

Dear stakeholders in the Maryland community,

The UMBC Residential Student Association (RSA) organization represents all UMBC students living on campus. We aim to create and maintain a safe and supportive community for these students and encourage them to become leaders. The MaryPIRG Student Climate Action Coalition (MSCAC) consists of student representatives from UMBC and 9 other universities in Maryland, and currently has over 700 supporters. MSCAC aims to advance climate action for state, environmental justice, and education initiatives, starting at the university level.

As members of an institution that strives to promote equity, we recognize that climate change disproportionately affects low-income communities, as well as communities of color. Many students and faculty members have close ties with Baltimore city, an area that has been especially subject to the effects of climate change. Carbon emissions have contributed to urban heat islands in the city and exacerbated health conditions such as asthma in community members. In addition, members of the UMBC residential community enjoy spending weekends at Patapsco State Park, an activity that may no longer be enjoyable if climate change causes enough damage.

Our organization sees combating climate change as a practice necessary in establishing a safe community. Many of RSA's overarching sustainability goals and guidelines are similar to those of MSCAC. We also believe in the power of student leadership and advocacy and want to encourage student-led initiatives both at UMBC as well as other institutions. In addition, as an organization close to Baltimore, we want to support climate justice in a community that we are especially devoted to. As such, UMBC's RSA supports MSCAC's bill proposal for carbon neutrality and encourages others to do the same.

Sincerely,

The UMBC Residential Student Association