



# CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

## CLEAN ENERGY JOBS NOW

The climate crisis is impacting Marylanders from Deep Creek Lake to the shores of Ocean City. Climate change threatens our health, our economic security, and our ecological treasures.

The primary cause of climate change is human activity that emits greenhouse gases (GHGs), especially burning fossil fuels.

For more information visit  
[www.cleanenergyjobs.org](http://www.cleanenergyjobs.org)

#CleanEnergyJobsMD

The most important way to reduce GHGs is to increase the amount of clean, renewable electricity – like solar and wind power – that we use to power our homes and communities. We need to dramatically increase wind and solar energy by passing the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act.

### Renewable Energy Creates a Stronger Economy:

By increasing our renewable electricity standard to 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2040, Maryland is poised to stimulate a statewide resurgence of manufacturing and construction jobs. There were 260,077 solar workers in America in 2016, a 25 percent increase from the previous year<sup>1</sup>. By increasing our Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), this number will continue to grow and Maryland workers will benefit. This proposal couples higher goals with millions in new funding for clean energy workforce training, minority, and women-owned business growth, and other potential programs to promote a sustainable economy.

### Locally Generated Electricity Creates a More Reliable Energy Grid:

Severe weather in our region is becoming more frequent and our electricity grid is increasingly threatened by climate-related hazards like intense storms and heat waves. Clean electricity that is locally generated and dispersed is a more sustainable solution to our energy needs than our current system of centralized, polluting power plants. More clean power will make our electricity grid more resilient and keep our lights on, even during increasingly extreme weather events.

### Increasing the Renewable Energy Requirement is Affordable for Maryland

- The solar industry currently employs 5,324 people in Maryland<sup>1</sup>. Increasing the RPS to 50 percent by 2030 would quadruple this to 20,000 jobs.
- Solar production in Maryland powered 68,671 homes in the year 2016<sup>1</sup>.
- Wind power costs hit record lows in 2014, and have fallen by 54 percent in the last five years.
- Wind prices are projected to decrease by 20 – 30 percent over the next 20 years.



Source: U.S. Department of

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-census/factsheet-2016-MD/>