



# CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Support House Bill 864 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans**  
**Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee**  
**March 21, 2024**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which envisions: stronger energy utility company plans for energy conservation programs and services, a similar plan from the state Department of Housing and Community Development; and Public Service Commission efforts to set modest utility greenhouse gas emissions targets, establish a workgroup focused on low-moderate income housing, and vigorously promote this approach.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, largely residential municipality of almost 18,000 people and 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County. About half our residents are homeowners and half renters, with a wide range of incomes, backgrounds and ethnicities, and a significant number of energy cost-burdened homeowners and renters. 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.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing GHG emissions through our many local policies and actions. Our city has strong citywide greenhouse gas reduction goals, as do our county and the state. Both our 2020 City climate action framework and our climate action plan speak to the need for cooperation with others to achieve these goals. We cannot meet these goals alone, and we need our utilities to support us by offering our residents and small businesses stronger programs that meet GHG reduction targets, and that are equitably designed so that all can participate. Similarly, we need strong state PSC leadership to meet our city climate, as well as housing and equity goals and priorities.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports the intent of House bill 864 and urges a favorable committee vote.