Maryland Democrats Pass Climate Bill After Years of Setbacks

By STEPHEN NEUMANN
Capital News Service

Annapolis, Md. (Mar. 31, 2022)— Sweeping climate change legislation was flown onto the House floor on Thursday (Mar. 31), sending the bill to the Republican-controlled Senate with just two days left in the legislative session for legislators to override his anticipated veto.

The bill, which aims to significantly cut carbon emissions, sets a path for net-zero emissions by 2050, including a 95% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 77% in 2025. It also includes changes that would make the state at least as ambitious as comparable states in the Northeastern Region in terms of what the Paris accord sets as a $2.35 trillion in spending. Baltimore City and the City of Laurel, and the City of Towson, Towson Park, City of Frederick, Frederick County, Montgomery County Green Bank, One Montgomery Green, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Sustainable Frederick County, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension, University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who vetoed a similar bill last year, signed the new bill, which contains provisions for a $75 million fund to support the implementation of the bill.

Under the new law, the state will set binding carbon emission reduction targets for each major source of emissions, including transportation, buildings, and power generation. The state will also establish a new office of climate change, which will be responsible for developing a state plan to achieve the reduction targets.

In addition, the bill requires the state to develop a plan to transition to renewable energy sources by 2035, and to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2030. The legislation also establishes a new program to provide financial assistance to low-income households for energy efficiency improvements.

The bill was a major victory for environmentalists and renewable energy advocates, who had been working for years to pass legislation to combat climate change in Maryland. The legislation also includes provisions to help struggling coal miners and their communities transition to new industries.

The bill now heads to the Senate, which is expected to take up the legislation in the coming days.

Solar Co-op Opened April 1st for DVM Area Residents to Go Solar Together

Northern Virginia, neighboring Maryland counties, and the District of Columbia will all go solar as a community

By PRESS OFFICER
Solar United Neighbors (NV)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Mar. 30, 2022)— On Friday, April 1, a nonprofit group Solar United Neighbors (SUN) launched the second Capital Area Solar Co-op to help DVM area residents and businesses go solar together.

Solar United Neighbors is partnering with groups across the DVM to promote the co-op. Partners include: Arlington County, City of Falls Church, DC Department of Energy and Environment, Montgomery County Government, Green Bank, One Montgomery Green, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Sustainable Frederick County, Towson Park, Town of Poolesville, Poolesville Green, City of Frederick, Frederick County, City of Rockville, Sustainable Takoma Park, City of Silver Spring, Sunset Green, Sunset Green Park, Sunset Park.

The Sun Contract is an additional three-month commitment to the Capital Area Solar Co-op that helps make solar accessible and affordable for Montgomery County residents, and Adriana Fassbinder, acting director for the Montgomery County, MD Department of Environmental Protection’s “This is an opportunity for residents the benefits of switching to clean energy and lowering their utility costs. Through this simple co-op, neighbors are empowered to take control of their electricity costs and the costs associated with it in a better quality of life.”

In addition to the Sun Contract, MD county residents, special financing options are available to assist those who qualify for Mdenergy’s solar co-op.

For continued co-op updates and information visit, visit the state’s solar co-op website. Solar co-op member interviews as available upon request.

Solar United Neighbors is a cooperatively orga- nized that works DVM is nationwide to co-op provides the web and interests of solar co-op owners and supporters. Solar co-op are part of the organization’s mission to create a new energy system with rooftop solar at the community scale. The organization offers educational programs and educational programs for high school seniors.

Maryland Farmers Expect to Plant Less Corn Acreage

By PRESS OFFICER
United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Maryland Field Office

Annapolis, Md. (Mar. 31, 2022)— The announces the farmers’ 2022 planting intentions, according to Shannon Williams, state statistician of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The estimates are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March from a sample of approximately 7,550 farm operators across the state.

Maryland’s 2022 key findings in the report are:

• Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 460 thousand acres, down 2% from last year.
• Soybean planted area is estimated at 490 thousand acres, unchanged from last year.
• Barley planted area is estimated at 28 thousand acres, down 15% from last year.
• Wheat acreage is estimated at 305 thousand acres, down 12% from last year.
• Hay area harvested is estimated at 209 thousand acres, up 3% from last year.

For the complete “Prospective Plantings” report, go to:

https://usda.library.concord.edu/concord/publications/sl0100108

“The Prospective Plantings” report and all other NASS reports are available online at:


Protect Local Waterways by Following Maryland’s Lawn’s Lawn Fertilizer Law

By ALEXANDRA F. NEWMANN
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

The Maryland Department of Agriculture

Annapolis, Md. (Mar. 31, 2022)— The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced the launch of the Maryland’s Lawn’s Lawn Fertilizer Law while also emphasizing the need for residents to properly fertilize their lawns. The law requires that anyone applying lawn fertilizer must have a certified certification to apply fertilizers. It also requires that anyone applying lawn fertilizer must ensure that the fertilizer is applied in a manner that will not cause pollution. It also requires that anyone applying lawn fertilizer must ensure that the fertilizer is applied in a manner that will not cause pollution. It also requires that anyone applying lawn fertilizer must ensure that the fertilizer is applied in a manner that will not cause pollution. It also requires that anyone applying lawn fertilizer must ensure that the fertilizer is applied in a manner that will not cause pollution.