

## January 31, 2024 HOTLIST

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to present the "Hot List" – a detailed list of priority environmental legislation moving through the Maryland General Assembly. This will be emailed to every legislator every Tuesday and will also be available online on our website ([www.mdclc.org](http://www.mdclc.org)). We hope you find this weekly communication helpful and instructive as you tackle important environmental bills this session. All votes on bills listed on the Hotlist may be considered for inclusion in our annual legislative scorecard, along with any bills where we communicate our position formally to a full legislative body in advance of Floor voting sessions. If you have any questions, or would like us to consider adding a bill to the Hot List, please contact Kristen Harbeson at [kharbeson@mdclc.org](mailto:kharbeson@mdclc.org) or 410-952-8100.



### Education, Energy, and the Environment (EEE)

#### **SB 0146/HB 0166: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)**

<b>Sponsors:</b>	Karen Lewis Young
<b>Committees:</b>	Education, Energy, and the Environment (S)
<b>Summary:</b>	This bill removes trash incineration as a qualifying source from the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard. The byproducts of burning trash for energy include nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, dioxins, and volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), which are harmful to human health and most impact residents living near trash incinerators. State dollars and incentives should not go towards polluting or harmful industries, that cost Marylanders their health and quality of life.
<b>Our Position:</b>	Support - Climate Plan Priority
<b>Status:</b>	Jan 25, 2024 - Hearing 1/25 at 1:30 p.m.

#### **SB 0148/HB 0449: Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities**

<b>Sponsors:</b>	Alonzo T. Washington
<b>Committees:</b>	Education, Energy, and the Environment (S)
<b>Summary:</b>	This bill increases the funding to the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program, and requires at least 40% of the funding go to projects in or that directly benefit overburdened or underserved communities.
<b>Our Position:</b>	Support
<b>Status:</b>	Jan 25, 2024 - Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m. (Education, Energy, and the Environment)

## **SB 0570/HB 0397:Public Utilities - Thermal Energy Network Systems - Authorization and Establishment (Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (WARMTH) Act)**

<b>Sponsors:</b>	Katie Fry Hester
<b>Committees:</b>	Education, Energy, and the Environment (S)
<b>Summary:</b>	This bill launches a pilot program for networked geothermal systems in neighborhoods with 80% low-and-moderate income residence, prioritizing overburdened and underserved communities. Networked Geothermal creates opportunities for whole communities to benefit from a single geothermal system, which would connect to heat pumps in individual homes.
<b>Our Position:</b>	Support
<b>Status:</b>	Jan 26, 2024 - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.

## **Economic Matters (ECM)**

### **HB 0166/SB 0146:Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)**

<b>Sponsors:</b>	Vaughn Stewart
<b>Committees:</b>	Economic Matters (H)
<b>Summary:</b>	This bill removes trash incineration as a qualifying source from the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard. The byproducts of burning trash for energy include nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, dioxins, and volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), which are harmful to human health and most impact residents living near trash incinerators. State dollars and incentives should not go towards polluting or harmful industries, that cost Marylanders their health and quality of life.
<b>Our Position:</b>	Support
<b>Status:</b>	Jan 10, 2024 - First Reading Economic Matters

### **HB 0397/SB 0570:Public Utilities – Thermal Energy Network Systems – Authorization and Establishment (Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (WARMTH) Act)**

<b>Sponsors:</b>	Lorig Charkoudian
<b>Committees:</b>	Economic Matters (H)
<b>Summary:</b>	This bill launches a pilot program for networked geothermal systems in neighborhoods with 80% low-and-moderate income residence, prioritizing overburdened and underserved communities. Networked Geothermal creates opportunities for whole communities to benefit from a single geothermal system, which would connect to heat

pumps in individual homes.

**Our Position:**

Support

**Status:**

Jan 17, 2024 - First Reading Economic Matters