



## **Building Adaptable and Resilient Communities**

Maryland communities are already beginning to feel the ravages of climate change. Marylanders are seeing the cost of inaction first hand across the state. In the last 5 years, Ellicott City has been devastated with two 1000-Year floods that have taken lives and livelihoods. In Dorchester County, rising sea levels are threatening jobs, historical sites, and housing. Droughts have devastated Maryland farmers and left them with tough decisions about their crops. And, according to a 2016 report by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, increased heat waves in Baltimore City have led to higher levels of asthma.

The time to act is now. We must build adaptable and resilient communities. While we know that inland flooding, heat waves, and droughts will continue, we can make key investments in infrastructure, stormwater management, and green spaces to prepare Maryland for climate impacts.

To equip communities to face the climate challenges ahead and build **healthy and resilient communities**, John will:

- **Invest in infrastructure resilience and planning.** John will use federal and state infrastructure investments to ensure our roads, bridges, public transportation and coastal areas, particularly in under-resourced communities most impacted by climate change, are better prepared for and can adapt to a warming planet.
- **Invest in stormwater management infrastructure to reduce community flooding, heat, and run-off.** Leveraging federal investments and enabling partnerships, John will support comprehensive approaches to better address stormwater management. Strategies to redesign community waterfronts to better absorb water, like plans in Annapolis, and shift heat-trapping asphalt schoolyards to sustainable green community schoolyards can help reduce community heat and flooding and increase access to green space for communities.
- **Invest in resilience hubs in particular in under-resourced communities.** By investing in strategies like installing solar and battery storage at local schools, we can ensure that people have a safe place to access power and support in case of climate related emergencies.
- **Support healthy communities by expanding access to sustainable, walkable, transit-friendly communities and locally grown-food.** Ensuring all Marylanders can access healthy green spaces, community gardens and farmers markets, walking and bike trails, and public transit can improve our air quality and our community health and wellbeing.
- **Support and properly implement the CBF's efforts to plant 5 million trees** on the Eastern Shore and provide funds to expand those efforts statewide.

- **Support waste management strategies, including composting, to reduce emissions and pollution.** Landfills and incinerators contribute to climate change and localized pollution. Implementing the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion Bill can help the state keep food and organic waste out of landfills reducing emissions and pollution. The compost produced can be used to support healthy soils, which also has the added benefit of sequestering carbon. John will continue to work to divert waste from Maryland's landfills and reduce pollution.