



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 841

DATE: February 26, 2026

SPONSOR: Senator Feldman

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT PERSON: Bryan Howard (bryan.howard@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Favorable with Amendment (Department of Environmental Protection)

Senate Bill 841 allocates alternative compliance fees associated with the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard to be used by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to support new renewable energy projects in Maryland.

Energy prices are a major concern in our community and continue to increase due to rising wholesale costs and grid infrastructure spending. These increases strain the budgets of County residents and businesses and are not sustainable.

The bill creates a process managed by MEA to catalyze new renewable energy projects through an auction-style approach that would deploy incentives in a cost-efficient manner. The County supports using alternative compliance fees for the intended purpose of funding renewable energy projects. This will also help meet the need for new in-state electricity generation and assist the State in meeting climate goals.

While we support the intent and primary approach of the legislation, we recommend the bill be amended to preserve some funding for solar programs supporting low-to-moderate income households. As introduced, the bill would require that all alternative compliance fees be used to support the new auction-style approach created by the bill. While this may be an appropriate use of the majority of those funds, we believe MEA should continue to have discretion to deploy a portion of this revenue through solar grant programs designed to help Maryland households who face particularly challenging energy burdens.

With the requested amendment, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection respectfully encourages the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 841.