washington County’s Forty West Landfill, and Baltimore City’s Quarantine Road Landfill.) “[S]olid waste landfills are Maryland’s greatest source of [methane](#), a climate change-causing gas that packs a greater punch than carbon dioxide, but lingers in the atmosphere for a much shorter duration. That pushes landfills ahead of the natural gas industry and agriculture as methane sources,” (“[Maryland landfills produced 4 times more greenhouse gases than estimated by the state over the past 15 years](#),” *Baltimore Sun*, June 9, 2021) and shows that the Maryland Department of the Environment vastly underestimated greenhouse gas emissions which turned out to quadruple the State’s estimate over the past 15 years. There currently is a push to [build solar fields on top of landfills](#) – seven projects have been approved to date.

In Anne Arundel County, the Westport Reclamation Center and the Southern Recycling Center contribute to the problem. “There are [two closed rubble landfills in Lothian](#) — one of which is now Sands Road Park, consisting of a couple of basketball courts and mostly open fields. Both are leaking cadmium, a toxic metal, into groundwater, tests have shown.” (“[Mining, waste disposal raise environmental justice concerns in rural Maryland](#),” *Bay Journal*, Nov. 10, 2021.)

In [Baltimore County](#), there are two NPL active Superfund sites, eight non-NPL but active ones and 27 archived ones. The two active ones are:

- [Sauer Dump](#), a 2.5-acre dump located between Lynhurst Road and the Back River's western bank, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. “Since 1984, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the MDE conducted several studies at the site. ‘The sampling results indicated that the soil, sediment and surface water have elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and, to a lesser extent, pesticides,’ according to the MDE.” “Since environmental regulations mandate that EPA be notified of any remediation involving PCBs, MDE presented EPA with the cleanup plan in June 2002. As a result of this meeting, PCB sampling was conducted, which determined that measurable amounts of water-soluble PCBs were present in the on-site groundwater and surface water near the site.” ([History of the Sauer Dump](#),” *Patch*, March 20, 2011.)
- [Eastport Industrial Enterprises](#) “Ground scarring suggestive of landfilling or dumping was identified on aerial photographs [on these 32.69 acres] from 1964, 1968 and 1973. Access to the site is unrestricted and evidence of nuisance dumping has been noted on the property. A Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, completed in 2002, identified soil contaminants (arsenic and mercury). ...On April 23, 2003, Eastport Industrial Center, LLC., the prospective purchaser, submitted a VCP application (Voluntary Cleanup Program) seeking a No Further Requirements Determination (NFRD) as an inculpable person.” (“[Eastport Industrial Center Property](#),” Maryland State Archives.)

The [Eastport Industrial Business Center](#) has been built on top of this site and plans include the construction of a warehouse facility (620,939-sq. feet) and is leasing space.

Superfund sites that are not on the EPA's NPL but that are active in Baltimore County include: Koppers Co, Fort Howard, Westview Park Noa, CSX Train Derailment Rosedale. Greenspring Control, South Hilltop Road Dump Aka Simkins Industries Dump, Simkin Industries Plant, and 68th Street Dump Industrial Enterprises. Then remaining 27 Superfund sites in Baltimore County have been 'archived'.

In the [Baltimore City there are 159 Superfund sites](#) in 92.052 square miles (238.41 km²). Of which 11.108 square miles (28.77 km²) are water. The total area of Baltimore City is 12.07% water. That comes to nearly two Superfund sites per (dry) acre in the city of Baltimore.

The five active Superfund sites are:

- [Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard](#) “The 113-acre Yard is located six miles southeast of downtown Baltimore, Maryland. Previous site activities include operation of an on-site incinerator, manufacturing operations, and ship repair and maintenance. These activities contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater (GW) with hazardous chemicals including semi-volatile organic compounds, volatile organic compounds, metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, and pesticides.
“The Site was added to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in September 2002.
“The Yard was established in 1899 as a Coast Guard training academy and boat repair facility.
“The site is considered construction complete since August 2013. The remedy at one Operable Unit requires long-term monitoring of groundwater and the remedy at two operable units requires Land Use Controls. There is currently one Operable Unit under investigation which may require a remedy at the site. The Coast Guard has the lead role for cleaning up the Yard.” ([“Curtis Bay Coast Guard Yard Baltimore, Md,”](#) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)
- [Colgate Pay Dump](#): “[The 68th Street Dump site covers approximately 240 acres near Rosedale](#) in Baltimore County, Maryland. The site [comprises] several former disposal and landfill areas. These areas include four sites on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS): 68th Street Dump (MD-174), Industrial Enterprises (MD-184), Colgate Pay Dump (MD-176), and R.M. Winstead (MD-133).” ([“Facts About: 68th Street Dump,”](#) Maryland Department of the Environment.)

The 68th Street Dump site itself encompasses approximately 150 acres with about 90% of the property in Rosedale, Baltimore County, and the remaining 10% in the city of Baltimore. Operations in this originally wetland parcel involved landfilling and disposal

of a variety of wastes, including industrial and commercial wastes, municipal incinerator ash and waste oils. Cover soil was subsequently placed over many of the landfilled areas. Landfill operations ceased several decades ago, but random unauthorized dumping continues to occur.

“The property is observed to be heavily overgrown with grass, brush and trees.”

“The site is crossed by streams that join and form the Back River, which ultimately discharges into [the] Chesapeake Bay.”

“The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) published a [complete Public Health Assessment in 1998](#) * and determined that “current contact with contaminants in soil and sediment at the site are not expected to occur at levels that cause health effects. However, health effects could occur should conditions change where future recreational users or workers have frequent access to soil ‘hot spots,’ if soil pica (eating behavior) of young children occurs on hot spots, or if site redevelopment causes contact with subsurface contamination. Lead is of particular concern...” (“Public Health Assessment for 68th Street Dump Rosedale, Baltimore County, Maryland EPA Facility Id: Mdd980918387,” November 23, 2009.)

**This health assessment report can be useful for other landfill assessments.*

- [R.M. Winstead Co – see above.](#)
- [Picorp Operable Unit is within the parent company Kane And Lombard Street Drums.](#)

“The Kane and Lombard site is in Baltimore City at the intersection of Kane and Lombard Streets. The site consists of approximately 8 acres south of Lombard Street and approximately 17 acres north of Lombard Street. The southern portion, which is adjacent to Patterson High School, is currently a golf driving range and parking lot. The northern portion is used by several commercial properties, including PICORP Inc., which stores shipping containers.

“In 1984, EPA removed over [1,000] drums and the upper six inches of soil beneath the drums and transported these wastes to permitted disposal facilities. Approximately 800 drums were classified as empty, while the contents of the other drums included chlorinated organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, phthalates, polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCBs) and metals. Following the removal action, a compacted clay layer was installed in the base of the excavation (above the remaining waste fill).

In 2003, “the main contaminants of concern, chlorinated organic compounds, were detected in the subsurface soils and in the groundwater in the Upper Patuxent aquifer.”

“EPA asked the PRPs to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion (VI) into buildings on the northern portion of the site. This evaluation resulted in the installation of Sub-Slab

Depressurization Systems at two of the properties on OU2 in 2016.” ([“Kane and Lombard Street \(BMI MD1069\),”](#) Maryland Department of the Environment.)

The 31 active but not NPL Superfund sites in of Baltimore include: Aceco Cleaners, Stansbury Park, Crowson Avenue Mercury Spill, Eastern Plating Fire Site, Martins State Airport, New Paris Cleaners, Bare Hills Quarries And Pits, Powhatan Mining Company, Brusowankin And Sons Dry Cleaners Site, Sparrows Point, Bok Asbestos Mine, Chemical Metals Industries, Bucks Auto Dump, Cherry Pit Drum, Abex Baltimore Abc Rail Products Corporation, Olin Corp Curtis Bay, Chesapeake Chemical Company, and Fort Carroll, Nih Nia Gerontology Research Center, Drumco Drum Dump, Academy Cleaners, etc.

Interestingly, the Wheelabrator is not listed as one of the 159 Superfund sites in the City of Baltimore.

3) Intersection of Superfund Sites with Existing Committees

- Health
 - The most common contaminants from Superfund sites and landfills include arsenic, lead, mercury, and polychlorinated biphenyls – these are all proven to cause cancer: See: [“A Spatial Study of the Location of Superfund Sites and Associated Cancer Risk,” *Statistics and Public Policy, Volume 5, 2018 - Issue 1.*](#)
 - Methane emissions can affect breathing, heart rate, balance problems and numbness
- Economic Injustice
 - Toxic water, air, and soil kills and will also detract from property value
 - Not being able to use your own water and having to import it is expensive and an added burden
 - Not being able to open the windows to fresh air adds to the economic burden (HVAC costs, air purifiers, humidifiers, etc.)

In addition, this adds to the Energy burden, which refers to both a higher expense for fuel due to poor insulation and other building factors, and a larger proportion of the paycheck going to heating and/or cooling. As the housing stock is upgraded to include high-efficiency, green, and purifying systems, the price of housing goes up, making it even more difficult for low-income community members to remain in homes and build wealth.

- The soil is not safe in certain areas to grow your own food

4) Potential Coalition Partners

The fight to clean up Superfund sites is a broad coalition effort. Key actors in the Central Maryland region are:

- AACO League of Women Voters
- Annapolis Green

- Corazon Latino
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association
- Citizens Environmental Commission
- Defensores de la Cuenca
- Growth Action Network of AACO
- Local Universities
- Magothy River Association
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- NOAA
- Severn River Association
- Sierra Club
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

C. Air Pollution

[“Ozone and fine particulates are Maryland’s biggest air issues.”](#) Both pollutants are created from fuel-burning sources such as vehicles, electric utilities, and industrial boilers. These pollutants can irritate the respiratory system causing coughing, throat irritation, and chest pains. These pollutants are also linked to premature mortality.

“Ozone is a gas that occurs in two layers of the atmosphere. When ozone is up high it is considered ‘good’ as it protects us from the sun’s ultra-violet rays, however when ozone occurs near ground-level it becomes harmful to human health and our environment.

“Particle pollution (also called particulate matter or PM) is the term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Some particles, such as dust, dirt, soot, or smoke are large or dark enough to be seen with the naked eye. Others are so small they cannot be seen by the naked eye.” ([“Air Quality Awareness Week 2016, May 2 - May 6,”](#) Maryland Department of the Environment.)

1) Air Pollution Is an ECJ Issue

Why is air pollution an environmental justice matter? While air travels and will eventually reach everyone, pollution will hit the closest people to its source first and worst. It is no coincidence that power plants, highways, airports, industry, trash burners and other polluters are specifically built-in majority Black and Brown neighborhoods. [“Research](#) has shown that racial and ethnic minorities and lower-income groups in the U.S. are at higher risk of premature death from exposure to PM2.5 air pollution than other population and income groups. It’s also been shown that there are disparities in exposure to air pollution among these groups.” ([“Racial, ethnic minorities and low-income groups in U.S. exposed to higher levels of air pollution,”](#) Harvard

T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Press Release, January 12, 2022.) We saw the worst of this effect during COVID.

2) Sources of Air Pollution

Power Plants

We will now look at [power generation station](#), [incinerators](#), and main highway expansions.

“The Brandon Shores Generating Station is an electric generating station located on Fort Smallwood Drive north of Orchard Beach in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, near Glen Burnie.”

“The station shares a 483-acre site adjacent to the Patapsco River with the Herbert A. Wagner Generating Station. The Brandon Shores plant dominates the site with its 700-foot exhaust and 400-foot flue-gas desulfurization system stacks. The Brandon Shores and Wagner Generating Stations consume approximately 4.8 million tons of coal annually.

“The Wagner Generating Station's oil-fired Unit 1 began operations in 1957. In 1987 Units 2, 3, and 4 were converted to use natural gas. The system uses treated municipal wastewater from the Anne Arundel County Cox Creek wastewater treatment plant as the source of water. All four Wagner units are cooled using water from intake structures from a basin on the Patapsco River using two circulating water pumps per unit. Water from the first three units is returned to the river by a discharge canal upstream of the intake basin while water from unit 4 uses a discharge canal downstream of the intake basin.” ([“Power Plant Pollution Poisoning the Chesapeake Bay,”](#) Clean Water Action.)

Incredibly, “the Brandon Shores and H.A. Wagner plants have announced their plans to [transition from burning coal to mostly burning oil in the years ahead](#), and they received a preliminary green light from the Maryland Public Service Commission...” . (“[Two Anne Arundel power plants announce plans to transition from coal to oil, get green light from Maryland Public Service Commission](#),” *Baltimore Sun*, January 12, 2022.) This is not the type of improvement we need.

“[The Chalk Point Generating Station in Prince George’s County \[was\]](#) built by the Potomac Electric Power Company, which sold [it]to the Southern Company in December 2000 as a result of the restructuring of the electricity generating industry in Maryland.”

“In December 2013, NRG Energy signaled that it plans to retire the Chalk Point Generating Station and Dickerson Generating Station in May 2017. In May 2015 NRG asked PJM Interconnection for a delay to May 2019 in the deactivation dates for Dickerson and Chalk Point. In February 2016, NRG withdrew its de-activation notice for Chalk Point coal fired units, which are now slated to operate indefinitely. On August 13, 2020, new plant owner GenOn again filed for deactivation of both units of the Chalk Point Generating Station, with a set retirement date of June 1, 2021. The coal units were shut down on schedule. However, natural gas generation

continues at the site.” (“[Chalk Point Generating Station](#),” Global Energy Monitoring Wiki, June 15, 2021.)

The [Morgantown Generating Station](#) has a net summer capacity of 1,412 megawatts. It provides electricity for Washington, D.C. and most of Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland. The plant is owned by GenOn Holdings LLC., located in the unincorporated town of Newburg, Maryland, near Morgantown, on the Potomac River. The station was built in 1970 and just closed down. This plant has been discharging toxic metals like mercury, selenium, and arsenic into the Potomac River for 50 years and will require a long time to clean up. Potomac Riverkeeper documented several environmental violations, including improper storage of toxic coal ash. A state inspector confirmed three violations at the site.

“The Charles P. [Crane Generating Station](#) is a coal-fired electric generating station located on the Carroll Island Road in Bowleys Quarters, Maryland, 14 miles east of Baltimore. ...The station has two coal-fired generating units,” and it uses approximately 950,000 tons of coal each year. It also has an oil-fired combustion turbine. “The Crane station occupies 157 acres on the Middle River Neck Peninsula adjacent to the Seneca Creek tributary of the Gunpowder River and is on the rural side of the Baltimore County Urban Rural Demarcation Line.” (“[Charles P. Crane Generating Station](#),” Academic Wikipedia.)

Incinerators

Incinerators clearly are heavy polluters – there is a cross over between air pollution and dealing with waste which will be more focused in the Northern Maryland wheelhouse.

“The BRESCO incinerator operated by [Wheelabrator](#) is Baltimore’s biggest stationary source of air pollution. Reducing local air pollution, and NOx in particular, is critical for public health in Baltimore. The Maryland Department of the Environment finalized a rulemaking process focused on Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for NOx emissions at BRESCO in 2018 to establish stricter NOx limits at the facility in order to limit pollution in our city and protect public health from harmful emissions. In addition to its high NOx emissions, in 2015, the BRESCO incinerator emitted roughly double the amount of greenhouse gases per megawatt hour of energy than each of the 6 largest coal plants in Maryland. Shockingly, Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard currently classifies incineration as a “Tier 1” renewable energy source, which means that BRESCO receives millions of dollars in subsidies every year. CCAN is committed to cleaning up our RPS and removing incentives for incineration. Removing undeserved subsidies for this polluting facility while tightening its NOx emissions limits will demonstrate that incineration is no longer a viable industry in Maryland and that zero waste is the path toward a healthier population and environment.” (“[Incinerators in Maryland](#),” Chesapeake Climate Action Fund.)

“The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility, a 56-MW generating incineration plant that burns municipal garbage and waste, is next to the [Dickerson](#) Generating Station. This waste-to-energy plant is served by the CSX railroad line, which delivers trash from a central collection center in Derwood to the plant. The facility began operations in 1995 and is operated by the

Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, a state-owned corporation.” ([“Dickerson Generating Station,”](#) Wikipedia.) It is the largest polluter in the county burning an average of about 570,000 tons of trash per year, turning it into 390,000 tons of air pollution and 180,000 tons of toxic ash that is dumped in Virginia landfills. ([“Fighting Toxic Trash Incinerators,”](#) Chesapeake Climate Action Fund.)

Highways

The fight is on in Maryland to reduce GHG, reduce traffic, and expand clean transit for all.

The I-70 and 495 (D.C. Beltway) expansion plans by Governor Hogan encroach upon minority neighborhoods. This reduces the value of homes and increases the energy burden for Black and Brown communities, making it even more difficult for low-income community members to purchase homes and build wealth. Having major thoroughfares within a couple of hundred feet of community neighborhoods and schools exposes these to poisonous carbon monoxide (CO) gas which causes respiratory ailments such as asthma, headache, runny eyes and nose, and nausea; increases the risk of lung cancer and cancer mutations.

Restructuring and upgrading to a clean multimodal transit system across Maryland is key to better health across all neighborhoods. Electrification of transit simultaneously reduces greenhouse gas emissions and addresses equity by providing better air quality to both passengers and residents in adjacent neighborhoods. Streamlining and connecting all neighborhoods across all communities can also reverse blatant infrastructure barriers such as the ‘Highway To Nowhere’ in Baltimore. In some areas, for instance Tobytown in Montgomery County or Lothian in Anne Arundel County where transit is so limited that a 14-mile ride takes over three hours. Access to multimodal options could help alleviate these issues. While electrification of all transit and private vehicles will reduce air pollution, electrification infrastructure also presents a considerable equity challenge.

3) Intersection of Air Pollution with Existing Committees

- Health
 - Lack of clean air kills: cancers, respiratory diseases, asthma, etc.
- Economic Justice
 - Job options
 - Income
 - Education, sports and leisure activities
- Housing
 - Where to live (close to healthcare)
 - Family structure

4) Potential Coalition Partners

- CCAN
- Chispa, League of Conservation Voters
- Clean Air Partners
- Clean Air Task Force
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Moms Clean Air Force
- Schools
- Sierra Club
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Universities
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

D. Other Considerations

1) Potential Ambassadors

In this populous and diverse Central Maryland region, many Black and Brown people have become disenfranchised and are seeking more activist outlets such as Black Lives Matter and the Sunrise Movement. The NAACP has an opportunity to engage these younger audiences in MSC-ECJ committees by:

- Reaching out to and working in collaboration with younger activist organizations
- Recruiting at high schools and universities throughout the area NAACP youth groups
- Training existing committee members who are seeking a more effective outlet

2) Messaging Tactics, Frequency, and Platforms

Branch Presidents should be interviewed to understand the full picture, but it appears that most branches have a Facebook page and regular meetings. Events are a wonderful recruitment venue. However, other than sporadic articles in publications such as *Maryland Matters*, *Baltimore Sun*, etc., there is no coordinated, concerted, and superseding messaging strategy or coordination of efforts to reach the general public - or even the broader membership.

A highly visible well-planned campaign, focused on earned, and social media, including Public Service Announcements potentially with the help of the Ad Council, should be rolled out starting in Central Maryland.

3) Other ECJ Issues in Central Maryland

- Affordable housing, especially green housing
- Affordable and effective transportation
- Better education regarding the amount of ECJ infractions
- Affordable renewable energy access

- Green job training
- Droughts and floods
- Food deserts
- Clean transit

VII. Southern Maryland

This tri-county area has an active environmental leadership with a strong crossover between the NAACP and the Sierra Club. For instance, Rosa Hance, St. Mary's ECJ chair, is also the chair of the Maryland Sierra Club. Dyotha Sweat is the president of the Charles County NAACP and is actively concerned about environmental racism, while Teresa Ball, the ECJ chair for Charles County is also very active within the Sierra Club.

The Southern Maryland tri-county area also suffers from soil erosion, active and inactive Superfund sites, lack of easy access to clean water and air, food deserts and many other issues. However, as with other regions, due to the number of ECJ infractions across Maryland, we will assign leadership of these two key issues to the ECJ committees in Southern Maryland:

1. Cove Point Gas LNG terminal and most importantly, the gas pipelines funneled through minority neighborhoods. Methane is compounding important air quality issues which are a result of poor infrastructure and public transportation.
2. Together with Central and Western Maryland, water pollution with PFAs from military Superfund sites and growing sinkhole problems.

A. The Counties: Statistics and Insights

Calvert County

In 2020, [Calvert County](#) had a population of 92.1k people with a median age of 40.5 and a median household income of \$112,696. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Calvert County, grew from 91,511 to 92,094, a 0.637% increase and its median household income grew from \$109,313 to \$112,696, a 3.09% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Calvert County are White (Non-Hispanic) (77.6%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (12.2%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (3.83%), White (Hispanic) (2.71%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic) (1.84%). In 2020, the median property value in Calvert County, MD was \$364,800, and the homeownership rate was 84.7%. Most people in Calvert County drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 42.2 minutes. The average car ownership in Calvert County was two cars per household.

Charles County

[Charles County](#) had a population of 161k people in 2020, with a median age of 38.5 and a median household income of \$103,678. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Charles County, MD grew from 159,428 to 161,448, a 1.27% increase and its median household income

grew from \$100,003 to \$103,678, a 3.67% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Charles County are Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (46.9%), White (Non-Hispanic) (38.3%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (4.74%), White (Hispanic) (3.36%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic) (3.08). The largest university in Charles County, MD is the College of Southern Maryland (1,556 degrees awarded in 2020). In 2020, the median property value in Charles County, MD was \$326,800, and the homeownership rate was 76.9%. Most people in Charles County, MD drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 45.4 minutes. The average car ownership in Charles County was two cars per household.

See the detailed [Report on Charles County](#) prepared for the Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights, by Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health master's degree students that clearly outlines and details environmental health hazards and environmental racism in this majority Black county.

St. Mary's County

In 2020, [St. Mary's County](#), had a population of 113k people with a median age of 36.5 and a median household income of \$95,864. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of St. Mary's County grew from 112,290 to 113,182, a 0.794% increase and its median household income grew from \$89,845 to \$95,864, a 6.7% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in St. Mary's County are White (Non-Hispanic) (73.6%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (14.3%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (3.98%), White (Hispanic) (3.06%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic) (2.57%). The largest university in St. Mary's County is St. Mary's College of Maryland (424 degrees awarded in 2020). In 2020, the median property value in St. Mary's County was \$318,500, and the homeownership rate was 70.3%. Most people in St. Mary's County drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 31.7 minutes. The average car ownership in St. Mary's County was two cars per household.

B. Cove Point Liquid Gas Terminal and Pipelines

Governor Larry Hogan located one of the biggest threats to the Chesapeake Bay and to all of Maryland right off the shores of Calvert County: the Cove Point Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility which is now fully operated by Berkshire Hathaway's BHE GT&S, while ownership is shared with Dominion Energy & Brookfield Asset Management.

[“Cove Point Terminal](#) is an offshore liquid natural gas (LNG) shipping terminal located near Lusby on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay” and in full operation since 2018 as an export facility (it was smaller and only importing previously). “The shipping dock is located about 1.4 miles from the plant's storage tanks and is connected by pipes in an underwater tunnel. Cove Point LNG Terminal has a storage capacity of 14.6 billion cubic feet and a daily send-out capacity of 1.8 BCF. The terminal connects, via its own pipeline, to the major Mid-Atlantic gas transmission systems of Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, Columbia Gas Transmission, and Dominion Energy Transmission.” It is the second largest LNG export facility in the US.

“Cashman was contracted to mechanically remove ~110,000 yd of silt and sand material at the

facility, as well as provide pier and revetment wall reinforcement.” (“[Cove Point LNG Pipeline Dredging](#),” Cashman Dredging.) Many residents believe that this dredging [changed the tides in the bay](#).

1) ECJ Issue

In 2016, thousands of people, including 84 organizations led by the [Cedarville Band of the Piscataway Indians](#), representing the people whose land this has been for many thousands of years, and sponsored by [We Are Cove Point](#) and [Calvert Citizens for a Healthy Community](#), wrote an open letter demanding a [quantitative risk assessment \(QRA\)](#) for Cove Point. The terminal is a huge threat to one of the most vulnerable ecosystems in the country and of great concern to all residents in the area, as an excerpt reads:

“Nowhere else in the world is there an LNG export terminal in such a densely populated area. Within two miles of this facility are 2,365 homes, 19-day care centers, three churches, two schools, two shopping centers, two senior centers, and 7,000 of your constituents – all currently at the risk of being consumed in a flash fire with the terminal as is. We don’t know how wide the risk radius should be extended, because there hasn’t been a QRA.” (“[UPDATE: 84 Organizations Co-sign Letter to Maryland Governor Hogan for a QRA at Cove Point](#),” We Are Cove Point.)

Beyond the fire hazards, facilities and pipelines can release toxic gases and particulate matter emitted by leaks, emissions, flaring, and other damage from pipelines which destroys vegetation, harms local wildlife, and adds to local water and air pollution levels.

While Cove Point is a huge issue, the pipelines feeding the facility are probably of bigger concern from an ECJ perspective. On the Eastern Shore the [DELMAR pipeline](#) will take fracked gas from Delaware to the CAFOs and prison on the Lower Eastern Shore. For Cove Point, there are big lines feeding the terminal that lead through many counties in Maryland including this tri-county area.

Dominion Cove Point LNG Facility and Related Infrastructure

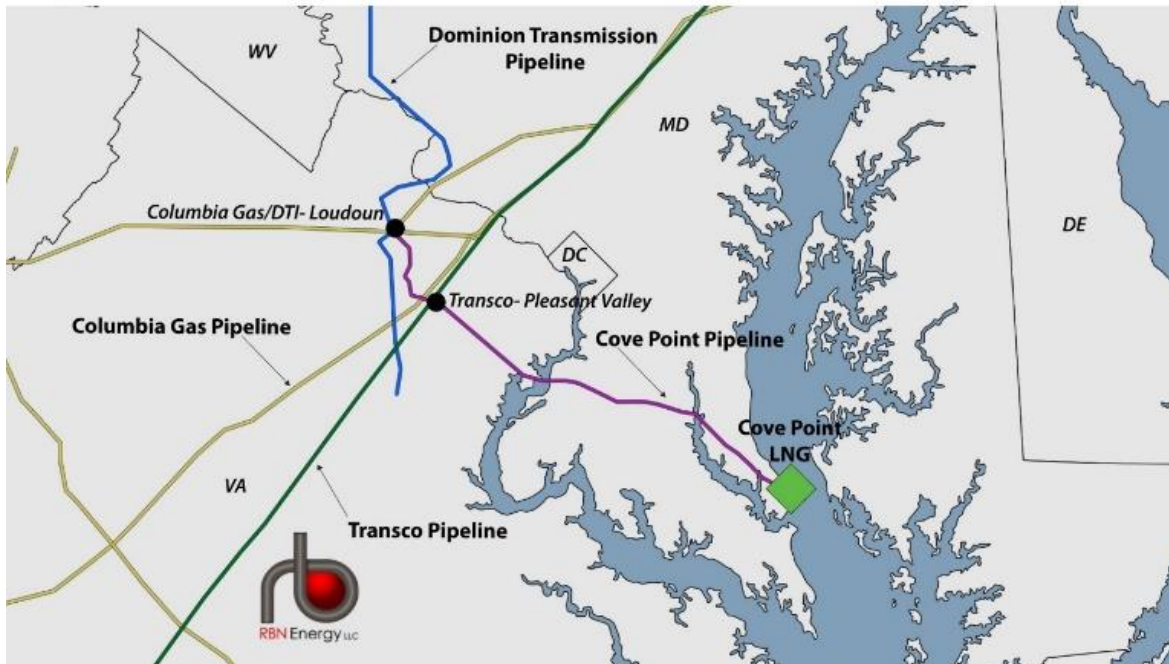
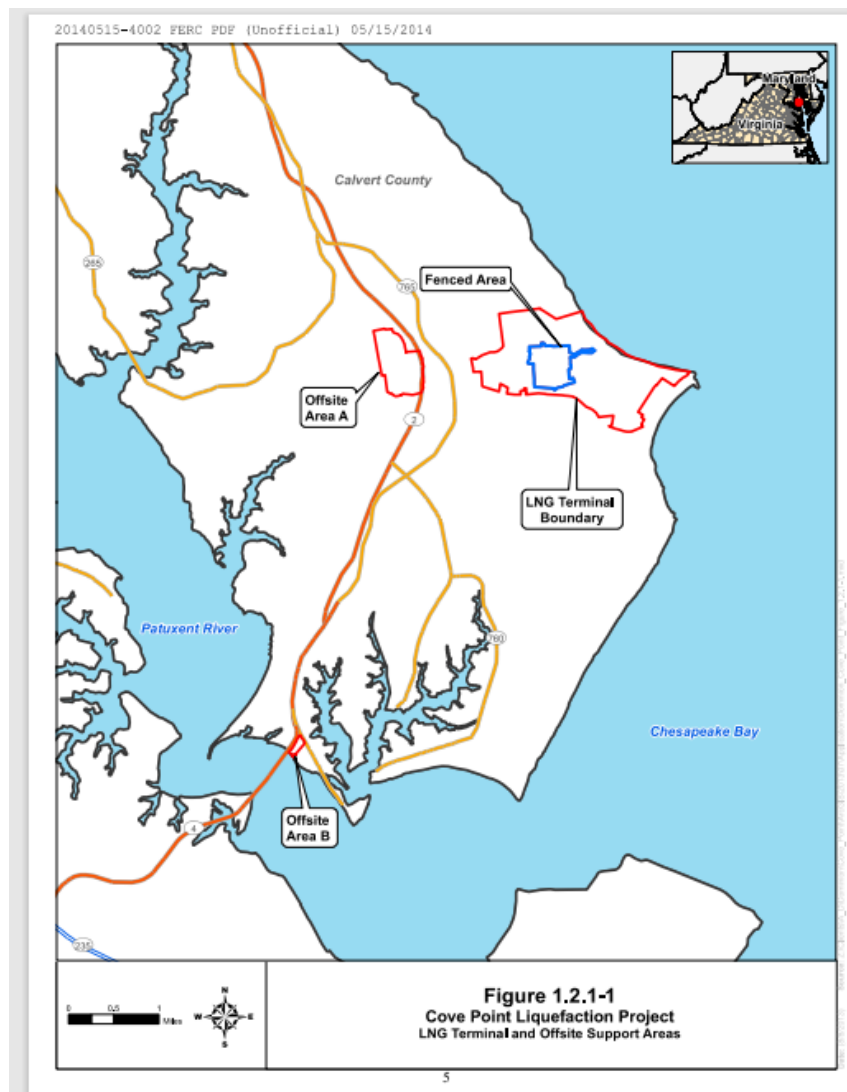


Figure 1(Graphic by RB Energy: <https://rbnenergy.com/whats-going-on-estimating-dominion-cove-point-liquefaction-feedgas-volumes/>)

It is a question of which neighborhoods the gas pipelines are being channeled through that will uncover the biggest ECJ impact. Meanwhile, Cove Point is being fed by gas lines coming in from Virginia and Pennsylvania, also leading through neighborhoods throughout Central and Southern Maryland. The threat of fires and explosion with methane gas is real: Explosion of a simple transmission line (not a large industrial distribution line like we’re talking about for Cove Point) leveled three townhomes and killed two in Baltimore City in 2021. Baltimore Gas and Electric released a statement saying: “As reported, BGE’s equipment—gas mains, gas service pipes, gas meters and electric equipment—were operating safely and were not the cause of the natural gas explosion.” (“[BGE response to Jan. 12, 2021 update from Baltimore City on the Labyrinth Rd. incident](#),” BGE, Jan. 12, 2021.)



In addition to the methane leaks and dangers, ozone (O₃) and fine particulates (PM_{2.5}) are Maryland's biggest air issue when looking at **air quality**. Both pollutants are created from fuel-burning sources such as vehicles, electric utilities and industrial boilers. Ozone is a gas that occurs in layers in the atmosphere.

Southern Maryland is designated as a non-attainment area for 8-hour ozone indicating that it does not meet the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Ozone is not directly emitted into the air; it is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight. Motor vehicle emissions and fossil fuel burning power plants are significant sources of ground-level ozone air pollution. There is a clear connection between air pollution and traffic as cars and trucks are not tested in Southern Maryland. The VEIP has declared a "non-attainment zones," despite most residents calling for emissions testing in the region. In St. Mary's County, air quality monitors have been deployed by the Sierra Club

and the NAACP under the "Breathe Well St. Mary's County" campaign. However, there is no infrastructure to track and assess the data.

In addition, most people commute to work alone in their own cars for 30-45 minutes on average. That adds up to 60-90 minutes a day of potentially several hundred thousand vehicles with emissions that are not legally limited.

Some air pollution could be averted with public transportation and improved infrastructure but there is a lack of investment by the state among the most impacted communities, those closest to highways, and in St. Mary's urban center. Planning appears non-existent with disconnected buildings and abandoned infrastructure in low-income communities. Importantly, it is mostly the community itself that is being blamed for the lack of planning and investment.

2) Intersection of Methane Gas Pipelines and Terminals with Existing Committees:

- Health
 - Methane emissions can affect breathing, heart rate, balance problems and numbness
 - Toxic water, air, and soil kills
- Housing
 - "Natural" gas has been dropping in price since the Obama presidency which encouraged many landlords to switch to gas instead of electric. Gas appliances and pipelines require maintenance, or they can make living conditions very dangerous.
 - Often, methane pipelines are funneled around underserved communities—and/or—Black and Brown communities cannot afford a safer home than one located next to or even on top of pipelines.
- Economic Justice
 - The location of real estate next to a pipeline or LNG facility will drastically affect the value of the property.
 - Not being able to open the windows to fresh air also adds to economic and the increased energy burden of HVAC costs, air purifiers, humidifiers, etc.
 - As the housing stock is upgraded to include high-efficiency, green, and purifying systems, the price of housing goes up, making it even more difficult for low-income community members to remain in homes and build wealth.

3) Potential Coalition Partners

Many organizations are already fighting the Cove Point terminal and Southern Maryland and Eastern Shore NAACP-ECJ committees must support these organization in their push to close the terminal while obtaining support and information regarding the condition and location of the pipelines.

In Charles County alone, the fracked gas pipeline runs through Cedarville State Forest, which is public land around a fish hatchery. In addition, there is a pipeline that will fuel the Panda

Mattawoman proposed power plant which runs underneath the Mattawoman Creek and the Zekiah Swamp. Any spill in the pipeline could irreversibly damage the water supply and destroy the swamp.

Organizations that are actively working against the terminal include: 350 Loudoun, AMP Creeks Council, Beyond Extreme Energy, Calvert Citizens for a Healthy Community, Chesapeake Citizens, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Chesapeake Earth First!, Food and Water Watch, Howard County Climate Change, Myersville Citizens for a Rural Community, Popular Resistance, Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter, Stopping Extraction and Exports Destruction (SEED), Waterkeepers Chesapeake, Collective X, Fighting Against Natural Gas (FANG), Friends of Nelson, Lancaster Against Pipelines, Marcellus Shale Earth First!, Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance, No Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Patuxent Friends, Patuxent Riverkeeper, Rising Tide North America, Savage Mountain Earth First!, Shalefield Organizing Committee, Stop the Frack Attack, and Tidewater Earth First!

C. Water Pollution, PFAs and Sinkholes

We address groundwater pollution in Western Maryland and the Lower Eastern Shore sections, but Southern Maryland has many similar problems. For that reason, it may be helpful to join forces with the ECJ committees in Western Maryland focused on water quality.

1) ECJ Issue

Please see Western Maryland ECJ cross over issues On September 21, 2022, before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security, Ms. Abre' Conner testified that:

“Failure to invest in Black communities and the ramifications that follow are rooted in a history of environmental racism that continues to this day. If we examine the effects on cities like Jackson, Mississippi, . . . Flint, Michigan, and Baltimore, Maryland . . . alone, there are likely hundreds of thousands of Black people who have had brown water or toxins like E.coli flowing through their faucets within the last several years - a source of water meant to do daily tasks such as brushing their teeth, bathing children and showering, or drinking.” ([“Testimony of Abre’ Conner Director, Center for Environmental and Climate Justice United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security “Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Resilience: A Focus on Water,”](#) September 21, 2022.)

Lack of clean water affects health, schools, workplaces, food quality, income, housing quality, and diminishes black community progress.

2) Causes of Groundwater Pollution

There are three main causes: climate change with sea level rise and stronger storms which overwhelm the failing infrastructure; runoff from cars, agriculture, dams, etc.; and Superfund sites.

In St. Mary's County the contamination of waterways by sewage is common, particularly after heavy rain, and often can lead to beach closures and restrictions on fishing. This is a clear example of infrastructure divestment. In 2021, people fell ill because [a surging tide](#) overwhelmed the sewage system along a narrow island in St. Mary's County, causing about 25,000 gallons of waste to leak into the Potomac River. [MDE took two weeks](#) to issue an emergency order to temporarily ban shellfish harvesting in St. George Creek which led to two dozen people falling sick after they ate contaminated oysters. Three other sewage overflows have been reported in the area in recent years—in October 2019, July 2021 and August 2021—but state environmental regulators deemed any impacts to be “negligible” and did not require shellfish harvest restrictions.

In addition to a lagging infrastructure – exacerbated by rising sea levels and increasing storm surges- residents of St. Mary's are exposed to “high concentrations of toxic “forever chemicals” in groundwater beneath [the] Patuxent River air base in Southern Maryland and beneath a smaller airfield nearby on the St. Mary's River. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, were detected in all 16 areas sampled [in 2020] at Naval Air Station Patuxent River and at both areas checked at the Webster Field annex, the Navy disclosed The shallow groundwater contaminated by PFAS seeps into ‘nearby streams and rivers,’ the Navy document [said].

“PFAS levels in at least some spots at all 16 Patuxent River areas sampled exceed the EPA drinking water threshold... with a combined total of more than 37,000 parts per trillion for the three compounds the Navy checked for...” (“[Navy finds ‘forever chemicals’ at MD bases near two Chesapeake rivers,](#)” *The Bay Journal*, April 16, 2021.)

In addition to Naval Air Systems Command (“NAVAIR”) in St. Mary's County, there is the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division (Indian Head) in Charles County [which apparently] has conducted open burning/open detonation (OB/OD) of military flares that [contain up to 45% of PFAS](#), according to a report by Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB). (“[Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Maryland incinerates flares with high concentrations of PFAS,](#)” *Military Poisons*.)

The 3,500-acre [Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center \(NSWC\)](#) is about 25 miles southwest of Washington, D.C. “The NSWC was established in 1890 as the Naval Proving Ground, with the mission of testing explosives and propellants. Over its 100-year history of operations, the facility has manufactured a variety of munitions chemicals. Manufacturing, testing, loading and assembly operations at the site generated explosive, reactive and hazardous wastes. In the past, some of these waste products were routinely dumped into pits and landfills at the facility or burned in open burning grounds. Site activities also included the routine discharge of industrial

wastewaters to septic systems, open ditches and storm sewers that emptied directly into surrounding water bodies. These activities contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals. The site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1995. Remedies have been selected for 11 of the site’s contaminated areas. Several removal actions are underway.” ([“Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center,”](#) Indian Head, MD,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.) In Charles County, an overwhelmed water infrastructure, including faulty storm management systems, has caused dangerous sinkholes. Sinkholes can form for several reasons, including decline of water levels - drought, groundwater pumping (wells, quarries, mines); disturbance of the soil - digging through soil layers, soil removal, drilling’ point-source of water—leaking water/sewer pipes, injection of water.

All of the above could be the cause—especially if we consider new gas pipes being laid—but these sinkholes appear to be mostly a typical instance of environmental racism which has manifested itself in historic disinvestment in specific communities, as clearly and eloquently stated by the Director for the Center for Environmental and Climate Justice of the NAACP, Abre’ Conner in her September 21, 2022, testimony to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security on [“Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Resilience: A Focus on Water.”](#)

Charles County (which is majority Black) in Southern Maryland and Baltimore City (majority Black) is on a par with Jackson, Mississippi, and Flint, Michigan. In Labor Day 2022, two enormous sinkholes in the city of Baltimore caused E-. Coli to be present in the water. [The Mayor’s solution was to give a 25% discount on the water bills in the next billing cycle.](#)

In Calvert County, most groundwater problems are a result of septic systems “on lots established during the 1960s or earlier. The highest concentrations of failing septic systems due to high groundwater and poor percolation are located in Apple Greene, Breezy Point, Broomes Island, Cavalier Country, Cove Point, Dares Beach, Plum Point, and Neeld Estates.” ([“Calvert County Comprehensive Plan,”](#) August 2019.)

Many of Calvert County’s water problems are also a result of **run-off**. “The most prevalent pollutants within Calvert County’s watershed are nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment which originate at wastewater treatment plants. Non-point source pollution also originates from run off from agricultural land, septic systems, and impervious surfaces and cultivated lawns.” ([“Calvert County Comprehensive Plan,”](#) August 2019.)

In addition to run-off contaminants, natural contaminants are common “in the aquifers supplying drinking water to Calvert County. [Arsenic](#) is naturally occurring in the aquifer material of Maryland’s Coastal Plain, which causes elevated arsenic levels in groundwater drawn from aquifers in this area. This presents concerns for the county’s drinking water quality, as most of it is supplied from the [Aquia aquifer.](#)” ([“Calvert County Comprehensive Plan,”](#) August 2019.)

“Drinking water in Calvert County has also tested positively for traces of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), odor iron, and other minerals in the water in scattered instances. Chromium, lead, and nitrate were the only iodized organic compounds detected at or above 50 percent of their

respective maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in the Source Water Assessments.” (“[Calvert County Comprehensive Plan](#),” August 2019.)

Some of the water pollutants are washed down from the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River in Maryland. Historically, the Dam “trapped much of the sediment and nutrient pollution carried by the river and prevented it from reaching the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay. But now the area behind the dam has silted in, and more quickly than scientists had anticipated. Major storms scour some of that sediment and wash it downstream,” into—the Bay. (“[Conowingo Dam and Chesapeake Bay](#),” Chesapeake Bay Foundation.)

3) Intersection of Water Issues with Existing Committees (same as Western Maryland):

- Health
 - Toxic water poisons the entire community and the environment and can be fatal
 - Exposure to mold from standing water causes allergies and breathing troubles
- Housing
 - The water supply for some underserved communities is patchy
 - Underserved communities often have poor water quality in their homes
 - Pipes need to be investigated – what are they made of?
 - Well water needs to be tested (across the State) to ensure no chemicals are seeping in
- Economic Justice
 - Cost of importing water bottles is an added burden on underserved communities
 - Land & property values drop due to lack of clean water
 - Many homes of Black and Brown people are close to Superfund sites and questionable water treatment plans
- Education
 - Children and adults need to learn about clean water and potential pollution sites
 - Ensure clean water in schools & colleges
 - Ensure clean water at workplaces

4) Potential Coalition Partners

[MilitaryPoisons.org](#) lists the following [national Groups](#) which are all potential allies.

- [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry – PFAS and Your Health](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Center for Health, Environment, and Justice](#)
- [Center for Environment and Public Action at Bennington College](#)
- [Clean Water Action](#)
- [Civilian Exposure](#)
- [Community Action Works \(formerly Toxic Action Network\)](#)
- [Department of Defense](#)
- [Earth Justice](#)

- [The Endocrine Disruption Exchange \(TEDX\)](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [EPA Resources by State](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency Superfund CERCLA Overview](#)
- [Environmental Council of States \(ECOS\)](#)
- [Environmental Working Group \(EWG\)](#)
- [EWG Military sites map with PFAS](#)
- [EWG PFAS timeline](#)
- [Green Science Policy Institute](#)
- [Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council \(ITRC\)](#)
- [National Conference of State Legislatures \(state laws\)](#)
- [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#)
- [National PFAS Contamination Coalition](#)
- [National Resources Defense Council](#)
- [PFAS Central](#)
- [Safer States](#)
- [Safer States Legislation Tracker with Map](#)
- [Sierra Club](#)
- [Social Science Health Research Institute at Northeastern University](#)
- [STEEP—Sources, Transport, Exposure, & Effects of PFAS: University of Rhode Island](#)
- [Union of Concerned Scientists](#)
- [WILPF US Section](#)

D. Other Considerations

The ECJ infractions in Southern Maryland are vast and complex. A coalition effort is an absolute must to tackle these. Moving away from methane as a source for electricity is an absolute must as is addressing the military's contamination of these sites. Given the Department of Defense's budget, there is no excuse not to clean up.

Other Superfund Sites

In Calvert County, there are two Superfund sites that are active but not listed as a National Priority. These are U.S. Navy's Naval Research Lab Chesapeake Bay Detachment and the U.S. Navy's Surface Warfare Center on Solomon's Island. Interestingly, Cove Point does not show up as a Superfund site.

In St. Mary's County there are [12 Superfund sites](#). The biggest one is the mentioned NAVAIR (Naval Air Systems Command) base which is spewing PFAs into the water. Not on the NPL but still active is the [Southern Maryland Wood Treating site at Hollywood](#), Maryland, "which was in operation from 1965 until 1978. Twenty-five acres of the 94-acre property were utilized for wood treatment operations using creosote and pentachlorophenol (PCP). Process wastewater was piped into six unlined lagoons located near the process buildings.

“The site was added to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1986 and deleted from the NPL in 2005” (without much clean up) which is why it probably is still listed as active. ([“Southern Maryland Wood Treating Hollywood, Md.”](#) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

Other non NPL but active sites include: The U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Modern Cleaners at Lexington Park and Modern Cleaners. Inactive and non-priority sites in St. Mary’s are: Genstar Stone Products, US Navy’s Naval Electronics Systems Engineering, Springer Septic Services, Thiokol Corp Mechanicsville, Leonardtown Dry Cleaners, the California Drum Site and St. Mary’s Salvage.

In Charles County, we mentioned the Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center above. This site, depending on whom you ask, may contain up to [103 individual hazardous sites](#) as broken down by ProPublica. That is the biggest and currently active Superfund site on the NPL. Additional active Superfund sites are also all related to the military and not currently on listed as a national priority. These include Blossom Point Field Test Area, Naval Research Experimental Station, Pomonkey Launch (a Nike missile site and part of the Washington Area Defense Systems) and the U.S. Naval Research Lab Launch. Inactive Superfund sites in Charles County are Charles County Sanitary LF, Pomonkey Control, Hughesville Tire Site, Waldorf Control, Naval Research Lab Control and a [contaminated swamp area](#).

VIII. North Eastern Shore

This group of counties unfortunately also has large Superfund sites (including proving grounds), water and air pollution, and the DelMar 19 Mile fracked Gas pipeline is being built through many neighborhoods. Add to that the erosion of the land from climate change which is leaving many people without land and homes. Unfortunately, Black and Brown communities are once again hit first and worst by the effects of climate change. Even more unfortunately, there is little we can do at this point against rising sea levels. Black farmers are especially impacted by the erosion of the land and [are most in need of support](#) and subsidies, but are often barred from them as we saw in Western Maryland. An important program for people who are losing their land due to erosion is the Resiliency Hubs discussed within Western Maryland Region.

However, as with the other regions, in order to avoid overwhelming the new ECJ committees with all topics at once, we will rely on the other regions to take the lead on the above-mentioned issues and recommend that the Eastern Shore Northern Counties focus on solar and wind energy generation and access.

It is our opinion that the best focus for the NAACP ECJ Committees in this region is on economic justice by providing training, establishing an education fund, and setting up education centers for wind and solar installation, design, and maintenance. Major green investors are already working on the Eastern Shore –including Ørsted (Danish offshore wind manufacturer) which is very actively [establishing an offshore wind project](#). In addition, soil erosion and –

unfortunately- soil and water pollution across the Eastern Shore, better qualify this region for solar fields and wind turbines rather than continued farming.

A. The Counties: Statistics and Insights

Harford County

In 2019, Harford County had a population of 255k people with a median age of 41.1 and a median household income of \$92,331. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Harford County grew from 253,956 to 255,441, a 0.585% increase and its median household income grew from \$88,603 to \$92,331, a 4.21% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Harford County, MD are White (Non-Hispanic) (75%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (14%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (3.24%), White (Hispanic) (3.09%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic) (2.86%)

Cecil County

In 2019, Cecil County had a population of 103k people with a median age of 40.8 and a median household income of \$76,887. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Cecil County grew from 102,517 to 102,552, a 0.0341% increase and its median household income grew from \$72,845 to \$76,887, a 5.55% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Cecil County are White (Non-Hispanic) (85.1%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (6.38%), White (Hispanic) (2.71%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (2.53%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic) (1.41%).

Kent County

In 2020, Kent County had a population of 19.5k people with a median age of 48 and a median household income of \$60,208. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Kent County declined from 19,536 to 19,456, a -0.41% decrease and its median household income grew from \$58,598 to \$60,208, a 2.75% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Kent County, MD are White (Non-Hispanic) (77.4%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (13.9%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (2.79%), White (Hispanic) (2.19%), and Other (Hispanic) (1.88%). The largest university in Kent County is Washington College which awarded 388 degrees in 2020. The median property value in Kent County was \$258,500, and the homeownership rate was 69.2%. Most people in Kent County drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 28.2 minutes. The average car ownership in Kent County was two cars per household.

Queen Anne's County

In 2020, [Queen Anne's County](#) had a population of 50.2k people with a median age of 44.7 and a median household income of \$96,467. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Queen Anne's County grew from 49,632 to 50,163, a 1.07% increase and its median household income declined from \$97,034 to \$96,467, a -0.584% decrease. The 5 largest ethnic groups in Queen Anne's County are White (Non-Hispanic) (85.4%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (5.84%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (3.19%), White. The largest universities in Queen Anne's County are Chesapeake College which awarded 292 degrees in 2020. In 2020, the median property value in

Queen Anne's County was \$363,300, and the homeownership rate was 80.2%. Kent County, DE, Anne Arundel County, Caroline County, Kent County, and Talbot County.

Caroline County

In 2020, Caroline County had a population of 33.3k people with a median age of 39.3 and a median household income of \$59,042. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Caroline County grew from 33,049 to 33,260, a 0.638% increase and its median household income grew from \$58,638 to \$59,042, a 0.689% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Caroline County are White (Non-Hispanic) (75.2%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (13.2%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (3.31%), White (Hispanic) (3.23%), and Other (Hispanic) (2.96%). In 2020, the median property value in Caroline County was \$213,400, and the homeownership rate was 71%. Most people in Caroline County drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 32.7 minutes. The average car ownership in Caroline County, MD was two cars per household.

In 2019, Caroline County Emergency Response Department published a comprehensive [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (HMP) which includes the effects of sea-level rise, soil erosion, river flooding, etc. including shoreline erosion estimates and impacts. Unfortunately, this publication needs to be updated due to the quickening pace of climate impact.

Talbot County

In 2020, Talbot County had a population of 37.1k people with a median age of 51 and a median household income of \$73,102. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Talbot County, MD declined from 37,167 to 37,087, a -0.215% decrease and its median household income declined from \$73,547 to \$73,102, a -0.605% decrease. The five largest ethnic groups in Talbot County, MD are White (Non-Hispanic) (77.5%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (10.6%), White (Hispanic) (3.66%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (3.37%), and Two+ (Hispanic) (2%). In 2020, the median property value in Talbot County was \$334,000, and the homeownership rate was 71.2%. Most people in Talbot County drove alone to work, and the average commute time was 27.4 minutes. The average car ownership in Talbot County, MD was two cars per household.

B. Green Energy Training, Access, and Economic Justice

While many technical schools and community colleges are starting to offer wind and solar training on manufacturing, installation, and maintenance, there do not appear to be training sites on the Eastern Shore. Salisbury University is big on sustainability on campus and has an entire [page dedicated to sustainability](#) but doesn't offer training and classes.

Wind: There is a real and immediate opportunity for the NAACP – ECJ committee to fill in this void and get ahead of the green jobs market. The **NAACP should reach out to Ørsted** and discuss a potential installation and maintenance training program for underserved communities since Ørsted is seeking to establish a local workforce for the installation of a large solar offshore facility, in addition to new wind power fields across the state.

Solar: Regarding solar installation and training, the solar industry has already invested \$3.9 billion in the State of Maryland and is generating enough solar to power [170,000 homes in the third quarter of 2022](#). There are 12 manufacturers, 100 installers and developers, and about 64 under the category of “others” who could all be allies in installation and maintenance training.

The Eastern Shore has been leading the way on solar:

- IKEA was the first major corporation in Maryland to go fully solar with a 4MW project in Perryville, Cecil County on the upper Eastern Shore.
- The Great Bay Solar 1 project in Princess Anne, Somerset County (Southern Eastern Shore) was installed by Pioneer Green Solar with 99 MW producing enough electricity to power 12,227 homes. Todd Solar is an operating solar farm in Hurlock, Dorchester County installed by Invenergy in 2021 which powers 3,582 homes.

Importantly, the chair of the ECJ-MSJ Committee, Staci Hartwell, is a consultant for solar installations and could potentially give guidance to a newly formed MSJ-ECJ- renewable energy sub-committee in upper Eastern Shore. The [Solar Energy Industry Association](#) (SEIA) has a list of producers, installers, and lists important policies that apply in Maryland.

Regarding access to solar, there are [77 incentive programs](#) focused on solar in Maryland alone according to the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE) and many community solar initiatives. Access to clean renewable energy will affect expenses, health, transportation/transit (electrifying all transit and providing charging station to EVs), housing, education, and economic justice.

1) Renewable Energy, an ECJ Issue

We could not find specific numbers for Maryland but some well contrasted estimates for the U.S. as a whole are provided by Zippia based off a database of 30 million profiles.

[According to Zippia, 58% of solar installation technicians](#) and maintenance professionals are white, 25% are Hispanic and only 11.4% are Black, followed by American Indian and Alaska Native 2.9%, Unknown 0.7% and Asian 0.7%. There’s also a gap in pay, based on Zippia’s analysis. White installers make an average annual salary of close to \$40,000 in solar, while Black installers make closer to \$39,000 a year while Asian installers make closer to \$42,000.-

Regarding the wind industry we have a similar breakdown: [Zippia estimates demographics and statistics](#) for wind turbine technicians in the United States found that there are over 5,682 wind turbine technicians currently employed in the United States. 2.7% of all wind turbine technicians are women, while 97.3% are men. The average age of an employed wind turbine technician is 43 years old. The most common ethnicity of wind turbine technicians is White (65.9%), followed by Hispanic or Latino (20.4%), Black or African American (8.1%) and Asian (3.2). Since 31.4% of the Maryland population is Black, and as of 2019, they comprise 57.3% of the state's population is Black or Brown.

The NAACP should move swiftly on a renewable energy training programs dedicated to Black and Brown community members. This program ties into the [Justice40 Initiative](#). Timing is of the essence as this has become a very competitive market and it is the only way of the future.

Establishing a training school to “train the trainer” for Black and Brown manufacturers, designers, technicians, installers and maintenance crews could generate ECJ-MSC alumni that can recruit, train, and accredit Black and Brown youth. Once Resilience Hubs are established, these can also serve as training and practice centers for future generations, but the training schools should start immediately. Recruitment can also be rolled out through the NAACP Youth Council at the High School level and potentially we could also consider middle-school recruitment in underserved communities.

2) Intersection Of Renewable Energy and Other Committees

- Health
 - Access to clean energy is essential to improve the water, air, and soil quality for all, especially for the communities who suffer first and worst of these effects.
 - Focusing on replacing fossil fuels will also eliminate methane exposure due to pipelines funneled through and below Black and Brown communities
- Housing
 - Renewable energy will make housing more accessible due to lower energy costs and safer – without potential explosions.
- Education
 - Using the Justice40 Initiative funding to create effective community training facilities and accreditations will improve the level of education of underserved youth that otherwise does not have access to professional training.
- Economic Justice.
 - Most importantly, Black and Brown communities need to get ahead of the green energy revolution to ‘ride the economic green wave’ to grow corporate ownership, individual wealth, and community power. This is a unique opportunity which we cannot let pass. Time is of the essence.

3) Potential Coalition Partners

There are several Black and Brown Solar initiatives to ensure easy access or that seek a dedicated income stream from renewable energy including: SRH Consulting; [WE Solar](#), [Bithenergy](#), and other minority-owned industry leaders. The White House will be instrumental in following through on the Justice 40 Initiative and needs to be actively engaged.

Defensores de la Cuenca has started their “Academia” de los Defensores, in which community members are paid to take free training in green jobs for one week a year. It may be a good idea to unite forces or learn from their experience.

There are also many community solar initiatives where the NAACP-ECJ committees can lead the way.

Meanwhile, Sierra Club is very active with community solar whereby Marylanders have the choice to either buy solar power from a community solar farm through direct share ownership or can sign up for a free cost-savings enrollment through a subscription model. This is something WE Solar is working on as well along with [Energy Sage](#).

Eolic energy is less common than solar at this point which may make industry-entry— and even potential dominance in the sector— easier. We have high hopes that access to wind farms, installation, training, and subscription, will be more democratized over the next 2-3 years, especially if the 2022 November election outcome is positive which means that we need to enter the manufacturing, installation, and servicing market right now.

C. Other Considerations

As mentioned, the upper/northern Eastern Shore suffers from every ECJ infraction which we have seen across Maryland. Harford and Cecil Counties appear to have the biggest environmental burden from Superfund sites, maybe because they are bordering PA and NJ.

Harford County has 26 Superfund sites, including the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Conowingo Dam is shared with Cecil County and is not on the EPA Superfund site list yet, although its silt is contaminating the Bay. Two of the three listed Superfund sites in Harford County are located inside 17,000 acres of army testing grounds, in operation since 1918. “The base includes firing ranges, impact areas, vehicle test tracks, a fire training area, and laboratories in support of the testing activities. The [Michaelsville Landfill](#) operated as a sanitary landfill from the 1970s until 1980” and encompasses 20 acres that “received household garbage and refuse from the base. Base and landfill activities contaminated soil, sediment, ground water and surface water with hazardous chemicals [so that] the EPA placed the site on the Superfund program’s National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989. (“[Aberdeen Proving Ground \(Michaelsville Landfill\) Aberdeen, Md.](#)” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

The other NPL area is the 13,000-acre [Aberdeen Edgewood Area Site](#), which includes “Gunpowder Neck, Pooles Island, Carroll Island and Graces Quarters. Development and testing of chemical agent munitions took place at this federal facility site. From 1917 to the present, site activities have included conducting chemical research programs, manufacturing chemical agents, and testing, storage and disposal of toxic materials. Site activities contaminated soil, sediment, ground water and surface water with hazardous chemicals. The EPA placed this site on the Superfund program’s National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990.” (“[Aberdeen Proving Ground \(Edgewood Area\), Edgewood, Md.](#)” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

The third active Superfund site in Harford County is [The Bush Valley Land Fill](#) located one mile from the town of Abingdon. “The site is located on a 29-acre parcel of land, of which approximately 16 acres consist of the Bush Valley Landfill. In 1975, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene allowed the site to be used as a municipal solid waste landfill. The landfill operators soon began accepting hazardous waste and drums, although accepting these wastes were against the operation procedures found in the landfill permit. As the hazardous

wastes began to mix with rainwater, a toxic leachate formed and contaminated the groundwater, surface soils, and subsurface soils at the site. The landfill closed in 1983, and in March 1989, EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List.” (“[Bush Valley Landfill, Abingdon, Md.](#)” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

[Other Superfund sites](#) which the EPA has not put on the NPL (national Priorities List) in Harford County are Pulaski Motors, the Havre De Grace Dump, Havre De Grace Fireworks Site, McSpadden Cleaners, Havre De Grace Plt, Krohs Cleaners, Valet 1 Hour Cleaners, and Aberdeen Cleaners. Finally, there are inactive Superfund sites. The inactive (“archived”) Superfund sites in Harford County include Johnson Property Landfill, Moore Property Landfill, Longs Septic, Bata Shoe Latex Lagoon, Bata Shoe Main Plant, Minefields Asbestos Site, Braxton Property Landfill, Abingdon Landfill, I W Jenkins Mountain Road Property, Mountain Road Emergency Response, Mullins Landfill, Edwards Lane Site, Aberdeen Dump, Union Road Dump, and the Scarborough Landfill. To call any asbestos minefield or any landfill ‘inactive’ seems to be a misnomer as these will continue to leak toxic fumes and contaminate the soil and the ground water unless fully remediated.

The geographical location of these sites is no accident and as we saw in the Central Maryland Region, more often than not land in underserved communities.

Finally, between Harford and Cecil County is the [Conowingo Dam](#) which affects the entire Bay. “For decades the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River in Maryland trapped much of the sediment and nutrient pollution carried by the river and prevented it from reaching the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay. But now the area behind the dam has silted in, and more quickly than scientists had anticipated. Major storms scour some of that sediment and wash it downstream.”

“...The bigger threat to the Bay is nutrients coming through the dam, the report concluded. Nitrogen generally dissolves in water, so the dam never trapped or prevented much nitrogen from moving downstream to the Bay. But phosphorus is typically associated with sediment particles and was historically trapped by the dam. With the loss of trapping capacity, more phosphorus pollution is reaching downstream waters during storms. The report said the pollution from scouring must be addressed. The most cost-effective solution would be to stop pollution from entering the Susquehanna in the first place, the report concluded.” (“[Conowingo Dam And Chesapeake Bay](#),” Chesapeake Bay Foundation.)

(“[Phosphorus](#) is one of the three major pollutants affecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Excess phosphorus contributes to dead zones—areas with low levels of oxygen where marine life cannot live—in creeks, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay.” This seeping Phosphorus into the Bay is only aggravated by the manure pumped into the Bay by CAFOs as we will see in the next and final section.) (“[Reducing Phosphorus Pollution in Maryland](#),” Chesapeake Bay Foundation.)

Cecil County has a whopping 58 Superfund sites, five of which are actively being remediated by the EPA (are on the NPL list).

“The [Dwyer Property Groundwater Plume site](#) is located north of the intersection of Maryland Route 545 (Blue Ball Road) and Maryland Route 279 (Elkton Road), in Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland. The site encompasses a portion of the former explosives manufacturing facilities known as Triumph Explosives and Aerial Products which manufactured military products. It has been inactive since 1972 and is currently abandoned and overgrown. The site consists of a two distinct groundwater plumes contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). It is noteworthy that this site was not put on the NPL list until 2011.” (“[Dwyer Property Ground Water Plume, Elkton, Md.](#),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

“The [Spectron, Inc. Superfund Site](#) is located on approximately 8 acres near Elkton, Maryland, in a rural residential area. Solvent recycling operations occupied the site from 1962 to 1988. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were processed and released from the facility, resulting in contaminated soil, groundwater and seeps along the western bank of Little Elk Creek. The site was added to the National Priorities List in March 1994.” (“[Spectron, Inc., Elkton, Md.](#),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

The 150-acre [Sand, Gravel and Stone](#) site is also located in Elkton, Maryland. “Industrial waste disposal activities took place at the former sand and gravel quarry at this site from the late 1960s until the mid-1970s. Waste disposal activities contaminated soil and groundwater. The site was added to the Superfund program's National Priorities List in September 1983. Groundwater monitoring, extraction, and treatment are ongoing.” (“[Sand, Gravel And Stone, Elkton, Md.](#),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

The [Ordnance Products Inc.](#) Site occupies approximately 95 acres in Cecil County. “From 1957 to 1979, the site was occupied by a munitions manufacturing facility that produced, stored, and packaged grenade fuses, detonators, and related devices for the U.S. military. Waste from the manufacturing process was either buried on-site in open pits, discharged to five unlined surface impoundments, or buried. On-Site groundwater, soil, and nearby water supply wells were impacted by chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), metals, and perchlorate, a chemical used in explosives manufacturing. The Site was added to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1997.” (“[Ordnance Products, Inc., North East, Md.](#),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

“The 38-acre [Woodlawn County Landfill Superfund Site](#) is located in Colora, Maryland, near the intersection of Firetower Road and Waibel Road. A sand and gravel quarry operated on the site before it was purchased by Cecil County in 1960. The county operated a municipal landfill at the site from 1960 to 1978. Waste disposal operations filled the two quarry pits with agricultural, municipal, and industrial wastes. Between 1978 and 1981, after the landfill was closed to municipal waste, Firestone Tire & Rubber Company (now Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.) disposed of polyvinyl chloride sludge in three segregated disposal cells. Waste disposal at the site contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater. EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List in July 1987. Following cleanup, long-term monitoring of the groundwater, surface water, landfill gas and the vegetative soil cover is ongoing.” (“[Woodlawn County Landfill, Colora, Md.](#),” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

[There are 16 other Active Superfund sites](#), in Cecil County which are not on the National Priorities list, namely: Elkton Sparkler, Carpenters Point Proof Range, Perryville PCB Site, Maryland Assemblies, Sun Cleaners, Reginald Thompson Property, Naval Training Center Bainbridge, Patriotic Fireworks Manufacturing Facility, Ge Railcar Site, R M R, Vicon Property, Stauffer Chem Co, Maryland Cork Co Inc, Clear Creek Glen Dump, New Jersey Fireworks and Elkton Farm Firehole – in addition to **37 archived** ones.

Kent County has [10 Superfund sites](#), out of which nine are archived. The only active one is the [Chestertown Gas Company](#). During its 36 years of operation, “a water-gas method of coal gasification was used...In order to provide a cleaner burning fuel, impurities contained within the gas were removed. When the crude gas cooled, most of the tar, water and ammonia condensed out as waste. The exact additional purification techniques are not known for this plant. However, ferric oxide purification (a typical method used) was purchased in liquid form and then mixed with wood chips, sawdust or a similar medium to increase the gas to liquid contact. Through a chemical reaction with the ferric oxide, sulfur and cyanide compounds, and additional traces of tar ammonia, were removed from the gas.” No record regarding storage (how and where) of the byproducts exist. There are also 9 non-active sites, including defense industry leftovers. (“[Chestertown Gas Company](#) (MD-198), Chestertown, Kent Count, Maryland,” Maryland State Archives.)

Queen Anne’s County has no Superfund sites.

Caroline County [has eight Superfund sites](#), four of which are active. Two of the active sites are cleaners: Arden’s Town Cleaners and Sunshine Cleaners. As mentioned before, cleaners leak toxic chemicals into the air and the soil, including: Chloroethene, Dichloroethene, Tetrachloroethene, and Trichloroethene.

The other two active sites are wood treatment plants: Eastern MD Wood Treating Co and Reliance Wood Preserving Co. Little was found about the status of this site. Its sister site (Southern Maryland Wood Preserving Company in St. Mary’s county) included retort and cylinder sludges, process wastes, and material spillage drained into six onsite unlined lagoons. The primary contaminants of concern affecting the onsite ground water, soil, surface water, sediments, and debris include VOCs, PNA, and base/neutral acid extractable.

“The [Reliance Wood Preserving Company](#) began operations in 1977. A 1981 application to store hazardous waste was denied by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene due to poor storage practices. This was followed by a Complaint and Order to remove 143 drums of illegally stored hazardous waste was issued on May 5, 1982. A Preliminary Assessment by MDE was completed July 1987 followed by an Inspection by NUS Corporation in 1990. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the site as “No Further Remedial Action Planned” on January 23, 1996. In 1998, the concrete drip pad was renovated, and a plastic liner was installed under the pad.” (“[Reliance Wood Preserving Company, Federalsburg, Maryland](#),” Maryland Department of the Environment.)

The other four Superfund sites have been declared inactive and include: Skipjack Chemicals Inc, Dave’s Reloading and Gun Repair, Old West Denton Dump, and the Roland Rigby Site.

Talbot County, has [no active Superfund sites](#) on the National Priorities List. The Louis Charlie Merrimac Cleaners in Easton is an active Superfund site but is not on the NPL. The other seven sites have been archived and are mostly related to the power companies.

“Since 2013, the [Talbot County Ditch Retrofit Project](#)—a collaboration between the county's Department of Public Works (DPW), Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy—has been working on an innovative program to help Talbot County achieve an estimated 17 percent of its urban nitrogen pollution goal... Scientists estimate that projects installed at 150 prioritized ditch locations can reduce nitrogen pollution entering local waterways by 8,000 pounds per year from developed land and 30,000 pounds per year from agricultural lands. Cost savings from retrofits in developed areas alone total more than \$1.5 million over other standard practices.”

The NAACP should reach out to the Counties’ Departments of Public Works (DPW), the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy and ensure that similar retrofits are implemented among Black and Brown communities.

IX. Eastern Shore- South

Largely, the Eastern Shore (North to South) share most ECJ issues, and we could easily make this region one single group. However, due to the size and number of the ECJ infractions, it would be overwhelming and may dilute existing efforts. In the southern part of the Eastern Shore, we have many Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) infractions and a very active Branch President and ECJ Committee Chair who is already leading the way in the fight against these. To help the four counties in the lower Eastern Shore build on the progress already made and to take advantage of the cohesion in place between the four counties, the lower Eastern Shore Counties should continue to lead CAFOs ECJ infractions for the NAACP MSC.

A. The Counties: Statistics and Insights

Dorchester County

In 2019, Dorchester County had a population of 32.1k people with a median age of 44.6 and a median household income of \$52,917. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Dorchester County declined from 32,261 to 32,138, a -0.381% decrease and its median household income grew from \$52,145 to \$52,917, a 1.48% increase. In 2019, there were 2.44 times more White (Non-Hispanic) residents (20.2k people) in Dorchester County than any other race or ethnicity. There were 8.29k Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) and 1.43k Two+ (Non-Hispanic) residents, the second and third most common ethnic groups.

Dorchester County's NAACP ECJ-chair is Susan Olson who is also active with the Sierra Club.

Wicomico County

In 2019, Wicomico County had a population of 103k people with a median age of 36.1 and a median household income of \$56,956. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Wicomico County grew from 102,172 to 102,539, a 0.359% increase and its median household income grew from \$56,608 to \$56,956, a 0.615% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Wicomico County are White (Non-Hispanic) (63%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (25.6%), White (Hispanic) (3.51%), Asian (Non-Hispanic) (3.12%), and Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (2.62%).

Monica Brooks has been identified as the leader mobilizing activists in the surrounding counties. She is seeking help growing capacity, educating the membership, and addressing CAFOs within a coalition effort. Ms. Brooks is the NAACP Branch President and also ECJ chair in Wicomico County.

Worcester County

In 2019, Worcester County had a population of 51.8k people with a median age of 50.4 and a median household income of \$63,499. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Worcester County grew from 51,564 to 51,765, a 0.39% increase and its median household income grew

from \$61,145 to \$63,499, a 3.85% increase. The five largest ethnic groups in Worcester County are White (Non-Hispanic) (80.2%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (12.7%), White (Hispanic) (2.84%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (2.25%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic) (1.19%).

Worcester County has a self-identified “stand-in” who is hoping that a younger and energetic Black and Brown person can take charge. There is a big crossover with the Sierra Club activities such as the “picnic for the planet.” Worcester appears to have severe racism problems, including in certain churches.

Somerset County

In 2019, Somerset County had a population of 25.7k people with a median age of 36.2 and a median household income of \$37,803. Between 2018 and 2019 the population of Somerset County declined from 25,737 to 25,729, a -0.0311% decrease and its median household income declined from \$42,165 to \$37,803, a -10.3% decrease. The five largest ethnic groups in Somerset County are White (Non-Hispanic) (51.5%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (41.5%), Two+ (Non-Hispanic) (2.02%), White (Hispanic) (1.2%), and Other (Hispanic) (1.03%).

In Somerset, one of the last counties to integrate in 1969, Dr. Kirkland J. Hall, Sr., was elected the president of the NAACP last year and is trying to grow the branch. He wants to learn more about the environmental impacts of CAFOs and is seeking assistance in outreach and messaging.

B. CAFOs

“[Agriculture](#) is Maryland's largest commercial industry, contributing more than \$17 billion in revenue each year. More than 12,000 farms produce a variety of commodities including poultry, nursery and turf, seafood, dairy, corn, soybeans, and horses on approximately 2 million acres. This includes over [185,000 head of cattle](#) spread across nearly 3,300 farms. As the state's largest industry, agriculture puts many Marylanders to work – about 350,000 of them.” (“[Maryland Agriculture](#),” Farm Flavor.)

The amount of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in Maryland, which are mostly on the Lower Eastern Shore, has dramatically increased from seven in 2009, when the state’s first CAFO permits were issued on Dec. 1, to 526 in October 2020. Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset have the highest number of CAFOs...” (“[Report: Eastern Shore Has Unhealthy Levels of Nitrate in Drinking Water Due to CAFOs](#),” *Maryland Matters*, Oct. 21.2020.)

Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are a source of considerable pollution in Maryland’s Eastern Shore region. Hazardous and foul-smelling gasses and particulates derived from poultry excrement are agitated and dispersed by the facilities’ exhaust fans, resulting in high rates of respiratory illness for both workers and nearby residents, and manure runoff contaminates nearby water. Manure runoff from CAFOs can contaminate both ground and surface water with nitrates, ammonia, antibiotics, and pathogens, as well as cause biodiversity-

destroying algal blooms. While residents used to be able to swim in lakes and creeks, they are now overwhelmed by odorous algae.

1) CAFOs Are an ECJ Issue

“The increasing size of poultry operations raises health and quality of life [concerns for neighbors](#) who live downwind and downstream. Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) reviewed 2019 aerial imagery and MDE’s list of permitted poultry operations and found that 174 of 529 Eastern Shore poultry operations (33%) are within 400 feet of a house owned by a neighbor. Living close to poultry operations subjects some neighbors to elevated concentrations of ammonia, dust, noxious odors and manure particles blown out of exhaust fans.” (See map, page 44.) (“[Blind Eye to Big Chicken](#),” Environmental Integrity Project, Oct. 28, 2021.)

“Nitrate pollution disproportionately affects low-income families” more than others because “Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties have higher proportions of people living poverty than the state average. Somerset and Wicomico counties also have the highest proportion of Black residents in Maryland’s shore counties, which the report suggests is a result of systemic racism. Neither boiling nor chemical disinfectants can remove nitrates from drinking water. Rather, more expensive technology such as ion exchange or reverse osmosis is needed, which may not be an option for low-income families.” (“[Report: Eastern Shore Has Unhealthy Levels of Nitrate in Drinking Water Due to CAFOs](#),” *Maryland Matters*, Oct. 21.2020.)

Finally, there are very few other job offerings in the area. Many underserved community members work in the CAFOs and cannot freely speak up as they are afraid to lose their job and income.

2) Impacts from CAFOs

a) Air

CAFOs directly affect our [health](#) because they impact air quality as the exhaust systems that circulate air through the farming operation also eject a variety of harmful gasses and particulates, including hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane, and manure-derived dust. [These substances are most often blamed for health problems in farm workers, but children are particularly vulnerable to these and often have asthma](#) if they live near an active CAFO. Further, consistent exposure to CAFOs emissions increases the chance for residents to develop both acute and chronic bronchitis, as well as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Some of these emissions also contribute to climate change. Specifically, CAFOs emit considerable amounts of nitrous oxide, as well as the aforementioned methane, both of which are potent greenhouse gases, many times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Livestock operations in the United States account for as much as 7% of the country’s overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, the intense foul odors that emanate from CAFOs have considerable effects on nearby communities as well. While industry representatives like to point out that odors are common in

agriculture, these smells are noticeable as far as three miles from the source, but some particularly noxious examples increase that radius to five to six miles. This can be detrimental to the mental and physical health of nearby communities, as people often choose to remain indoors for long periods of time to escape the smells. Likewise, the presence of CAFO odors tends to have a negative impact on local property values, which can bring financial trouble to those nearby.

B) Water

Water is contaminated by CAFOs in several ways. Being located on the Eastern Shore, where the ground is eroding and floods are becoming more frequent due to climate change, overflow from industrial feeding sites frequently exceed treatment plant capacity. In addition, spraying enormous quantities of manure and refuse onto the fields as a “fertilizer” allows chemicals to trickle through the ground and into the aquifers. At this point, creeks and ponds that were swimmable just two decades ago have been overrun by sludge and algae.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture now confirms, with soil tests from all over the state, that “18 percent of Maryland farm field acreage is polluting rivers and streams and the Chesapeake Bay due to excessive levels of phosphorus from manure. This problem is especially troubling on the Eastern Shore, where phosphorus-rich poultry litter from the area’s growing poultry industry is extensively used as fertilizer. The Eastern Shore’s Choptank River is the only major river in Maryland where phosphorus pollution is on the rise. This is linked to a legacy of phosphorus over-application and the fast drainage of agricultural fields to tidal waters through a network of drainage ditches.” (“Phosphorus Management,” Chesapeake Bay Foundation.)

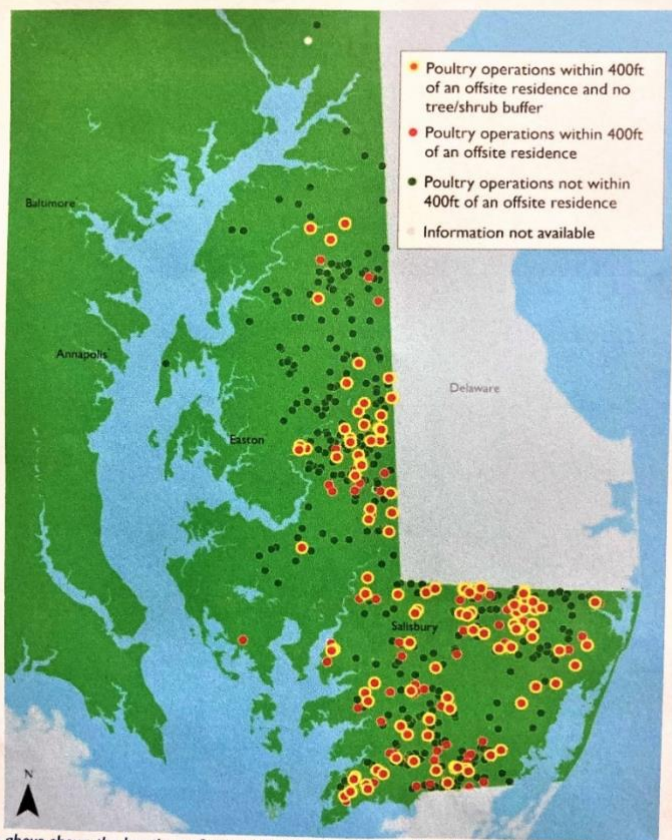
“The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP)’s report reviewed more than 5,000 pages of poultry operation inspection reports, annual farm reports, and other state records, [and] found that despite the industry’s large footprint on the Eastern Shore, state oversight is minimal and ineffective at protecting water quality.” (“Blind Eye to Big Chicken,” Environmental Integrity Project, Oct. 28, 2021),

“More than a third of Wicomico and Worcester counties’ population, or at least 61,000 residents, may have been or are currently exposed to dangerous nitrate levels, according to a recent study by The Center for Progressive Reform.

“One in every 25 private drinking water wells in the two counties have nitrate levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s safe drinking water threshold, while one in every 14 wells had nitrate levels below the threshold, but at levels that may also be harmful to health. In addition, one public water utility reported nitrate levels above the EPA threshold while more than half reported nitrate levels below. The measurements were taken between 2018 and 2020.

“Blue baby syndrome, which affects babies under six months of age, is one of the most recognized risks of nitrate consumption. A baby’s stomach can easily convert nitrate into nitrite, which can harm the blood’s oxygen carrying capacity and lead to oxygen deprivation and death, according to the study. Furthermore, nitrate pollution in drinking water may be responsible for

MAPI: POULTRY OPERATIONS WITHIN 400’ OF NEIGHBORING HOME, 2019



The map above shows the locations of animal feeding operations in Maryland, with the red dots indicating poultry farms located within 400 feet of a neighboring home in 2019. The yellow circles indicate poultry operations without lines of trees and bushes as a buffer between them and nearby residences. Source: MDE data and satellite imagery from Maryland’s Geographic Information Office Mapping & GIS Data Portal.

12,500 cases of cancer per year in the US, as well as low birth rates and preterm births, according to a 2019 study from the Environmental Working Group.” ([Report: Eastern Shore Has Unhealthy Levels of Nitrate in Drinking Water Due to CAFOs](#),” Maryland Matters, Oct. 21, 2020.)

“MAPI: POULTRY OPERATIONS WITHIN 400’ OF NEIGHBORING HOME, 2019 The map to the left shows the locations of animal feeding operations in Maryland, with the red dots indicating poultry farms located within 400 feet of a neighboring home in 2019. The yellow circles indicate poultry operations without lines of trees and bushes as a buffer between them and nearby residences. Source: MDE data and satellite imagery from Maryland’s Geographic Information Office Mapping & GIS Data Portal.” ([“Blind Eye to Big Chicken](#),” Environmental Integrity Project, Oct. 28, 2021),

3) Intersection of CAFOs and Other Committees (Similar to Superfund Sites)

- Health
 - The most common contaminants from CAFOs include gasses and particulates, including hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane, and manure-derived dust, methane, Co2, and more.
 - Methane emissions can affect breathing, heart rate, balance problems and numbness.
 - Methane's nitrate can cause blue baby syndrome.
 - The continuing odors and chemical threats affect the mental health in the community.
 - Children are most affected by air pollution and have higher rates of asthma – this affects their education and school performance.
- Economic Justice
 - Toxic water, air, and soil kills- and therefore detracts from property value.
 - Not being able to use your own water and having to 'import it' is expensive and an added burden.
 - Not being able to open the windows to fresh air, adds to economic and energy burden (HVAC costs, air purifiers, humidifiers, etc.)
 - There are few other income sources so CAFOs have the upper hand on pay, rights, working conditions, etc. and undeserved communities who work there have no alternative or recourse.
 - Not being able to open your windows or to enjoy the outdoors can cause mental health issues.
 - The soil is not safe in certain areas to grow your own food.

4) Potential Coalition Partners

The fight to hold CAFOs accountable and reduce the pollution is a broad coalition effort. Key actors on the Eastern Shore who are already working with the NAACP-ECJ committee chair are:

- Assateague Coastal Trust
- Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs
- Socially Responsible Agriculture

Additional partners to explore are:

- AACO League of Women Voters
- Annapolis Green
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association
- Citizens Environmental Commission
- Corazon Latino

- Defensores de la Cuenca
- Growth Action Network of AACO
- Local Universities
- Magothy River Association
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- NOAA
- Severn River Association
- Sierra Club
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

C. Other considerations

1) Potential Ambassadors

ECJ committees on the Eastern Shore also need to build capacity. While there are several active members, they cannot do it alone. The NAACP in these counties needs to reach out to high schools and universities, activate a youth program and tap into existing ECJ activist groups.

2) Messaging Tactics, Frequency and Platforms

The main platforms currently being used to engage with the public and members include e-mail and newsletters, in addition to meetings. Occasional— but not coordinated or consistent— outreach has been completed through local media such as podcasts, the Bayside Gazette, Coast Dispatch, Crisfield Daily News, and Daily Times. If a broader reach is needed, Maryland Matters and potentially the Baltimore Sun are engaged. There are local radio stations, but they're usually only used for event announcements.

Ideally, we would design an editorial calendar for these counties, share it with our coalition partners, and provide support through articles, social media, and grassroots events (especially at schools). We need to create a constant, consistent, and intense pressure campaign among all residents to fight the industry and ensure legislative change.

3) Other ECJ issues on the Eastern Shore – South

To be addressed by Eastern Shore - North:

- Disinformation campaigns to fight off-shore wind and solar – many politicians have jumped on the Republican narrative of renewable energies causing cancer or being bad for tourism, etc. This is an ECJ issue as it impacts health, expenses, job training.
- Training for and access to renewable energy

To be addressed in conjunction with the Tri-County Maryland South which is taking the lead on Gas and pipelines:

- DelMar Gas Pipeline instead of renewable energy for the local residents, prison, school, and CAFOs

Across the Eastern Shore:

- Lack of transportation – this impedes organization, political engagement, education, access to clean food and water, etc. and further impoverishes the air quality.
- There are no local waste or recycling options - heavy trucks take refuse to Baltimore and Pennsylvania.
- Superfund sites: In addition to the CAFOs which aren't listed as Superfund sites, there are 10 Superfund sites in Wicomico County, none on the NPL list but four are active: Elite Free State Star Cleaners, Morris Mill TCE Site, Chesapeake Airways Site, and Koppers Co Salisbury. In Worcester County there are seven sites, none on the NPL list but two are active: Hoffman Venable Cleaners and Victory Cleaners. There are six archived Superfund sites in Somerset County and nine archived ones in Dorchester County.

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