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Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) was created as a not-for-profit corporate instrumentality of state in 2008 through an act of the Maryland General Assembly.

MCEC focuses on an economic development mission to advance the adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and technologies with associated jobs, wages, and tax revenue for Maryland. MCEC leverages private capital and private sector capabilities; facilitates the commercialization of innovative advanced energy technologies; implements climate justice initiatives, strives to reduce energy costs for consumers, and drives reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuels.

HB0695 – Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofits (GREEN) Loan Program and Fund - Establishment

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Committee: House Environment & Transportation Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Recommendation: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT REPORT

MCEC supports the intent and purpose of this legislation and is aligned in efforts to seek solutions to provide access to affordable capital for Nonprofit Organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems. The program proposed in this bill call for no-interest loans to be made to qualified entities in a revolving fund. As a state green bank, MCEC holds, manages, accounts for while investing and reinvesting funds.

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 created the Climate Catalytic Capital (C3) Fund to be administered by the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) with \$5M of funding allocated in the Governor’s Budget each of the next three years, beginning in FY 2024. The C3 Fund is governed by an Investment Oversight Committee appointed by the MCEC Board of Directors and chaired by Comptroller Brooke Lierman. MCEC worked for three years developing a strategy, application process, and criteria for the selection of projects for the C3 Fund, as well as the use of public funds to attract greater private capital for projects designed to mitigate the effects of climate change through greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate adaptation.

The program proposed in HB0695 could be served by the C3 Fund in a complimentary and efficient manner with the proposed funding investment. As MCEC is audited independently of the state, funds must flow directly to the Center for management. MCEC respectfully requests the legislation be amended to allow the funds to flow directly to MCEC to be held, managed, invested, and reinvested as the Center invests money.

MCEC has demonstrated experience managing loan programs, including the Clean Energy Advantage Loan Program for homeowners, the Maryland Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loan program serving commercial and nonprofit entities, and the Maryland Clean Energy Capital Program (MCAP) financing projects for municipal and institutional entities. **MCEC proactively pursues federal and philanthropic grant resources that could be effectively braided with the proposed Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Fund to assist nonprofit organizations with clean energy and resilience improvement measures.**

MCEC supports HB0695 with an amendment allowing the Maryland Clean Energy Center to administer the fund while holding, managing, investing, and reinvesting the fund as intended through the Climate Catalytic Capital (C3) Fund.

MCEC urges a favorable with amendment report and thanks Delegate Johnson for his leadership in sponsoring this legislation.