

Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT) Noat for February 2018

E-cycling Update: Thank you to everyone who donated old electronics for recycling through GreenDisk <http://www.greendisk.com>. We filled and shipped two boxes of emedia and equipment weighing a total of 50 pounds. When these arrive at GreenDisk, data will be scrubbed, equipment disassembled, and material recycled. We still have several laptops that did not fit in the boxes. GOAT is deciding whether to recommend local e-cycling options or purchase another TechnoTrash box. While this campaign is over, GOAT will keep the community posted on further opportunities to e-cycle and, perhaps, a new campaign.

With a Cold Month Ahead, Things are Heating Up in Annapolis:

Several important pieces of environmental legislation are starting on the pathway toward votes in the Maryland Assembly in the session running from now until mid-April. GOAT will be watching the progress of the bills and asking for your support. Very briefly, these bills include:

- Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act to increase renewable energy to be the source for at least 50% of the state's energy portfolio by 2030; to exclude trash incineration from the renewable energy portfolio; and to create opportunities for workforce development in the renewable energy industry especially for women, people of color, and veterans. This bill addresses health, economic, and social justice issues as well as the environment.
- Amendments to the Forest Conversation Act (original legislation enacted in 1994) will address a dramatic loss of forest canopy in the past eight years by enacting measures to retain existing forests and mitigate future loss.
- Prohibition of Polystyrene Foam Packaging will prohibit the sale of this packaging in the state as well as the use by food services and restaurants. Two counties and three cities in Maryland have already instituted bans against this material, which is a pollutant and a carcinogen.
- U.S. Climate Alliance Membership is legislation supporting Maryland's entry into this alliance, which is a response to the Trump Administration's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Change Accords. Governor Hogan has approved Maryland's participation, so there is not an immediate issue. This

legislation, known as HB 3, would prevent Maryland from withdrawing without approval by the state's Assembly.

Look for action updates in the Silent Announcements and the Monthly Newsletters starting February 11th and continuing through the end of this year's Session on Monday, April 9th.