



**23rd Annual
Maryland Environmental Legislative Summit
Thursday, January 26, 2017
4-6 pm**



Agenda

Welcome

Karla Raettig, Maryland League of Conservation Voters

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (invited)

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

The Honorable Michael Busch, Speaker of the House

Dr. Leana Wen, Baltimore City Health Commissioner

The Honorable Michael Miller, President of the Senate

Environmental Agenda for 2017

- **Budget and Enforcement** – Ben Orr, Maryland Center on Economic Policy
- **Clean Energy Jobs Act: Override the Veto** – Joelle Novey, Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light
- **Ban Fracking in Maryland** – Nadine Grabania, Citizen Shale
- **The Keep Antibiotics Effective Act** – Pat McLaine, University of Maryland School of Nursing
- **Prevent Septic Pollution** – Dru Schmidt-Perkins, 1000 Friends of Maryland

Staying Engaged Through the Legislative Session

Julie Lawson, Trash Free Maryland

Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act: Override the Veto

In 2016, Maryland's General Assembly passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act. Unfortunately, Governor Hogan later vetoed the bill. Maryland's General Assembly needs to vote for the Clean Energy Jobs Act this year to override the veto.

Climate Change: Threatening our Economy & Public Health

Maryland is already feeling the many economic costs of climate change. Our farmers are facing unprecedented droughts and unpredictable weather. Extreme storms cost Maryland taxpayers more than \$70 million in 2011–12. Tourism industries and coastal communities along our 3,190 miles of coastline are threatened by sea levels that could rise two feet by 2050 and more than five feet by the end of the century.

At the same time, fossil fuels are contributing to a public health crisis. Millions of Marylanders live in counties that received poor air quality grades from the American Lung Association, and the state notoriously has some of the worst ground-level ozone pollution in the eastern U.S.

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

Over half of Maryland's electricity still comes from burning coal, oil and gas. The good news is that Maryland's RPS requires electricity suppliers to buy a growing share of their power from renewable sources each year. This law was originally signed by Republican Gov. Bob Ehrlich in 2004.

The current RPS requirement is to reach 20% renewable power by 2022. The Clean Energy Jobs Act would increase the RPS requirement to 25% by 2020. Such an increase to the RPS is the top recommendation in Maryland's 2013 Climate Action Plan—the state's roadmap for achieving science-based greenhouse gas reductions.

Feasibility of 25% Renewable Electricity by 2020

Maryland has met or exceeded its RPS requirements every year since 2004, and we are on track for the current requirement of 20% clean electricity by 2022. A study by PJM, the electricity grid in which MD participates, determined that each state in our regional grid could double its RPS requirements while maintaining reliability and reducing pollution.

Benefits of 25% Clean Electricity for Maryland

- **Economic Growth:** New solar construction that would result from the Clean Energy Jobs Act would total \$150 million annually in GDP growth.
- **Public health savings:** Prevent 25 to 50 deaths per year and increasing regional economic growth by \$218 million to \$493 million annually due to better health outcomes.
- **Less climate pollution:** 1,300 megawatts of new clean energy in our region, and carbon reductions equivalent to taking 563,000 passenger vehicles off the road every year.
- **Opening Investment:** Allows small minority-owned and women-owned businesses in this industry to receive dedicated funding for market growth through the state's "Strategic Energy Investment Fund."

For more information, please contact

James McGarry, Chesapeake Climate Action Network / 240-396-1983

David Smedick, Sierra Club Maryland Chapter / 443-789-4536



Ban Fracking in Maryland

High-volume hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) is a hazardous process used widely in the last decade to recover previously inaccessible fossil fuels stored deep underground. It requires millions of gallons of water, sand, and toxic chemicals injected at high pressure to break apart rock to release the gas (or oil). It is part of a complex industrial process that requires much polluting infrastructure to extract, process, transport, and store the gas. The long-term risks and harms outweigh any perceived short-term benefits, making fracking the wrong choice for our state.

Fracking harms public health and the environment.

More than 900 peer-reviewed publications now exist on a wide array of impacts from shale gas development, including effects on health, water, air quality, seismicity, and climate. Of studies looking specifically at public health, the majority show risks or actual harms. For example:

- Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health have documented statistically-significant associations between proximity to active fracking operations and premature births, high-risk pregnancies, mild to severe asthma exacerbations, chronic sinus infections, and migraines.
- Researchers at University of Pennsylvania have documented increases in hospitalizations for cardiac and neurologic illnesses in two heavily-fracked Pennsylvania counties, compared to a neighboring county with no fracking.

Given the multiple pathways for contamination of air, water, and soil with chemicals known to have carcinogenic, neurotoxic, or endocrine-disrupting properties, **the risks to health are real and damage may be irreversible.**

Fracking harms climate and causes earthquakes.

Methane, the primary component of fracked gas, is a potent greenhouse gas that leaks or is emitted from the entire fracking-related infrastructure. Studies now show that fracked gas is likely as bad or worse for climate than coal or oil. Climate change is a public health emergency that requires a bold response, starting with a commitment not to build new fossil fuel infrastructure that will commit Maryland to decades of fossil fuel dependence.

Earthquakes result both from the injection of fracking wastewater deep underground for storage purposes and from the fracking process itself. Given that fracking wastewater will likely be transported out of state, allowing fracking in Maryland jeopardizes neighboring communities, as well as our own.

Fracking threatens businesses and local economies.

Western Maryland will be the first region impacted by fracking. While some short-term jobs may appear during the boom phase, outdoor recreation, sustainable agriculture, and the vacation home real estate market will be adversely affected, leading to decreased tax revenues and quality of life. Garrett County residents and business owners are among the most vocal opponents of fracking, outnumbering supporters 2:1.

Maryland must BAN FRACKING in the 2017 Legislative Session before permits get issued this year!

- 60% of Marylanders oppose fracking.
- Counties and municipalities are passing local bans and resolutions at a rapid pace.
- No regulations can adequately protect residents from the threats posed by fracking.

Now, more than ever, it is up to state governments to protect public health and the environment by banning fracking.

For more information, please contact

Mitch Jones, Food & Water Watch / 410-394-7651

Josh Tulkin, Sierra Club / 240-764-5307



Keep Antibiotics Effective Act: A Public Health Crisis

Antibiotic overuse is causing our most life-saving medicines to become less effective. This bill curbs the overuse of antibiotics on industrial farms.

We are already seeing the rise of resistant bacteria which cannot be treated by existing antibiotics. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) each year in the United States:

- 2 million people get sick from antibiotic resistant infections.
- 23,000 people die from antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- We lose \$55 billion due to excess hospital costs and lost worker productivity.

If we lose antibiotics, our health systems will dramatically change. A minor infection or injury could kill.

Losing the effectiveness of antibiotics would cripple some of our most important tools in medicine, seriously undermining our ability to manage infections in patients undergoing chemotherapy, dialysis, organ transplants, c-sections, joint replacements, and other major surgeries.

The health care community is taking action to reduce human use. **Between 2009 and 2013, human antibiotic prescriptions per capita have decreased about 6% (even while human prescriptions overall have increased).**

Farms have a big role to play

Nearly 70 percent of antibiotics important to human medicine are sold for use on animals. Sales of these antibiotics for animal use increased by 26% between 2009 and 2015.

Antibiotics are often fed in routine, low doses to animals that aren't sick to prevent diseases that can be caused by poor diets and stressful, cramped, or unsanitary living conditions.

This routine use of low-dose antibiotics on industrial farms facilitates the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which can travel off of farms and into the community through human to animal contact, contaminated food, and through environmental factors like water run-off, dirt, and airborne dust.

Through the use of animal husbandry techniques, vaccines, probiotics, and many other alternatives, the industry can move away from low-dose antibiotic use and only use antibiotics to treat sick animals.

To protect Maryland's children and adults, the bill:

- Allows for the use of antibiotics to treat sick animals and control disease outbreaks;
- Bans routine, low-dose use of medically important antibiotics in livestock production;
- Requires collection of information about antibiotic administration;
- Complements and improves FDA rules.

For more information, please contact

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Mae Wu, Natural Resources Defense Council / mwu@nrdc.org / 202-289-6868



Prevent Septic Pollution in All Maryland Waters

In the fall of 2016 Maryland Department of Environment announced that they would no longer protect Maryland from pollution from old-fashioned septic systems except for in the Critical Areas—that narrow strip of land around the Bay. They removed the requirement that all new septic systems installed in Maryland be modern pollution-reducing technology, what is known as Best Available Technology or BAT. Why does MDE want to only protect some families' water and not all waters?

Our waters need to be protected from septic system pollution

Old-fashioned septic systems, when they work, do a pretty good job of taking care of bacteria but they do not stop nitrogen. Nitrogen is a very serious pollutant for creeks, rivers, and the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays—and for drinking water.

Every county and every watershed has significant contamination from septic pollution. We simply cannot afford to roll back regulations and to old-fashioned polluting technology.

- Why should we protect some waters and not everyone's waters?
- Septic systems contribute around 3 million pounds of nitrogen to our water every year.
- A house on an old-fashioned septic system pollutes six to ten times more than a house with public sewer service.
- Modern septic systems reduce nitrogen pollution by about 60%.
- Nitrogen is not only a problem for our rivers and streams but is also a problem for our drinking water supplies.
- All new development and new sources of pollution are required to be offset and cleaned up by somebody under the federally required Total Maximum Daily Load.
- Using old polluting technology shift the costs and the responsibilities from the developer to the taxpayer.

Legislation is being introduced by Del. Steven Lafferty and Chairwoman Joan Carter Conway to reestablish the water-protecting regulations through a new law.

Stop dirty septic systems from endangering our local streams and drinking water and make developers do their part to reduce pollution from new development.

For more information, please contact

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Dru Schmidt-Perkins, 1000 Friends of Maryland / Dru@FriendsofMD.org



