



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB 1572 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Waste-to-Energy
DATE: March 13, 2025

MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE

House Bill 1572 would reintroduce waste-to-energy as a Tier 1 resource within the RPS.

Maryland has significant energy and environmental goals, including the 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2006 levels by 2031 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. Waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuel were removed from eligibility for inclusion in the State RPS just last year through the Next Generation Energy Act. The provision generally applied to all RPS compliance years starting on or after January 1, 2025, except for a facility owned by a public instrumentality of the State (in this case, Montgomery County), which applies beginning July 1, 2026.

Ratepayers should not subsidize waste-to-energy as it is generally not considered truly renewable and while waste is abundant, incineration contributes significantly to air pollution and carbon emissions. Waste-to-energy is not considered renewable because it relies on burning waste derived from finite resources rather than natural, self-replenishing processes like solar or wind.

The Next Generation Energy Act was a carefully crafted and negotiated piece of legislation that sought to provide Maryland with a roadmap to its energy future; a future where waste-to-energy still exists, but is not subsidized by ratepayers.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, at landon.fahrig@maryland.gov or 410.913.1537.