



Testimony on: HB0695 - Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits (GREEN) Loan Program and Fund - Establishment
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 17, 2025

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

We are providing our testimony today in strong support of HB0695, the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations (GREEN) Loan Program and Fund. The Maryland Legislative Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice and we urge you to vote favorably on HB0695.

This bill represents a critical step in helping Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals while empowering our nonprofit community to be leaders in sustainability and benefit from more affordable utility bills. HB0695 provides a unique opportunity to engage nonprofit organizations in innovative solutions and support broad participation in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Nonprofit organizations serve as vital connectors, addressing the needs of our most vulnerable populations and fostering local engagement. Yet, many nonprofits lack the resources to adopt renewable energy technologies or implement energy efficiency measures. By establishing a targeted loan program, this bill removes financial barriers, enabling nonprofits to access and install clean energy systems and reduce operational costs. It will free up resources to meet their missions even more effectively.

The economic benefits of this legislation are equally compelling. Transitioning to green energy will stimulate job creation, including in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of renewable energy systems. Local contractors, electricians, and other skilled workers stand to benefit, further strengthening Maryland's economy. By investing in energy efficiency and green energy, HB0695 sends a powerful message that sustainability is achievable and practical for organizations of all sizes. This program will inspire more Marylanders—businesses, schools, and communities—to benefit from lower bills while adopting smart energy solutions.

Finally, the bill's emphasis on utilizing the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and proposing dedicated funding in starting in FY 2028 underscores a prudent and forward-looking approach to sustainable growth. This initiative not only supports our environmental objectives

but ensures a more equitable energy transition, helping nonprofits lower their energy costs while contributing to a cleaner, healthier Maryland.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report on HB0695 so we can empower Maryland's nonprofits to meaningfully contribute to a sustainable future and stronger economy.

350MoCo

Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland