

## **Support a Community Choice Energy Pilot for Montgomery County**

Dear Senators and Delegates:

On behalf of our members and a broad coalition of organizations and supporters across Montgomery County, we are writing to you today to urge you to pass legislation authorizing a Community Choice Energy (CCE) pilot program in Montgomery County (HB0768).

In 2017, Montgomery County declared a Climate Emergency and committed to achieving a 80% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and 100% reduction by 2035. CCE is a powerful tool in achieving this ambitious goal. CCE allows communities to both rapidly transition to renewable energy and decrease energy costs for consumers; costs which disproportionately affect our most vulnerable communities.

With CCE, Montgomery County will be empowered to purchase electricity on behalf of all consumers and businesses within its jurisdiction. CCE will allow the County to negotiate the source of energy generation, and use the power of bulk buying to save consumers money. Community Choice Energy is entirely voluntary, and residents or businesses who do not wish not to participate can opt-out. Further, CCE can help Montgomery County protect its low-income and elderly residents who are often targeted by unscrupulous third-party energy suppliers that charge higher than standard offer service rates.

At present 9 other states have authorized Community Choice Energy. We urge you to prioritize the passage of this important legislation and allow Montgomery County to pave the way for the rest of Maryland.

Signed,

350 MoCo

Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, DC Chapter

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

City of Takoma Park

Clean Water Action

The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County Chapter (TCM MoCo)

Climate Change Working Group of Frederick County

Climate Law & Policy Project

Do the Most Good

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel

Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Environment Maryland

Food & Water Action

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Howard County Climate Action

Indivisible Howard County  
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)  
Institute for Energy and Environmental Research  
Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Maryland PIRG  
Maryland Sierra Club  
MoCoWoMen  
MOM's Organic Market  
Mont Co Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Montgomery County Food Council  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Prince George's Sierra Club  
Rachel Carson Council  
Safe Skies Maryland  
Solar United Neighbors  
Sugarloaf Citizens' Association  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
WISE