



Achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2035

Between 2005-2017, Maryland [led the country](#) in reducing energy-related CO₂ emission all while the economy grew by nearly 18%. John will build on Maryland's success and make our state a national leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to achieve the ambitious goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2035 Maryland will have to hit a benchmark of 60% reduction by 2030. Doing this will create massive opportunities for new good green jobs while requiring innovation and ambitious changes to our economy — particularly electricity, transportation, and buildings and homes.

Electricity still accounts for nearly 30% of our emissions. To build on our success and support the transition to **clean electricity**, John will:

- **Commit to achieve a carbon-free electricity sector in Maryland by 2030.** Currently, some electricity in Maryland still comes from fossil fuels, like coal and natural gas. John will replace this with new, clean technologies like off-shore wind, solar, and geothermal and work with regional partners over the coming years to bring our emissions to zero from our electricity sector. Building on partnerships like those in [Howard County](#), we can work with community leaders, business, homeowners, farmers, and more to deploy renewable energy across the state to best meet the needs of communities. We can provide incentives, financing, and educational opportunities to increase demand for community and residential solar. We will also continue to focus on storage to ensure reliable, affordable, and clean energy for all Marylanders.
- **Ensure Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard only includes clean renewable energy.** For too long, trash incinerators have been polluting Maryland communities while receiving subsidies from Maryland citizens. John will ensure the Renewable Portfolio Standard only includes subsidies for clean energy, including solar and off-shore wind, ensuring cleaner air for all Marylanders.

Transportation is currently Maryland's biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for about 40% of the state's emissions. To reduce our emissions and support the transition to **healthy and clean transportation**, John will:

- **Increase investments in accessible public transit for all Marylanders in communities across the state.** John will support investments to increase access to public transit and ensure our transit systems utilize clean efficient technology to provide Marylanders with safe and healthy options for commuting. He will reactivate the plan for the Baltimore Red Line; complete the Purple Line; and work with the Biden Administration to expand

public transit, including light rail like the proposed Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project and expanded, efficient, and electric bus service.

- **Commit to achieve 100% clean transportation for public vehicles, including school buses, by 2030 by replacing the fleet with electric vehicles.** John will ensure that Maryland is leading by example in the transition to clean transportation by ensuring public vehicles are zero-emission electric vehicles.
- **Commit to transitioning 60% of all Maryland cars and trucks to zero-emission vehicles by 2030.** Working with Maryland's Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Council and capitalizing on federal support, John will accelerate the transition to electric vehicles across the state by informing Marylanders about financial benefits and incentives available and building out charging capacity. He will also ensure as a state and with regional partners that all new cars and trucks sold in Maryland and the region are zero-emission vehicles. This transition will enable all communities to capitalize on the health, environmental, and economic benefits of zero emission vehicles.
- **Build 10,000 fast charging electric vehicle stations in the state.** Maryland only has 3,000 public EV charging options currently, not nearly enough to sustain the coming boom in EV sales. Leveraging federal and state support, John will build thousands more charging options over the coming years to ensure that everyone across the state has a chance to recharge their car when needed and enable newer, less expensive EVs to be sold, particularly for those who live in apartments or other places that are harder to charge.
- **Decarbonize and build resilience for the port of Baltimore by 2030.** Given its size and importance, the port of Baltimore can be a leading port in decarbonization, resilience, and innovation. John will support transitioning the port machinery to clean and resilient systems. We can also work to incentivize innovation to support the fuels of the future for ships and for the machinery needed to bring goods in and out of the port. This will help to both eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and to clean the air for the most vulnerable among us — particularly predominantly Black children growing up near the port who have been breathing the polluted air and have disproportionate rates of asthma.

In Maryland, fossil fuel use in buildings and homes account for about 18% of our emissions. To support the transition to **clean buildings and homes** and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, John will:

- **Commit to at least 3% per year efficiency gains with the EmPOWER Program.** In meeting this standard, John will support the EmPOWER program in considering energy efficiency, along with greenhouse gas emission reductions, consumer support, and targeted support for under-served communities, including through the home and building incentives below.
- **Commit to achieve 100% clean energy use in all Maryland public buildings by 2030 and support public building electrification,** including all Maryland public K-12 schools, community colleges, HBCUs, and University of Maryland campuses by 2030. John will leverage local, state and federal incentives to accelerate renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency in all public buildings. He will also ensure all system replacements utilize clean efficient technology, such as electric heat pumps, to promote building electrification.

- **Support residential homes and commercial buildings in transitioning to clean technology with consultation and financial support.** John will replace existing subsidies for fossil fuel heating and cooling systems with grants and incentives to support electrification. By creating in-home consultation support, we can help Marylanders understand the benefits of transitioning from fossil fuel to clean technology and connect them to local, state, and federal financing opportunities, grants, rebates, and incentives to purchase or install heat pumps, geothermal heating and cooling systems, electric or induction stovetops, residential solar, energy efficiency improvements, and more based on the needs for the particular home or building. John will prioritize the in-home consultation support and grant funding to under-resourced communities to help ensure a just transition to clean and efficient homes and buildings, and leverage partnerships with national service corps members, community-based organizations, and local business to provide the consultations.
- **Ensure new construction advances a clean and sustainable future.** John will ensure building codes promote building electrification and renewable energy by requiring all new buildings ensure electrification and utilize renewable energy and solar where feasible. Additionally, John will support incentives for new construction designed to be electric net-zero energy buildings. John will advance and build awareness of state and federal incentives to ensure the transition does not increase upfront cost to consumers.
- **Phase in battery-powered home appliances, like lawnmowers.** Gas powered home equipment is outdated, often inefficient for consumers, and easy to phase out as we move towards a net-zero emission economy.