Together, we are making Maryland a climate innovation and equity leader

I am proud to present our 2022 Impact Report, which highlights the tremendous statewide progress we achieved together over the past year. **Thank you.** Your support and participation made 2022 a year to remember for Maryland’s environment.

Our achievements spanned the entire year. The 2022 Maryland legislative session, which ended in early April, will be remembered as one of the most successful and momentous in decades. After years of effort we — along with our community activists and partners — achieved an historic breakthrough on climate legislation that is considered the nation’s most ambitious.

The recent general election was an extremely strong win for Maryland’s environment. In particular, Maryland LCV is excited that its endorsed candidates in the key statewide positions of Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller won their races — as did 93 percent of Maryland LCV’s endorsed candidates throughout the state.

We also moved Maryland forward this year by training and organizing grassroots advocates, many of them from underserved communities; advising legislators and candidates and holding them accountable; and providing on-the-ground support for candidates and elected officials who will fight for Maryland’s land, water, and climate future.

We are now gearing up for the 2023 legislative session, where we will advocate for full implementation of the Climate Solutions Now Act — including reducing emissions from the transportation sector and facilitating building electrification — and drive Maryland toward 100 percent clean energy by 2035.

Your support will once again be crucial as we push Maryland to be a national leader in comprehensively addressing climate and equity challenges. Together, I know we will succeed in creating a state that achieves its environmental promise for all Marylanders.

Kim Coble  
Executive Director
With your support, Maryland LCV:

**130 ENDORSED** 130 candidates across political parties through our rigorous process.

**98 LIFTED** 98 of our endorsed Primary Election candidates to win their nomination and more than 90 percent of our endorsed General Election candidates to win their seat.

**1,000 DREW** more than 1,000 Marylanders to 2 in-person gubernatorial forums, an Attorney General forum, a Comptroller forum, and 3 one-on-one interviews with Gubernatorial and Comptroller Candidates.

**70,000 RAISED** approximately $70,000 for endorsed candidates in tough races.

**3,000 KNOCKED** on approximately 3,000 doors in more than 50 Maryland neighborhoods.

**188 EDUCATED** 141 Delegates and 47 Senators on climate change, environmental justice, transportation, community solar, and bus electrification.

**150 DELIVERED** 150 emails to more than 20,000 Marylanders informing them of the biggest environmental issues facing their communities.

**12,615 GENERATED** 12,615 messages to elected officials and candidates demanding environmental action.
Elections

Maryland LCV and its supporters generated tremendous enthusiasm during this election season for strong leaders who will deliver on the promise of a clean energy future and ensure all Marylanders share equally in its benefits.

We were the only state-wide environmental group to endorse Governor-elect Wes Moore during the primary season and our staff worked closely with him to refine his First 100-day climate agenda. We also played key roles in supporting Comptroller-elect Brooke Lierman and Attorney General-elect Anthony Brown.

Our comprehensive efforts included:

- Our annual Environmental Scorecard, which this year was released early to help guide voters.
- A lengthy endorsement process that entailed reviewing voting records, platforms, and written applications and conducting in-depth interviews with dozens of candidates.
- Hosting webinars and forums with candidates to give Maryland LCV supporters and other members of the public the opportunity to question and assess the candidates first-hand.
- Financially supporting strong, environmentally-friendly candidates with tough races through our political action committee.
- Conducting a voter registration and education campaign that included digital, mobile, email, and display advertisements in both English and Spanish that was seen over 2 million times.

“Maryland legislators know that Maryland LCV will bring accurate and important information to policy-making, as well as partner with them to advocate for necessary and important legislation. Maryland LCV follows through on its promises, works with legislators to hold us accountable for our work on environmental issues, and celebrates important milestones and climate champions.”

– Comptroller-elect Brooke Lierman
IN 2022, WE HELPED CREATE A MARYLAND IN WHICH:

• The Maryland General Assembly passed the most significant statewide climate bill in the nation, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, setting the state on an ambitious path to emissions reductions that will improve Marylanders’ health and well-being.

• Polling confirms 72% of residents think global warming is happening and 69% are worried about it.

• Lawmakers increasingly address environmental justice in their decision-making, even as they continue to grapple with the fact that Black and Brown communities suffer a disproportionate amount of impact from pollution and climate change.

• Our state will reap an estimated $6.5 billion in investment in large-scale clean power generation and storage from the federal Inflation Reduction Act.

• Maryland-based renewable energy companies are growing and creating sustainable, good-paying jobs.

• The number of electric vehicles registered in the state continues to soar, doubling over the past two years.

Climate and Energy Policy

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 is the most significant state-wide climate legislation in the nation. This landmark bill will reduce harmful emissions across the transportation and building sectors, and help accelerate Maryland’s move away from fossil fuels in favor of clean energy sources.

Throughout the General Assembly session, Maryland LCV worked to ensure the strongest version of the bill made it to the Governor’s desk. We mobilized more than 12,000 Marylanders to contact their legislators, ran a door-to-door canvas in three critical legislative districts, and turned out more than 200 people to events at the state capitol supporting the bill.

Our Chispa Maryland program also played a key role in ensuring that the final bill incorporated strong equity elements, including targeting new resources to communities that are underserved and overburdened by pollution.

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 commits Maryland to:

• Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 60% by 2031 and net-zero emissions by 2045.

• Reducing emissions from large buildings by 20% by 2030 (with a net zero target by 2040).

• Providing resources to finance innovative clean-energy strategies, 40% of which must be invested in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods.

• Directing all county boards of education to transition to electric school bus fleets starting in 2025.

• Incentivizing the development of community solar projects serving low- and-moderate income households to be built on rooftops, landfills, and parking lots.
Environmental Justice

Maryland’s communities of color are disproportionately harmed by environmental pollution that creates public health concerns. Maryland LCV continues to push the state toward a comprehensive policy framework to address these concerns based on community-driven solutions.

We are proud of the role we and our partners played in achieving legislative progress in the past year to address environmental justice concerns, including:

- The adoption by the Maryland General Assembly of clear definitions of “underserved” and “overburdened” communities to ensure that they are better served by future legislation.
- Budgetary language requiring at least 40% of various funds to be targeted to overburdened and underserved communities.
- Passage of legislation that facilitates the use of “Environmental Justice Screens” for certain types of permits issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), with the goal of protecting at-risk communities.
- Passage of the Electric School Bus Pilot Program, which will make zero-emissions buses available to more school districts across the state, reducing pollution impacts to low-income communities and communities of color.
- Expansion of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps to engage more young people in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

In 2022, our Chispa Maryland program, through organizing and ongoing civic engagement with Latinx communities, continued to develop new grassroots leaders who will fight for policy changes that advance environmental justice. Because we partner with communities that have historically been excluded from participation in environmental decision making, we are ensuring that equity and justice become a central tenet of local, state, and federal climate solutions in Maryland.

CHISPA MARYLAND BY THE NUMBERS:

- 725 Community members who took action in person with us
- 152 Community members who volunteered during community activities and advocacy actions
- 69 Community members who took a leadership role during our activities
- 19 Latinx community leaders who become “Environmental Justice & Actions Promotores”
- 03 New Latinx-led “Environmental Justice Community Committees”

Transportation

Transportation is the leading source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the state. Maryland LCV is committed to reducing transportation pollution and ensuring that equity is central to state transportation plans, improving the Maryland regional rail system, and converting the state’s fleet to zero-emission buses, which will reduce GHG emissions while also minimizing impacts to overburdened communities.

In 2022, Maryland LCV played a role in encouraging the following concrete steps that will reduce pollution and build the state’s clean energy economy for all Maryland communities, including:

- Passing the Electric School Bus Pilot Program, which will help more school districts transition their school bus fleets to electric buses, with the goal of protecting the more than 650,000 Maryland children who ride to school on polluting diesel buses.
• Creating a path through the Climate Solutions Now Act to transition all of Maryland’s state-owned fleet of cars and light-duty trucks from fossil fuel to zero-emission vehicles.
• Passing legislation that will improve Maryland Regional Commuter rail service through new investment programs for certain rail lines and programs.

Land and Water Conservation

Thanks to the work of Maryland LCV and its partners, the 2022 Maryland General Assembly took steps to protect and improve Maryland’s land and waters, including:
• Improving Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) monitoring and enforcement of water discharge permits, including clearing a backlog of expired water pollution control permits.
• Helping stop a “forest mitigation bank” bill that would have ultimately accelerated forest loss by extending reforestation accommodation deadlines.
• Passing the Conservation Finance Act, which expands opportunities for private financing for Maryland’s climate, water quality, and other conservation-related goals.
• Limiting the use of PFAS chemicals in consumer products and fire-fighting foam. These “forever chemicals” are synthetic chemical compounds that can cause immense damage to individuals and the environment due to their toxic and persistent nature.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

Maryland LCV holds diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice (DEIJ) as core values, believing DEIJ pillars are crucial to building healthy environments for everyone in Maryland. We demonstrate our commitment to supporting and amplifying a diverse and inclusive environmental movement by:
• Advancing an equitable and just climate change policy agenda.
• Enlisting and supporting diverse candidates and elected officials who share our ideals and are passionate about advancing them.
• Advocating for access to clean air and water, and safe and healthy communities, and supporting the power of Black and Brown people and disadvantaged communities to meaningfully address environmental burdens and injustices.
• Intentionally building our organizational capacity and nurturing external partnerships that represent the diversity in Maryland, including constituencies disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental injustices.
• Using our voices to fight systemic racism and ensure fair treatment and equitable environmental opportunities and outcomes.
Thank you for your support this year!

Donations from individuals are critical to our efforts to hold elected officials accountable, endorse and help elect pro-conservation candidates, and advocate for smart, equitable, and effective environmental laws and policies. *We simply could not do our work without you.*

By working together, we will achieve a healthy, equitable, and resilient climate for everyone in Maryland. Please renew your investment in Maryland LCV today at www.MDLCV.org.