Climate Framework and Laws  The Maryland Commission on Climate Change advises the governor and the General Assembly on ways to mitigate, prepare, and adapt to climate change. On April 4, 2016 Governor Larry Hogan signed the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act – Reauthorization (GGRA) into law. Expanding on the requirements of the original 2009 GGRA, the GGRA of 2016 requires statewide GHG emissions reductions of at least 40% from 2006 levels by 2030 in a way that positively impacts Maryland's economy, protects existing manufacturing jobs, and creates significant new “green” jobs in Maryland. There is also an aspirational goal to reduce emissions 80–95% by 2050.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Regional Economic Studies Institute of Towson University evaluated the economic dislocations resulting from potential carbon mitigation strategies in the state, including direct impacts to fossil-fuel-reliant workers, fiscal impacts resulting from industry changes at the local level, and other related disparities associated with the state’s efforts to reduce GHG emissions. To meet objectives set in the State’s 40 by 30 Plan, MDE requested strategies for transitioning impacted fossil-fuel-reliant workers and mitigating other economic dislocations associated with GHG reduction efforts.

MARYLAND’S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

In 2019, Maryland will release a plan to achieve a 40% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction by 2030, with billions of dollars of increased in-state economic output and more than 11,000 additional jobs through 2030. The plan includes a proposed legislative initiative from Governor Hogan to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2040 through a new Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES). Maryland is also a key member of the Transportation and Climate Initiative, is developing hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) and natural gas sector regulations, and has continued to support clean car standards.
**Power Generation** Maryland passed the *Clean Energy Jobs Act* (CEJA) in May 2019, which sets a 50% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2030. CEJA carves out 14.5% of the target for solar development and mandates 1.2 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind solicitations. Governor Hogan is looking to propose legislation next year to put Maryland on a path of 100% clean electricity by 2040 through the Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES). CARES would require that an increasingly large share of zero- and low-carbon resources generate Maryland’s electricity. Maryland is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), where auction proceeds fund various state and local programs that promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, bill assistance, or other consumer benefits.

**Energy Efficiency** Maryland’s EmPOWER Energy Efficiency Program charges utility customers a monthly fee that funds programs like lighting and appliance rebates for homeowners, energy efficiency services for industrial facilities, and home energy assessments, among other incentives. Maryland’s Weatherization Assistance Program helps eligible low-income households with the installation of energy conservation materials. Maryland’s energy efficiency resource standard targets 2.9% average incremental electric savings per year through 2018. Maryland’s GGRA draft plan proposes to incentivize increased deployment of efficient electric heat pumps to heat homes in Maryland. In June 2019, Governor Hogan signed an executive order directing two agencies to develop an initiative to reduce energy consumption in state buildings 10% by 2029.

**Transportation** Maryland is a member of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional effort of 11 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and Washington, D.C., to reduce GHG emissions in the region’s transportation sector. Cooperation continues between Maryland and other states to develop a regional cap-and-invest program for transportation fuels. Maryland is a member of the Multi-State ZEV Task Force and has a goal of having 60,000 zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) on the road by 2020 and 300,000 ZEVs on the road by 2025. It offers the Maryland Excise Tax Credit up to $3,000 and a rebate up to 40% through the Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Rebate. The Maryland Clean Cars Program, adopted in 2007, commits the state to follow California’s Low-Emission Vehicle Standards.

**Resilience** The CoastSmart Communities Program assists Maryland’s coastal communities to address short- and long-term coastal hazards, such as sea-level rise, by providing technical assistance and training opportunities, along with financial assistance through the Community Resilience Grant Program. In 2018, Maryland launched the Climate Leadership Academy to provide climate training and support to state and local government officials, citizens, the private sector, and nonprofits.

**Climate Finance** The Maryland Energy Administration’s Energy Finance Initiative is a collection of programs, financing tools, and other resources that help fill the funding needs of clean energy projects. For example, the Solar Canopy Grant Program combines Maryland’s RPS goal for solar with the state’s ongoing support of EV infrastructure. The program aims to capture the unrealized potential of existing parking facilities by installing solar photovoltaics while still allowing parking services to be offered.

**Short-Lived Climate Pollutants** Maryland announced its intention to adopt regulations in 2020 to prohibit the use of high-warming hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), consistent with the vacated U.S. EPA Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) rules. Maryland has three initiatives to address fugitive methane emissions from natural gas compressor stations and other related equipment, landfills, and wastewater treatment plants. A draft regulation will be available in late 2019.

**Natural and Working Lands** Maryland established the Maryland Healthy Soils Program to increase biological activity and carbon sequestration in the state’s soils by promoting practices based on emerging soil science, through incentives, research, education, technical assistance, and financial assistance for farmers. Maryland is using sustainable forestry management practices to capture carbon in public and private Maryland forests. These programs aim to improve sustainable forest management on approximately 30,000 acres of private land annually and 100% of State-owned resource lands, and to ensure 100% of State forest lands will be third-party certified as sustainably managed.