



2024 Legislative Priority

Removing Manufacturing Exemptions from GGRA



BACKGROUND

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) of 2009 set ambitious targets for reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions but exempted the manufacturing sector from its scope. A 2022 University of Maryland study highlighted the significant contributions of manufacturing to the state's emissions, underscoring the need to remove these exemptions to achieve the Climate Solutions Now Act's goal of reducing emissions by 60% by 2031. This legislative change is crucial as Maryland strives to include all sectors in its climate mitigation efforts.

- Maryland is currently the only state that exempts manufacturers from greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, according to the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators.
- Cement manufacturers, among the largest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, are specifically targeted for inclusion under the new legislative proposal.

Ensuring all sectors contribute equitably to Maryland's climate goals by including manufacturing emissions in the state's reduction targets.



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

WHAT REMOVING THE EXEMPTION WILL DO

- Includes manufacturers in our emission reduction goals.
- Revokes the exemption for new manufacturers.
- Sets a 2023 emissions baseline for existing manufacturers, holding them accountable for future emissions increases.
- Enables the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to assess emissions reductions from manufacturers arriving post-2023.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR MARYLAND

Removing these exemptions aligns with Maryland's comprehensive approach to climate action, ensuring that all industries play a part in reducing emissions. It addresses long-standing inequities in pollution distribution and supports Maryland's trajectory towards becoming a leader in climate resilience and sustainability.

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters educates and activates people to take equitable and just political actions for clean water, healthy air and climate-resilient communities.

www.MDLCV.org