

# New Analysis: A Pathway for Maryland To Go All In On Climate

Maryland's Climate Pathway lays out a comprehensive path to reach the state's ambitious goals with an all-of-society approach

June 30, 2023

**WHAT** An all-of-society climate strategy can enable the United States to meet its 2030 climate target and put it on a path to achieve its 2050 net-zero goal. National governments can set the table with policy and resources, but – as America Is All In's Beyond 50 analysis demonstrates – much of the real work of decarbonizing our economy will come from our state and local governments working alongside tribal nations, businesses, and cultural institutions. In that spirit, the State of Maryland has set the most aggressive climate goals in the country: 60% emissions reductions by 2031 and net-zero by 2045.

**HOW** Now, Governor Wes Moore and the Maryland Department for the Environment – with the support of the Center for Global Sustainability at the University of Maryland – are applying the Beyond 50 model, to develop an all-of-society, economy-wide pathway to help Maryland reach its ambitious climate goals and realize the many health benefits and significant job growth that a clean energy economy brings.

This pathway shows how a state can go "all-in" on climate by taking bold action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for the heightened impacts of climate change, and transition to a sustainable and low-carbon economy.

While achieving Maryland's ambitious goals will require sustained effort and focus, Maryland's momentum toward its goals is already strong. From composting in Prince George's County to transitioning abandoned coal mines to community solar in Garrett County, local governments, industry leaders, and community advocates in Maryland are already taking meaningful steps to solidify the foundation of climate action for the State.

As of today, Maryland has achieved half of the reductions it needs to reach its 2031 goal. Full implementation of existing policies can get Maryland 4/5ths of the way there, leaving one-fifth of reductions that must be filled by new policy action. Next, the report reveals how the entire state can raise its climate ambition across all sectors. The biggest greenhouse gas reductions can be realized in the **power (89%), industry (79%), building (68%), and transportation (49%) sectors**. Policies outlined to get the rest of the way include, but are not limited to:

1. A clean electricity standard of 100% by 2035
2. A strengthened Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) target of zero by 2040
3. Zero-emissions appliance standards
4. Smart growth policies to reduce vehicle miles traveled
5. An economy-wide cap and invest policy to further reduce emissions

*About: The Center for Global Sustainability (CGS) at the University of Maryland was selected by the State of Maryland to analyze how Maryland can achieve its ambitious climate goals as per the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. This first-of-its-kind report presents a path that can deliver economic, social, and environmental benefits to all Marylanders.*

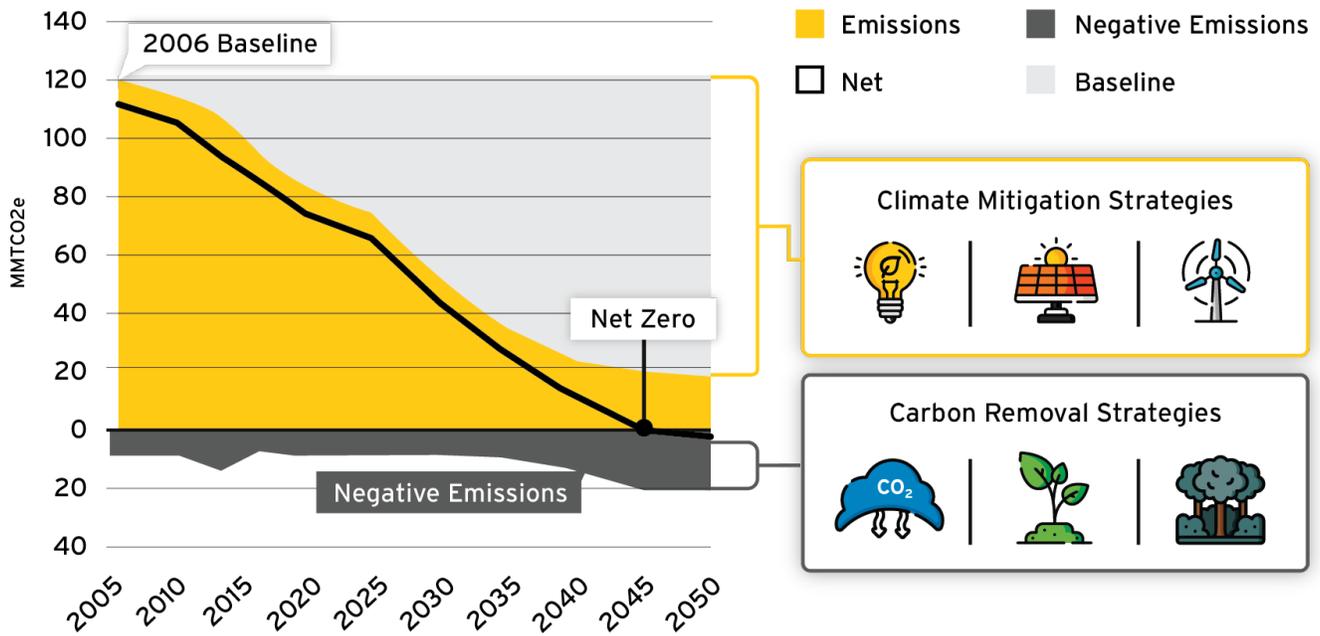
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# Maryland's Net-Zero Pathway



**Figure: Emissions trajectory to reach Maryland’s net-zero target in 2045.**

## WHO BENEFITS?

The Maryland’s Climate Pathway scenario can deliver substantial improvements in health through improved air quality, reducing respiratory ailments for our vulnerable populations and our workers—the equivalent of \$1.09-\$2.44 billion dollars in health benefits by 2031. Maryland’s Climate Pathway is also estimated to drive the creation of more than 16,000 new jobs and personal income increases of nearly \$1.5 billion by 2031.

## BOTTOM LINE

Maryland’s leadership has jumpstarted the move toward a clean energy economy, but needs the raised ambition outlined in this pathway to achieve the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Through an “all-of-society” approach, Maryland can accelerate its transition to a sustainable and resilient future and chart a path toward a sustainable and resilient future where the benefits of climate action are shared equitably among all residents. We are excited to see how other states can capitalize on this model to propel forward with climate action and go #AllInOnClimate.

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