

Green Action for March: Environmental Legislation in the Maryland Assembly

The Maryland legislature is in session until early April and our delegates and senators will be taking action (or not) on these pieces of environmental legislation in the next several weeks.

- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) renewal** – renew and extend this 2009 law to strengthen Maryland’s Climate Action Plan and require a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The state’s bipartisan Climate Change Commission unanimously endorsed this goal in October 2015. Email your legislators at [sierra.force.com/actions/National?actionId=AR0036173&ct=t\(\)](mailto:sierra.force.com/actions/National?actionId=AR0036173&ct=t()).
- **Clean Energy Jobs Act** – increase Maryland’s clean electricity standard – wind and solar – to 25% by 2020 and create a dedicated clean energy jobs and business development program. More clean energy will significantly improve the state’s air quality and increase regional economic growth due to better health outcomes. Learn more and email your legislators at chesapeakeclimate.org/maryland/clean-energy.
- **Community Greening and Cleanup Act aka Bag Ban** – ban plastic disposable bags and require most retailers to use paper, charge 10 cents for paper bags requested by customers, and use proceeds of the fee to compensate retailers and fund fresh food initiatives and community cleanup and greening efforts. Similar legislation in Washington, DC, has yielded a 60% reduction in bag use and 72% reduction in litter. Support the bill and find ways to reduce your use of plastic at interfaithchesapeake.org/bag_ban.
- **Pollinator Protection Act aka Pesticides or “Neonics” bill** – require a warning on plants that have been treated with neonicotinoids (neonics) and not allow sale of these pesticides to consumers. Neonics have been confirmed to play a significant role in the alarming decline of bees and other pollinators, like butterflies and birds, posing a serious threat to our food supply, public health, and environment. Maryland beekeepers lost 61% of their beehives in 2014-2015. Pollinators are responsible for 1 out of every 3 bites of food we eat. Take action at interfaithchesapeake.org/neonics.

For direct contact, find information about your legislators from this site: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmmain.aspx?pid=legisrpage&tab=subject6>. For more information speak with John McKusick, Gary Gillespie, Carol Beck, or Polly Heninger of the Green Organizing/Action Team (GOAT).