

News from the Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) aka “GOAT’s NOATs:”

Critical pieces of environmental legislation to reduce Maryland’s greenhouse gas emissions and to expand the use of clean, renewable energy in the state are expected to be considered and debated in the upcoming session of the Maryland Assembly. During the session, which starts this month and concludes in early April, the members of GOAT will alert the Meeting to actions that we individually and/or collectively can take to support legislation advancing these goals.

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009 (SB 278) put in place the process for achieving the state’s goal of 25% reduction of GGE (2006 levels) by 2020. This legislation will expire December 31st of 2016 unless the Assembly and the Governor renew it. Most Marylanders think that the legislation needs to be renewed and many think it should be stronger and more ambitious.

Also during the upcoming session, pieces of legislation to expand the percentage of electricity generated from clean, renewable sources to 25% by 2020 and to fund training for 2,000 new jobs in the green energy field will be introduced. More information about these can be found at:

<http://chesapeakeclimate.org/press-releases/maryland-lawmakers-propose-40-million-clean-jobs-plan/>. With the momentum generated by the Pope’s visit to the U.S., the Paris Climate Convention, and growing grassroots support for action to address and slow climate change, it promises to be a very interesting session. Stay tuned for updates!

Members of GOAT: Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, Polly Heninger, and John McKusick