



Montgomery County Climate Action Plan

Clean Energy Actions



VISION: Montgomery County uses and invests in carbon-free, reliable, affordable electricity.

- Ensure broad access to affordable carbon-free electricity.
- Create demand for clean energy jobs, secure funding to support clean energy, and optimize economic activity in clean energy.
- Expand renewable electricity generation and use of distributed energy resources.

ACTIONS:

- E-1: Community Choice Energy Program.
- E-2: Private Building Solar Photovoltaic Code Requirements.
- E-3: Promote Private Solar Photovoltaic Systems.
- E-4: Public Facility Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Groundwork.
- E-5: Advocate for a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2030.

SUMMARY:

The electricity sector accounted for 30% of 2018 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Montgomery County. By 2030, 100% of the electricity used in the County must be generated from carbon-free sources in order to support building and transportation targets and reach the County's zero-emissions goal.

Achieving the County's energy target will involve leveraging demand reduction, energy efficiency, and distributed renewable energy resources to both reduce electricity consumption and ensure that the electric grid is free from fossil fuel sources. If the three electric utilities (Pepco, BGE, and Potomac Edison) do not provide 100% carbon-free electricity to the grid, establishing an opt-out Community Choice Energy (CCE) program would enable the County to offer a greater percentage of carbon-free electricity to residents and small businesses through direct purchase of electricity or the purchase of renewable energy certificates (RECs) from qualifying sources.

To reach this clean energy vision, the County will need to use the transition to carbon-free energy as a driver for increased social, environmental, and economic well-being. The County will need to ensure that clean energy sources are accessible and affordable for all residents. This may involve supporting mechanisms such as financing strategies for clean energy efforts or education campaigns to deepen community understanding of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The County will also need to support clean energy career training and job creation to support the services that are needed to transition to clean energy.

There is no perfect formula for achieving 100 % carbon-free electricity, and many challenges exist including developing additional renewable resources to meet demand, increasing the capacity of the electric grid, determining the best transition point, high initial costs, and competing policy objectives such as the debate over the use of solar in the County's Agricultural Reserve.

The [Annual Climate Work Plan](#) reports the current status of Clean Energy Actions.

