



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support Senate Bill 804 – Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric– and Solar–Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2024)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 27, 2025

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which would amend the Maryland Building Performance Standards to require that new buildings and buildings with significant improvements meet: 1) all laundry, water, and space heating demands without use of fossil fuels, with an electric-ready requirement for buildings that get waivers; 2) building energy conservation requirements; and 3) a solar-ready standard for suitable buildings. The bill does not limit the ability of a local government to adopt stronger requirements.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, residential municipality of almost 18,000 residents in Montgomery County. About half of our residents are homeowners and half are renters. Residents have a wide range of incomes, backgrounds and ethnicities. However, a significant number of residents are energy cost-burdened. The City does not conduct its own permitting and relies on State and Montgomery County building codes and permitting for its buildings. This bill will have a significant impact on our community as the City anticipates both new mixed-use construction and, as a largely built-out community, significant renovation of larger multifamily buildings in the future.

Like communities across Maryland, Takoma Park is keenly aware that we must move ahead rapidly to meet our state, county, and local climate goals. Throughout Maryland, we have seen our climate dramatically and rapidly change, with devastating local consequences. Buildings are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions statewide. New and renovated buildings provide an opportunity to build in measures to achieve our collective climate goals.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing GHG emissions through our local policies and actions. But we cannot do this alone. We need strong state leadership and action to support us and other communities across the state. This bill will help us meet our city climate, as well as housing and equity goals and priorities.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports the intent of Senate Bill 804 and urges a favorable committee vote.