

Question Report	
Report Generated:	
Topic	
Zoom 1 Webinar: Summit for Climate and the Environment	
Question	Answer
Will this recording and tomorrow's be shared?	Yes. They will be on the Maryland Legislative Coalition's website - mdlegislative.com by the end of the week.
Will we have access to the slides and if so, when?	All the materials will be on the Maryland Legislative Coalition website - mdlegislative.com. The agenda and the slides will be there by Monday and the video will be there by the end of the week.
Will you, as in years past, give bill #'s and dates for the hearings so we can send/give testimony?	All the bills that have been pre-filed have bill numbers on the slides. Many have not been filed yet.
I want to get Maryland's climate pollution reduction plan? How I can have access to this plan?	The plan can be found here: <a href="https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/CPRP/Pages/Overview.aspx">https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/CPRP/Pages/Overview.aspx</a>
We would like to give hand through our propriatery & award winning FOAK technology to reduce GHG emissions of the buildings and industries throughout Maryland. Our off-grid "water positive-carbon negative and zero waste" technology could be a game changer for the state's emission goals. We would be delighted to provide more info on how to provide assistance and possible collaboration. Please reach us out thru: info@awegsystems.com	Thanks! David will see your question.
Doesn't rate increases for gas reduce consumption and benefit the environment?	live answered
Methane - the primary component of gas and biogas - is an important greenhouse gas that traps 80 x more heat over the first 20 years than CO2. How are these companies justifying their expansion during the climate crisis? How are our elected officials continuing to approve incentives for gas? How iss it still part of the RPS?	live answered

David, Who supplies your electricity now that you have gone 100% electric.	Sorry - David didn't get to your question. Can you email him?
Since utilities favor infrastructure investments, do they see investing in electric car charging infrastructure as an opportunity? Same question with grid modernization to accommodate electrification?	live answered
Is there a written copy of David Lapp's paper. I am working to present EJ issues to PSC re MPRP and I can't take notes quickly enough.	Are you looking for a paper or his presentation? The presentation will be emailed to all participants after the Summit and will be on the Maryland Legislative Coalition's website - <a href="http://mdlegislative.com">mdlegislative.com</a>
Question for Matt. How smart and sustainable planning of market can support improvement social wellbeing and creat effective resolution for problems as poverty and social inequality? Thanks! Shmuel	The problems of poverty and social inequality are unfortunately not solved by climate and environment policy but fiscal policy.
We hear that wind energy is competitive in cost. Yet WGL charges me way more for choosing 100% wind energy than the alternative. Why?	live answered
How can the state improve the costs and the benefit of electrifying? It seems the large corporations have a straglehold on approving the projects to be allowed online. Can't we legislate a solution here? Thank you	live answered
How can the state improve the costs and the benefit of electrifying? It seems the large corporations have a straglehold on approving the projects to be allowed online. Can't we legislate a solution here? Thank you	This is a big question. Quickly -- we can advocate before PJM and FERC, and legislation can help add more accountability at PJM. We can save tens of millions in electric rates by requiring Md. utilities to be part of PJM (right now membership is voluntary, which gives utilities leverage on PJM policies), while helping PJM be more independent from utilities and responsive to customers and public policy. Also, the state can promote policies that make siting renewable generation easier.
these are relatively fixed costs, the only change in price that reduces consumption is at the pump - gas for your car, not your house.	David had to leave. Could you email him at <a href="mailto:davids.lapp@maryland.gov">davids.lapp@maryland.gov</a> ?

I am slowly retrofitting to electric, but no heat pump yet. And I like my old radiators just would like the water heated with electrons. AND my neighbors heat pumps are WAY noisy. Is development for noise reduction happening?	David had to leave. Could you email him at <a href="mailto:davids.lapp@maryland.gov">davids.lapp@maryland.gov</a> ?
Why not to establish off-grid communities that can provide both water & energy without needing excessive infrastructure investments??? This type of approach will also give greater scale of independence to the communities..	Several bills passed in the 2024 legislative session that will enable more flexibility, including the DRIVE Act. You can read more here - <a href="https://www.utilitydive.com/news/virtual-power-plants-gets-and-home-electrification-get-boost-from-trio-of/715912/">https://www.utilitydive.com/news/virtual-power-plants-gets-and-home-electrification-get-boost-from-trio-of/715912/</a>
What might be the best way for Marylanders to influence PJM's decisions? Thank you for such a cogent, timely, and informative presentation. And thanks to you and OPC for all you do!	Public pressure on our elected officials to push PJM to make better decisions. Gov. Moore and several other governors in PJM sent a letter to PJM about grid planning as did MD legislators along with other PJM state legislators. We and they need to keep up the pressure. Also, check out Del. Charkoudian's PJM transparency bill which she is bringing back again this session.
How are Governor Moore and State Legislators fighting back against these injustices?	David had to leave. Could you email him at <a href="mailto:davids.lapp@maryland.gov">davids.lapp@maryland.gov</a> ?
How can the back log of solar and wind project applications be processed more timely?	Reforms at PJM. PJM is working on reforms, but they are coming late and it remains to be seen how effective they will be. The interconnection queue is now completely stalled.
Sounds like we need a more comprehensive plan on energy use and costs. Studies have clearly shown that in general people use more energy if it is cheap. We cannot neglect that. But at the same time, we need to help the most vulnerable to a thoughtful energy transition, which needs to include better insulation, use of storm doors, etc. that are part of working as communities to change structure and behaviors. Right now, there are too many wack-a-moles that are not thoughtfully tied together.....	David had to leave. Could you email him at <a href="mailto:davids.lapp@maryland.gov">davids.lapp@maryland.gov</a> ?

Why are the cost of Gas so different from DC to Baltimore? Just because of Monopolies? Are there any other reasons?	In part, Washington Gas was slower to make use of the STRIDE program to replace gas infrastructure than was BGE and Columbia Gas. Thus, Washington Gas customers has not seen as great increases as customers of the other gas utilities.
To Cecilia. I understood it. I simply think to expand more this topic.	We only have so much time for the presenters to answer questions. Sorry that we can't have longer discussions.
Aren't SNRs being used in other countries?	About 5 or so. They have cost far more than initially projected and taken years longer than projected to complete.
Can gas companies be transitioned into working on networked geothermal systems? If so, how do we do that?	The WARMTH Act passed last session which authorizes networked geothermal pilots. See MD Energy Administration steps to begin implementing the WARMTH Act here - <a href="https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/HomeElectrification/RFI%20WARMTH%20Act%20Electrification.pdf">https://energy.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/Pages/HomeElectrification/RFI%20WARMTH%20Act%20Electrification.pdf</a>
First, great presentation David! Thank you! Another question for David is, how does the home consumer of electricity sort through all those offers to choose another rate from some provider and end up in a better position - i.e. saving money? Thank you	David had to leave. Could you email him at <a href="mailto:davids.lapp@maryland.gov">davids.lapp@maryland.gov</a> ?
Will Baker- Laurel Peltier here and I study the retail energy market...WGL Energy (not Washington gas) is charging you more for "wind energy" because you are getting electric grid electricity paired with a wind energy Renewable Energy Certificate purchased in PJM (usually WGL buys PJM RECs, one of the only suppliers that does that). Those RECs mean that wind energy was generated, but you are not paying for wind energy from a turbine purchased as power purchase agreement. And since WGL are a for profit business, there is profits built in that. PLEASE review and reshuffle your contract like a hawk at renewal. After 1/1/25, WGL might charge lower rates due to SB1, new law started 1/1/25.	David had to leave. Could you email him at <a href="mailto:davids.lapp@maryland.gov">davids.lapp@maryland.gov</a> ?

Does the T&CAA address EV charging at all?	There are two main ways to reduce climate pollution from vehicles on our roads. One is electrying vehicles and the other is making it easier for folks to have options to take transit, walk, and bike to get to other destinations that reduces vehicle traffic. This bill focuses on the latter because we have actually been moving in the wrong direction-- traffic per person is increasing and it is undermining the benifits of EVs and fuel efficent cars. EVs are also very important and there will be other legislation related to this during the session.
Will TCA merely reallocate existing state/federal funds to more transit vs highway expansion or will it have an adverse fiscal note (based on last year's bill)	TCA could result in shiftng more federal funding for highway expansion towards public transit. It would also encourage greater state investment in transit, walking, biking. etc.
does this bill address EV needs ?	There are two main ways to reduce climate pollution from our roads and highways. One is electrying vehicles and the other is making it easier for folks to have options to take transit, walk, and bike to get to other destinations that reduces vehicle traffic. This bill focuses on the latter because we have actually been moving in the wrong direction-- traffic per person is increasing and it is undermining the benifits of EVs and fuel efficent cars. EVs are also very important and there will be other legislation related to this during the session.
Question for Mark. Is it you recommending governments and authorities around the world to invest in public electric transportation, as e-buses, electric trains and ferries? Thanks! Shmuel	The delegate had to leave. Please email him with your question.
So well said, but Bill Ferguson recently predicted the Red Line is most likely dead, once again, as Maryland faces over \$670 M in deferrals to EXISITNG transit programs. What should we be doing to reallocate budget funds?	live answered
So well said, but Bill Ferguson recently predicted the Red Line is most likely dead, once again, as Maryland faces over \$670 M in	States can flex 50% of federal funding for the major highway formula dollars to public transit, biking infrastrcuture, electric vehicles,

deferrals to EXISTING transit programs. What should we be doing to reallocate budget funds?	etc. In Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro recently flexed \$153 million to SEPTA. There are also many ways that transit agencies can raise money for projects such as congestion pricing, land value return, etc.
As a super-commuter, I feel the impact I'm having on the environment every day. I drive from the rural area where I live, toward the metro area where I work. It	Thanks for your comment Sam
Do we think that TCA would change another Bay Bridge span into a public transit facility?	TCA would require MDOT to mitigate pollution from future highway projects. For highway expansion projects over \$100 million (excluding those funded for construction before July 1, 2025 and safety and maintenance projects) including the Bay Bridge MDOT would be required to design and fund a multimodal program to reduce vehicle traffic. The former Nice Bridge was supposed to have a bike/pedestrian connection when it was built but then Governor Hogan backed out of that promise and built the new bridge without that happening. TCA would aim to address these types of issue by funding mitigation alongside any project.
is a major expense, and I recognize that I may at some point have to abandon this way of life, for climate's sake. I could use some hostel options closer to metro, where I could stay over during the week.	Thanks Sam. Don't know if the Delegate has that information, but you can email him.
for transportation infrastructure, are u seeing an opportunity to follow federal leadership like GSA who now requires reduced CO2 asphalt and more importantly, concrete who currently has the world's third most emissions compared to the world's countries?	Not answered
Also, crazy thought, but wouldn't it make more sense to build a third Bay span between the two existing spans?	Not answered
But the more built. the cost and production time will come down, correct? That's economics.	Not answered

Is the insurance offered on your gas line from the street to your house worth it? If you don't have it, is the gas provider you use going to at some point make you get that line replaced and charge you for it?	I don't know anything about the insurance, sorry. But when the gas utility replaces the line to your home you don't pay for it, its paid for by all ratepayers, plus interest, over the full expected lifetime of the new pipe.
Is there a bill number yet?	Not yet!
I foresee restaurant chefs arguing that they need gas for more evenly distributed heat. Thoughts?	The gas industry has certainly paid them to! More are moving away, but either way the RPA doesn't ban gas, just puts some guardrails on financial incentives. Even if we got rid of STRIDE entirely, gas would still there.
Please mention the relevant committees	ECM and EEE
Does the Ratepayer Protection bill have a number in House or Senate?	Not yet - we will share once we have it.
With the huge budget deficit the state is facing this bill seems like it should be a no brainer. What will be the arguments against it?	You're right! The utilities have a lot of power and a lot of lobbysits - its also a complicated issue, so we have our work cut out for us to educate elected officials and make sure they haev the public support to stand up to the gas utilities.
Will Delegate Edelson or one of the other speakers discuss Community Solar Farms? I would like to switch from obtaining electricity directly from PEPCO to sourcing my home's electricity from a Community Solar Farm in Montgomery County, MD. After reading many websites and promotional materials, I remain bewildered about which is the best Community Solar to sign up for. Which are reliable? Which have stable low rates? Which have openings right now? (Some seem to be asking us to invest in their future unbuilt solar farms,) Could specific advice and information be provided? Maybe concrete comparisons about various community solar options could be assembled and distributed to attendees after the Summit? Or by email reply later? Huge thanks to the Summit organizers and great speakers for your clear discussions of important bills! Jacqueline Crawley, neuropeptides@yahoo.com	Hi Jacqueline, we'll check with the presenters. We don't have a specific presentation on that, but it is a great question. I have community solar and I had to wait for a project to be built before I could get it because all of the current projects were full. I just went on the <a href="https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/MarylandCommunitySolar.aspx">https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/MarylandCommunitySolar.aspx</a> page.

Can you provide the source of data that STRIDE has not resulted in fewer leaks? Would be helpful when we write to legislators.	Baltimore Sun did a good analysis recently. <a href="https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/09/27/sun-analysis-bge-has-four-times-as-many-hazardous-gas-leaks-as-its-peers/">https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/09/27/sun-analysis-bge-has-four-times-as-many-hazardous-gas-leaks-as-its-peers/</a> Nothing in the law requires them to target their work based on risk of leak.
Can you provide the source of data that STRIDE has not resulted in fewer leaks? Would be helpful when we write to legislators.	This is a slightly older report but also looked at the impact on safety. <a href="https://abell.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023_Abell-Foundation_Climate-Policy-report_1-7mm.pdf">https://abell.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023_Abell-Foundation_Climate-Policy-report_1-7mm.pdf</a>
RE Data Centers Study and other projects that use energy: Please commission public health impacts as part of the analysis of local impacts and indirect impacts due to climate change. There are economic impacts specifically due to public health impacts.	The delegate had to leave. Could you email her?
Would the scope of analysis on data centers also include potential impacts on water resources (given their high demand for cooling)?	live answered
Could the Datacenter study also look at water consumption? MD aquifers are declining by 1-2 feet per year (EPA) and Datacenters demand significant amounts of water.	Water usage is included as an element in the study.
Could the Datacenter study also look at water consumption? MD aquifers are declining by 1-2 feet per year (EPA) and Datacenters demand significant amounts of water.	Water usage was viewed as a local issue when creating this bill. Many of us view water as something that crosses local lines and are requesting that it be included in the bill.
Absolutely, they (data centers) are both water & energy monsters -especially those larger ones- (up to 2,000,000 Liters/day clean "utility" water). Luckily, we have a remedy to these challenges :-)	Not answered
Emailed presentation would be great. Thank you. There is so much that is good in each presentation, I will be very happy to slow the information down so I can study it more thoroughly.	We will be emailing it. We will also have the presentation and the video on our website - <a href="http://mdlegislative.com">mdlegislative.com</a>
Is there any analysis on the impact on wildlife populations from collisions with motor	Yes, "power lines can be one of the main causes of direct mortality for several species of birds and other wildlife". Here is a IUCN

vehicles and electricity transmission infrastructure?	study: <a href="https://iucn.org/resources/publication/wildlife-and-power-lines#:~:text=Given%20the%20vital%20role%20of,tools%20to%20ensure%20that%20these">https://iucn.org/resources/publication/wildlife-and-power-lines#:~:text=Given%20the%20vital%20role%20of,tools%20to%20ensure%20that%20these</a>
for deer crossings, suggest looking at aaco who has a fantastic managed hunt program and working with dnr to set up transportation corridor managed hunts.	Thanks! The legislator had to leave but their advocate has seen this.
see this URL for more info on the conversion of ammunition away from lead.	The legislator had to leave. Can you reach out to her? This looks really interesting.
<a href="https://www.raptorresource.org/learning-tools/hunt-and-fish-lead-free/toxic-and-non-toxic-shot-regulation-federal-and-state-by-state/">https://www.raptorresource.org/learning-tools/hunt-and-fish-lead-free/toxic-and-non-toxic-shot-regulation-federal-and-state-by-state/</a>	Not answered
Have you heard about the "living Bridge" that is proposed from the East Towson community across beltway to Hampdon Mansion? We need wildlife to be able to cross highways	The delegate had to leave but you can reach out to her.
Can we get a list of these bills?	They are all on the presentation that will be made available. If you are looking for specific bill numbers, the ones that are already prefiled are on the presentation.
Thank you for all you're doing in regards to transmission and data centers!	Thanks!
Are there measures in the GRID Enhancement bill that expedite additional transmission lines where necessary for capacity or redundancy, where the alternatives mentioned are not viable?	The legislator had to leave. Can you reach out to her?
What is Gov. Wes Moore trying to avoid on behalf of data centers? What is he fast-tracking?	The legislator had to leave, can you reach out to her?
Can the lead from the banned ammunition be recycled for some meaningful use?	The legislator had to leave. Can you reach out to her?
also for deer crossings, has anyone looked at the reasons why deer get close to a road? not factual, but I have heard that the salt used on the road during winter acts like a salt lick and attracts the deer to roadside.	Yes "the use of chloride salts in winter maintenance can attract wildlife to the right of way and may increase colissions". Here is a discussion report from FHWA <a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/08034/06.cfm">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/08034/06.cfm</a>
Please do- water is a shared pool resource that crosses county, state, and country lines.	Agreed.

It should be looked at on a watershed level at the least.	
Thank you Emily. Then the “offers” being sent to consumers of gas in the state are actually a true scam. Perhaps Del Johnson’s bill can address this as well.	Sorry - Emily had to leave. Can you reach out to her, or Del. Johnson?
This bill - in particular, the transparency sections — would directly address the current ability of utilities to make all the major decisions in PJM without any transparency on how they vote. This relates directly to the lack of PJM attention to consumer issues that David Lapp flagged.	Thanks Taylor!
How is "renewable" defined? If Maryland's definition continues to include biogas or woody biomass for energy as a renewable energy source, it must be corrected.	It was a negotiated definition that had a lot of input from businesses. We've been trying for years to get it back to 'clean' renewable energy.
Thanks Lindsey. I was a founding member of CMTA and still active on the board. What I really wanted to see some focus on is the irony of even our friends abandoning transit in favor of roads. Obcene.	Thanks Will!
Thanks Lindsey. I was a founding member of CMTA and still active on the board. What I really wanted to see some focus on is the irony of even our friends abandoning transit in favor of roads. Obcene.	Will, I believe you wrote a very good LTE in The Sun on gas leaf blowers. We're hoping to work on a phase out in Baltimore County. Are you a county resident? My email is marielaporte@verizon.net and I volunteer with Sierra Club.
If the Renew Act will have a name change, any idea what it will be changed to? And when would that happen?	No name change. However, we are leaning in on the messaging of taxpayers relief and protection from escalating costs.
What kind of litigation would we expect to see from the fossil fuel companies following the passage of the RENEW Act and do you think it would be an easy win?	Vermont passed the legislation last year and has not yet experienced any legal ramifications. However, the fact that we may encounter legal challenges is on our radar. We believe that we will win those challenges. Funds spent on legal bills will be magnitudes smaller than the amount that will come in from the legislation.
Port Baltimore is one of the biggest shippers of coal to the world. Are we going to sue ourselves?	Not answered

And, how can the new Federal administration derail everything discussed here? What is the plan to counter that intention? Can we protect ourselves from their policies?	The legislator had to leave. Please reach out to her.
Thank you Katie. Is there a required limit to the amount allowed to be able to put down on roads? If not, can it be part of this bill?	Hi Sean, that is not currently in the bill, but it is definitely something we hope to work towards.
This is key: Biomass burning power plants - usually pellet combustion- emit 150% the CO2 of coal, and 300 – 400% the CO2 of natural gas, per unit energy produced as calculated by the Partnership for Policy Integrity. Biogas is methane - no different from regular gas.	Agreed. It's all about subsidies, so the fight is with the companies that get the subsidies.
The fight is also with the elected officials who allow these subsidies to continue.	Many have their campaigns funded by those same companies. Money in politics.
This is WHY I don't use the term "renewable" for GREEN! Sadly yes trash is hugely "renewable", we keep generating ton and tons of it in our throw away society.	Agreed. This is a campaign that everyone should support!
Are biogas facilities impacted by Reclaim Renewable Energy Act?	The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will only impact the three incinerators (in Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Lorton, VA) - biogas facilities are another important issue, but will not be impacted by this particular bill.
What renewable/clean energy would be supported if incineration is removed? Solar, storage, other?	solar, wind and hydro are already part of the Renewable Portfolio
Yes, we need CLEAN energy: Wind, solar, geothermal. Move away from poorly defined "renewable" which includes trash, biomass, and biogas.	Couldn't agree more!
Will I receive a certificate for attending this webinar? Will I have any proof to attend this webinar?	We do not provide certificates because we don't have the bandwidth to tell who is really here. Sorry!
Has the RPS been changed every year lately? Will it be changed again this year and next? How many RPS bills are currently being considered and are they all aligned?	There have been a lot of changes each year! We won't know how many RPS bills are going to be considered this year until we see what gets filed as session gets moving, but I will say that this and Delegate Charkoudian's bill she will be discussing shortly are in alignment with each other.

Does the Reclaim Renewable Energy include requirements for trash disposal not sent to the incinerators beyond allowing it to be transported across state lines for landfill disposal?	The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is only about the energy subsidies part of the equation (in part because of the single issue rule of the legislator), but we are working on many other initiatives about trash disposal! Delegate Boyce will be talking about one of them shortly. :)
Great the delegates here on Eastern Shore are concerned about biogas.	It's an important issue. You should reach out to Jennifer Kunze.
Cecelia, I couldn't change the title of the message to my delegates and senator, using the format you sent in the chat. I get a message that I have already sent the message	Using this link, right? <a href="https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/write-to-your-legislators-to-prioritize-climate-legislation-this-session">https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/write-to-your-legislators-to-prioritize-climate-legislation-this-session</a>
Did you know, noise pollution affects the hearts and brains of people of all ages? I recommend citing a lot of recent scientific literature on the bad health effects of noise pollution in your justifications for the Clean Air Communities Act.	live answered
Did you know, noise pollution affects the hearts and brains of people of all ages? I recommend citing a lot of recent scientific literature on the bad health effects of noise pollution in your justifications for the Clean Air Communities Act.	Roselie, you are correct that noise is far more than a nuisance. It is a public health issue and has significant adverse effects on wildlife. Birds have difficulty communicating which delays nesting, and causes smaller less robust chicks and even shortens the telomeres in birds. For more on wildife, please read this fact sheet.
Did you know, noise pollution affects the hearts and brains of people of all ages? I recommend citing a lot of recent scientific literature on the bad health effects of noise pollution in your justifications for the Clean Air Communities Act.	<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uqfBlrOdlxwBdqbgGDymfstrojzqhQnOWYA-nacoUvtY/edit?tab=t.0">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uqfBlrOdlxwBdqbgGDymfstrojzqhQnOWYA-nacoUvtY/edit?tab=t.0</a>
This year, will there be consideration about bringing in testimony from a company or two that provide cost effective, quality electric leaf blowers?	We hope to do have a couple testify. The Home Depot/Lowe's of the world are interested in rebates, but hopefully we can get some retailers. There are landscapers who will testify for us.
Why not propose and outright ban in all businesses, not just state businesses?	Suzanne, we're hoping by having the State lead by example and eventually banning the sale that the vast majority of people will switch to electric leaf blowers or use a rake. About 3/4 of the leaf blowers offered at

	Home Depot and Lowe's are electric models and our survey respondents prefer their electric leaf blowers.
Love this bill! Will it provide a 'buy back' for gas-powered leaf blowers? what about snow blowers?	With a \$3 billion deficit, a buy-back program is impossible this year. Snow blowers are not affected by this bill. They are used much less and their effects are not as harmful.
Contractors have to switch to battery powered equipment and portable charging equipment. There are some case studies that show some contractors are making this transistion successfully.	This bill requires state agencies and contactors to comply with bans on state lands. We anticipate some push-back from contractors.
yes, at that link	Try this - <a href="https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/Maryland?actionId=AR0506680">https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/Maryland?actionId=AR0506680</a>
What about electric lawn mowers?	Would love to address all gas-powered lawn equipment. I tried a bill to do that last year. The fiscal note was over \$5 million. The problem is agencies like MDOT use industrial equipment for which there is no electric alternative YET. We decided to focus on leaf blowers this year because they are the worst in terms of noise and pollution.
Calif has been phasing in electric leaf blowers for 3-4 years. One thing that people have complained about is a plan for collectibg and recycling all of the gas leaf blowers that are out in the narketplace	Colorado has been collecting them and recycling. Most gas leaf blowers only last a few years before they die. They have a very short product life.
Long term, electric leaf blowers may even save on maintainance costs, on top of fuels! But there are consumer concerns about quality and cost, despite realities about environmental and health benefits. Bringing in a real company or other expert to talk about the cost effectiveness may help!	You are right that we need the professionals to address this. University of Maryland has converted and their employees have been really pleased with the equipment. And you're right about operating costs being lower and reliability of electric is much better.
Let's also switch to electric mowing equipment, an even larger source of pollution.	Mowing equipment is much more difficult to swap out. The industrial sized equipment used by MDOT, for example, doesn't have an electric alternative yet.
I will reach out to her. The second question is really to the presenters across the summit. Maybe Matt Pluta?	The Federal Government can withhold various funds, but we think (hope) that the legislature will take that into account as they pass legislation. Given the budget imbalance

	we have right now, money is very, very tight, so whatever funds we can't count on from the Feds will be problematic. That's why we need strong activists.
Any thought about tax break for electric leaf blowers?	Joseph, we would love to do a tax break or other incentive, but the state funds are too constrained right now. Colorado is doing exactly that, but it's costing several million dollars a year and they have a similar population to Maryland.
Foodwaste is a major contributor to climate change. There are so many reasons that this is a great effort !!!	Thank you, Melanie!!
Any thought to reducing the requirements by the state for composting facilities so rural counties can afford to implement composting?	It's important to achieve the right balance between regulations that facilitate well-managed and safe facilities and that don't produce undue barriers for operators. Maryland has certainly made progress here though there is still work to be done. HB42's County Block grants will provide reliable annual funding to Counties that can be put toward implementing composting!
I love the food waste reduction bill. That is a huge issue. I'm also curious about fabric recycling - something that is really needed.	Thank you, Wendy!!
I love the food waste reduction bill. That is a huge issue. I'm also curious about fabric recycling - something that is really needed.	fast fashion is a huge problem. online organizations and companies are tackling this by collecting the clothing for a second and third life as well as making new and stronger fabrics with the fast fashion materials.
On the leafblower bill, it should be noted that there are 2 types of leaf blower engines. Most are simple 2-cycle engines, which are likely to emit more pollutants as the equipment ages from dirt and other contaminants in the fuel in the fuel, and from equipment wear.	Gary, that is correct. The vast majority of gas leaf blowers use the 2-stroke or 2 cycle engines that have changed little since they were patented in 1880.
Would education be provided to local governments to help them with implementation and outreach for envisioned waste food reduction and diversion projects?	Thank you, Anonymous. The bill allows the grant funding to be use for education. Great question.
Disposal costs for MD cities is also a major expense!	Exactly! With more wasted food and organics diverted from disposal, those costs can be

	decreased while alternatives to disposal are expanded.
Disposal costs for MD cities is also a major expense!	Local governments (e.g. cities) will be eligible to apply for grant funding under HB 42.
With all due respect, AACE would need to remove woody biomass and biogas (in addition to trash of course) from the RPS in order to actually provide "clean" energy. Relicensing Calvert Cliffs is also not "clean".	Agreed. Hard to do.
Indeed relicensing Calvert Cliffs is DEFINITELY NOT clean or green. Old nukes are dangerous-embrittlement of the concrete, weakened fuel rods, etc. Along of course with the waste issue-dangerous for many thousands of years.	Agreed!
How much will your bill encourage geothermal energy development?	live answered
Please Lorig I get thinking Calvert Cliffs is necessary for a while yet, but PLEASE don't call it clean.	Fair enough. We should talk about is as having no carbon emissions, which is why they are in this mix.
Nuclear is definitely not clean and I wish our leaders would stop using this language to describe it that way. Give people the facts instead of black and white thinking	Right. We can refer to it as zero carbon emissions
There are a lot of really great ideas in this bill and wondering if there is an infographic explaining it by any chance?	Thanks for the question! We're close to having a few fact sheets available and can share with the organizers for today's legislative preview to distribute to registrants.
What can we do now to require new data centers to provide their own microgrids and energy as required in the EU? Geothermal cooling is technically feasible in Maryland but not required!	I had a bill last year with some clean energy requirements for data centers. It did not pass. I expect there will be others coming. It's worth noting that no state in the US has yet passed a bill that puts any requirements on data centers.
For Delegate Charkoudian: What are best ways to help you on this bill?	Reach out to Rebecca Rehr and join their meetings and/or reach out to Delegate Charkoudian directly.
IN THE ENERGY GENERATION only are nukes "carbon free". The lead in, mining, milling, transpo, construction, are MASSIVE carbon emitters, and radiation emitter too, and the transpo for the waste later.	Not answered

From my understanding- buildings devices, etc “take what power they need” from the grid. Could these data centers potentially suck and drain power from the grid that is needed elsewhere ?	yes. The utilities will hopefully supply more power, how ever the price of electricity will most likely go up as demand grows and more power production plants are needed.
And a follow up, if these data centers are tied to the same grid as everyone else, and thus the energy demand, wouldn't that raise energy prices for everyone?	yes, that is one of the big issues.
So why don't these corporations pay for their own power instead of taking it off the grid?	Because they are trying to maximize their profits, getting power off the grid is the cheapest way to get power.
If you admit that PJM has failed, why should we trust you now?	Not answered
Are there inherent technical issues in connecting low-volume renewables (e.g., solar and wind sources) to the grid? It must be easier/less costly to connect transmission lines to a big gas/coal power plant. Is this a significant issue related to interconnection?	Not answered
'@Rebecca Rehr: Woody Biomass for energy has higher carbon emissions than coal and burning methane also generates CO2 so calling AACE "zero carbon emissions" would also be misleading. I would call it "A bridge towards AACE" or something in that direction. It is important that we be very clear.	Thanks, Sonia. I think in answering the earlier questions, the reference to zero carbon emissions was specifically for nuclear. While the bill does not address the definitions of what's currently included in the RPS, it DOES prioritize the new SRECs before legacy RECS, so would in practice reduce the RECs available for the currently comprised RPS. Hope that helps! Happy to provide more technical details of how that works.
Am I off-base in asking what role blockchain mining connected to cryptocurrency plays in rapidly increasing energy demands? Are we resigned to accept that we must manage development of a grid that can accommodate crypto, and let this (to my mind speculative) business proceed no matter the load?	There are several causes of increased energy demand nationally - data centers, cryptocurrency mining, and manufacturing. These companies tend to locate where electric power is cheapest.
Such wrong sided complexity! What about solar/wind energy micro grid electricity projects within Maryland that someone may envision? In theory, are they a possibility? And could such micro grid projects could one	Not answered

day be tied into larger clean energy electric grid?	
Have any lessons relating to data centers been learned from our VA neighbors? Any best practices or things to avoid?	The next speaker will cover data centers
I don't want to chase modern-day business away from MD, so I hesitate to suggest data centers are automatically a social ill. I can imagine productive uses for AI (I just don't get crypto). And as a union carpenter, I know several members who make a livelihood building them. But I feel like the energy demands are working against our climate goals	Other countries are also using our data centers and electricity to run their AI. It's putting pressure on our energy and creating large noisy facilities. People who live near them are in an uproar about the noise.
Hi Dave and Laurie, great presentation on this subject - it's very informative. My question relates to leverage with PJM - since data centers are so intertwined with need for power, is there any way to leverage thier wieght in swaying government/PJM to get done what we would want done effectively for our state? It seems like an individual is going to have little sway in this process...	Public pressure on our elected officials to push PJM to make better decisions. Gov. Moore and several other governors in PJM sent a letter to PJM about grid planning as did MD legislators along with other PJM state legislators. We and they need to keep up the pressure. Also, check out Del. Charkoudian's PJM utility voting transparency bill which she is bringing back again this session.
What is the Quantum Loophole?	It's a data center project proposed in Frederick County.
Most cryptocurrency is not "mined". Bitcoin is, but the last Bitcoin will be mined in a few years, as designed. I really don't think crypto is a significant factor	For Maryland, crypto is not an issue. Other states are having issues with the power consupction of crypto. Plus there is also noise and water usage.
Cecilia, for @Jacqueline Crawley, these two links may help about Community Solar. Solar United Neighbors is a non-profit, educating the public about Community Solar. The second link allows you to actually FIND Community Solar projects in MD, by utility area. <a href="https://solarunitedneighbors.org/community-solar/">https://solarunitedneighbors.org/community-solar/</a>  <a href="https://solarunitedneighbors.org/community-solar/directory/">https://solarunitedneighbors.org/community-solar/directory/</a>	Thanks Lore!
This question might be answered during the presentation, but if the centers generate so	The answer is yes, but it cost more money to do that. Currently, some counties are

much heat, could that be captured to generate some electricity or district heat?	requiring this, however it has taken legislation to do this.
No offense but Northern Virginia is one of the worst places in America. This is what more data centers will do	Not answered
If data centers were built underground they could cool using geothermal forces. The EU requirements for data center micro grids are being implemented in Germany right now.  Once they destroy our water, air and electric grids all that money will be useless.	yes, Europe is doing this, however it must be legislated.
Are there any bills or other efforts (maybe federal? other?) relating to making AI usage by businesses more environmentally responsible? Most folks probably don't need their social media or search engines using as much AI currently or in the future for the sake of their own business profits or improved "consumer experience."	None that we know of at any level in the US.
Are the data center builders or the regulators considering requiring the use of geothermal energy for HVAC? The electricity for running geothermal HVAC could come from local solar panels and batteries. Every bit of local noncombustion energy generation for data centers would help the rest of the energy ecosystem.	Unfortunately, data center owners are profit driven, it will require legislation to make this happen.
To what extent are data centers double-counted in how utilities are projecting demand?	The current trend, is that there is almost no double counting. This could happen, but not for the next few years.
Is there any chance of federal legislation limiting the amount of data centers in a given state? It's clear there are already way more planned in VA than there should be for all the impacts it will cause. The environmental impacts that Julie is going over now. There should be some requirements in place for a part of the power be renewable energy as well.	Not answered
Add noise and light pollution.	Not answered
Thanks! And why are they always horizontal and therefore have huge impacts on land?	Not answered

VA companies may not be an environmentally friendly leader relating to data centers, despite being nearby. Perhaps a closer look at national and international efforts may be helpful.	Not answered
The NE states will be significantly impacted by the coal fired power going to these plants. The emissions will go directly from WV through PA, Western MD, and into the NE to cause worse air quality and acid rain. Is there any concern from these states for what VA has planned? It would be a formidable coalition of MD, NJ, MA, CT, VT, NH, ME and anywhere else northeast of those power plants. It's scary to think that just nextdoor is somewhere similar to how China runs its infrastructure for data centers.	Not answered
Can you explain the property tax in VA? Is it annual or when buying new equipment?	Not answered
Can green roofs be used for data centers to lower the inside temperature and provide positive environmental impact?	Not answered
With all of the information we have on data centers, wouldn't the most responsible thing be to put a halt on data center constructions? At least till the technology is refined?	Not answered
Literally, we have barely even gotten into AI data centers build out yet. Great presentations. Would love to get the speakers to talk to Sierra Club Ca climate and energy group.	Not answered