



**The State of Maryland**  
**Executive Department**

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
01.01.2019.09

Governor's Task Force on Renewable Energy Development and Siting

- WHEREAS, Maryland's communities, economies, and ecosystems are increasingly under threat from the effects of climate change;
- WHEREAS, The State participates in the Multi-State Zero-Emission Vehicle Task Force, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Transportation and Climate Initiative, and the U.S. Climate Alliance, and strives to meet aggressive state and regional climate, energy, and greenhouse gas emissions goals;
- WHEREAS, The State has significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and must continue to accelerate those efforts by using greater amounts of homegrown clean and renewable energy resources, including solar and wind;
- WHEREAS, Efforts are underway to meet ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, and to achieve 100-percent clean electricity by 2040;
- WHEREAS, The State must work aggressively to diversify, expand, and sustain its clean and renewable energy capabilities while balancing, enhancing, and safeguarding Maryland's cultural heritage, economy, environment, natural resources, and view-sheds;
- WHEREAS, Unwise siting of renewable energy projects could jeopardize Maryland's farms, forests, waterways, and wetlands; and
- WHEREAS, Review and evaluation of the siting of clean and renewable energy projects is needed to ensure an affordable, reliable, resilient, and safe supply of electricity;

NOW, THEREFORE I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. There is a Governor's Task Force on Renewable Energy Development and Siting (the "Task Force").

2. Membership.

A. The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

- i. The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- ii. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
- iii. The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;
- iv. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- v. The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
- vi. The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee; and
- vii. The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's designee.

B. The following shall be invited to be, and shall be upon acceptance, members of the Task Force:

- i. The Director of the Maryland Environmental Service, or the Director's designee;
- ii. The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's designee;
- iii. Two representatives of Maryland's agriculture community, recommended by the Maryland Farm Bureau;
- iv. One representative of county government, recommended by the Maryland Association of Counties;

- v. One representative of municipal government, recommended by the Maryland Municipal League;
    - vi. One representative of the solar energy industry; and
    - vii. One representative of the wind energy industry.
  - C. The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force.
  - D. Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
  - E. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the initial appointment.
3. The Office of the Governor shall provide the Task Force with staff as necessary and feasible.
4. The Task Force shall:
- A. To encourage the responsible siting of clean and renewable energy projects in Maryland, study and make consensus-based recommendations for:
    - i. Accelerating the siting of clean and renewable energy projects in commercial, developed, industrial, and public settings, including but not limited to brownfields, closed mines, landfills, parking lots, rights-of-ways, and rooftops;
    - ii. Minimizing the impact of clean and renewable energy projects sited on agriculturally or ecologically important, sensitive, or valuable areas by using design, mapping, operation, size, technology, and other parameters;
    - iii. Measures through which developers of clean and renewable energy projects can offset those projects' impacts by providing investments and resources to conservation banks, land trusts, open-space programs, nonprofits, trust funds, and other efforts to safeguard Maryland's farms, forests, waterways, wetlands, and similar agriculturally or ecologically sensitive areas;
    - iv. Recognizing and respecting local government legal authority, and private property rights; and
    - v. Avoiding locations that harm, inhibit, or otherwise adversely impact:
      - a. Agricultural, conservation, or preservation areas or easements;

- b. Fertile, prime, or productive farms and fields;
  - c. Forest and park lands;
  - d. Sensitive ecological areas, shorelines, wetlands, or waterways; or
  - e. The State's cultural heritage, economy, environment, natural resources, or view-sheds;
- B. Within its recommendations, provide detailed proposals to the State and its units for evaluating, reviewing, and approving proposed solar and wind energy projects so as to expedite, standardize, and streamline the process;
- C. Identify specific changes to State law, policies, procedures, regulations, resources, and tools that would incentivize responsible renewable energy development and siting; and
- D. Give careful consideration to:
  - i. Efforts by Maryland counties and municipalities to site renewable energy projects through comprehensive plans, planning, and zoning ordinances, taxation, and other local laws, policies, procedures, or regulations; and
  - ii. Related actions of the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays, Power Plant Research Program, and Public Service Commission.
- 5. The Task Force shall, at such times and places as it deems appropriate and necessary, hold publicly announced meetings that are accessible and open to the general public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and other applicable laws and regulations.
- 6. The Task Force may seek consultation with external parties and stakeholders as it deems necessary.
- 7. The Task Force shall submit to the Governor:
  - A. By December 1, 2019, an interim report describing its initial work and making preliminary recommendations for legislation in the 2020 session of the General Assembly of Maryland; and

- B. Within one year of the date of this Order, a final report detailing its recommendations on responsible renewable energy development and siting.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 14th day of August, 2019.



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Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor

ATTEST:

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John C. Wobensmith  
Secretary of State