



THE ENERGY SAVINGS ACT OF 2023

SB689: Senator Karen Lewis Young **HB904:** Delegate Lily Qi

We can achieve greater energy savings, lower energy bills, and deliver even more public health and environmental benefits by building on the success of the EmPOWER program and passing the Energy Savings Act of 2023.

What's in the Bill

- **Stops incentives for fossil fuel appliances and heating, maximizes federal efficiency incentives, and creates new incentives** for electrification, efficient electric appliances, and home heating.
- **Sets clear performance targets, climate benchmarks, incentives and penalties** for utilities to ensure the program is reducing Maryland's overall energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Builds on the successful EmPOWER rebates and resources** for energy audits and weatherization.
- **Helps expand access for low-income households to state and federal funds** for energy efficiency and whole-home retrofits including lead removal, mold remediation, asbestos removal, and building improvements by establishing a multilingual community outreach specialist program.
- **Helps ensure Maryland has enough contractors to keep up with demand.** Tracks ongoing training and certification for contractors to deliver services and ensure Marylanders see the most benefits.
- **Delivers the majority of savings directly to Maryland households** to help lower utility bills by ensuring 85% of energy savings happen in the home, where ratepayers benefit most.

Supported by:



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Building on a History of Success

The EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 created the EmPOWER program to incentivize energy efficiency and conservation efforts. EmPOWER has improved energy efficiency, which has saved utility customers money, reduced pollution, and helped protect the environment. The Energy Savings Act of 2023 will build on this legacy of success to deliver even more savings for Marylanders.

Since 2008, EmPOWER Maryland has:

- Created savings of over **\$12.7 billion from an investment of \$3.5 billion in efficiency.**
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of **at least 9.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, equal to taking 2 million cars off the road for a year.**
- **Provided Marylanders with energy audits and weatherization, rebates for lighting, appliances, and weatherization,** and provided businesses with discounts and incentives for energy efficient upgrades.

The Climate Solutions Now Act directed EmPOWER be updated to include greenhouse gas reduction goals and the Public Service Commission (PSC) recommends that the General Assembly enact legislation to do so.

Why Energy Efficiency Matters

- **Reducing costs for consumers and ratepayers.** By reducing the amount of energy people consume, and reducing the amount of infrastructure needed to provide that energy, efficiency improvements help ratepayers pay less on their utility bills.
- **Protecting public health by reducing air pollution from burning fossil fuels.** Burning fossil fuels, both indoors and out, produces air pollution that can cause a range of health problems, from damage to the lungs and heart to cancer to mental health and cognitive issues.
- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.** By reducing fossil fuel use in buildings and from power plants, energy efficiency reduces greenhouse gas emissions and thus helps fight global warming and climate damage and get the state closer to our emissions reductions goals.
- **Making it easier to transition to renewable energy.** By reducing the amount of energy required to meet the needs of the public, energy efficiency reduces the total amount of dirty fossil fuel generation that must be replaced by clean renewable sources in order to protect public health and prevent the worst impacts of climate change, easing the transition and reducing the time and resources required.

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