

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



CHERISH OUR COMMUNITIES ACT

- Environmental Justice legislation shaped by frontline communities in Maryland.
- Learns from successful legislation in New York, New Jersey, and Minnesota.
- Targeted permit analysis to protect Maryland's most polluted communities from harm while inviting positive development.

RECLAIM RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT (HB220/SB10)

- Eliminates trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard.
- Makes millions of dollars per year available for real renewable energy investment **at no cost to the state budget**.
- Supported by Baltimore City Mayor, City Council, and Comptroller; Montgomery County Executive; Frederick County Executive, and MDE's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION FUND (HB42/SB134)

- Creates a permanent, dedicated funding mechanism of a \$2/ton surcharge on waste thrown away in landfills and incinerators to support Zero Waste infrastructure **at no cost to the state budget**.
- Funds food waste reduction, edible food rescue, recovery of wasted food for animal feed, composting programs, and infrastructure.
- Funds local governments, schools and school systems, farms, Soil Conservation Districts, businesses, and nonprofits.

CLIMATE RESILIENT SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Improves management of septic systems facing climate change impacts.
- Minimizes the threat of sea level rise and changing precipitation.
- Protects septic system longevity, drinking water wells, and surrounding waterways.