Maryland’s Faith Communities are all in for the #CleanEnergyJobs Act

Across Maryland, our faith communities understand that burning fossil fuels for electricity is pouring heat-trapping climate pollution into our atmosphere, causing climate change that hurts our neighbors, close to home and around the world. For too long, here in Maryland, communities of color, our children, and our elders have paid for dirty energy with their health. That’s why we’re preaching about our call to care for creation and it’s why we’re working to save energy and shift our sanctuaries to cleaner power.

This Spring, we’re calling on our legislators in Annapolis to follow our lead. Through Interfaith Power & Light, faith communities across Maryland are coming together to support the Clean Energy Jobs Act. This is a powerful opportunity to expand clean energy in our state, create good jobs, and do our part to reduce carbon pollution.

Working together with labor, health, and environmental groups, we’ve formed a grassroots movement to expand and strengthen Maryland’s clean energy law (Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS):

● Our traditions teach that the wind and sun are blessings, and state RPS laws are a powerful tool for advancing clean energy like wind and solar power. **We’re seeking 100% renewable energy in Maryland** by doubling the state’s current mandate for renewable electricity to 50% by 2030, requiring the creation of a plan to achieve 100% renewable electricity in our state by 2040.

● In hard times, families turn to their religious communities for assistance, and we see the critical need for good, family-supporting jobs. **We’re seeking to fund clean energy workforce development** to ensure that our neighbors, particularly women and people of color, prosper in the clean energy economy.

● Over the last few years, we’ve seen polluters try to impose trash incinerators on low-income communities of color, most recently in Curtis Bay. Such facilities shouldn’t count as “renewable,” and we’re seeking to **eliminate trash incineration from Maryland’s RPS** — #NoCashforTrash — as a critical first step in strengthening the law to fulfill its purpose of expanding clean energy.

Will you join us? In October, nearly eighty Maryland faith communities raised up climate justice from the pulpit, spreading the word about our sacred work to get energy “from heaven,” and inviting thousands of their members to join the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs campaign.

Already, seven senior Christian leaders in the Ecumenical Leaders Group, including the Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, and United Methodist bishops of Central Maryland, have signed this resolution, as have over 90 Maryland faith communities. Invite your congregation to join them: [www.cleanenergyjobs.org/sign](http://www.cleanenergyjobs.org/sign).