

# Appendix 10: COVID-19

Renewable Energy Development and Siting Task Force

## Observations, Lessons, Recommendations

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Delivering more for Marylanders

# How will COVID-19 impact the RE Development and Siting Task Force report?

1. COVID-19 Impacts, observations from the field
2. Post-COVID recommendations for REDS
3. Discussion for including a COVID-19 Appendix



# Why this matters to the RE Development and Siting Task Force

Achieving Task Force Directives, including—

1. Recommendations to accelerate the responsible siting of clean and renewable energy projects
2. Recommendations to identify specific changes to state law, policies, procedures, regulations, resources and tools that would incentivize responsible RE development and siting.

How are ratepayers benefiting?

How has the solar industry performed?

How can we reach more?

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# General Observations related to COVID-19



a) Visible results from changes in energy use.

Clean air and clear skies emerged from quarantine photos globally.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

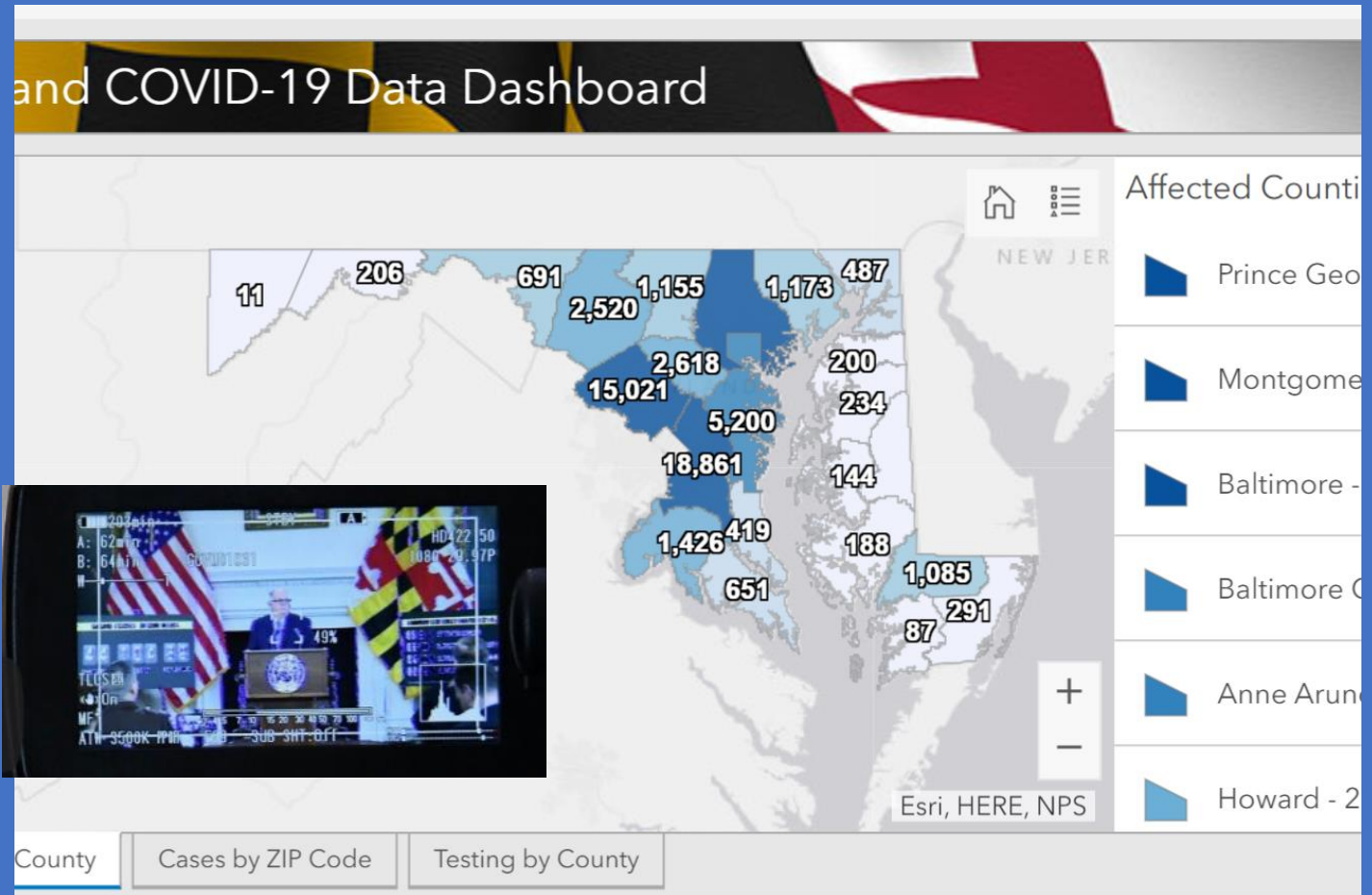
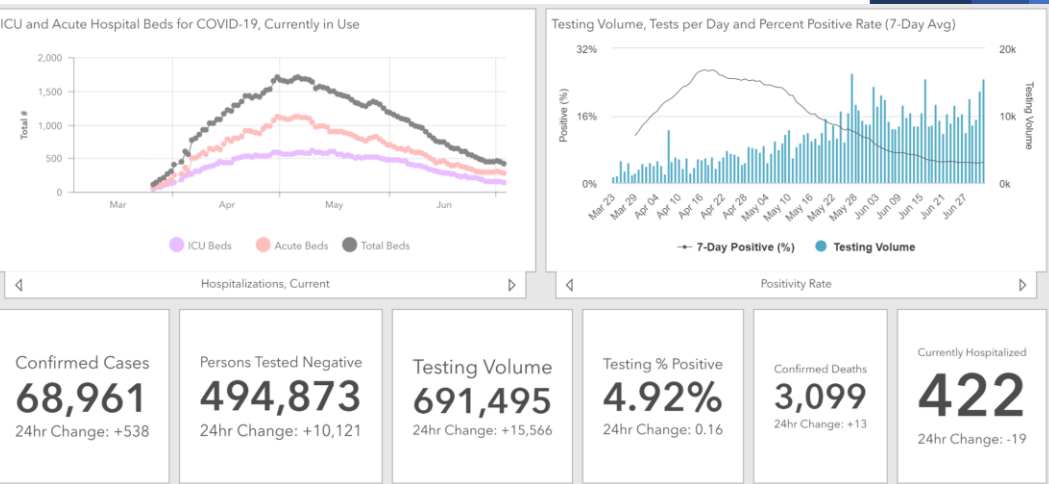
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will provide updates as the situation evolves.

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Home | covidLINK | Nursing Home Cases | Frequently Asked Questions

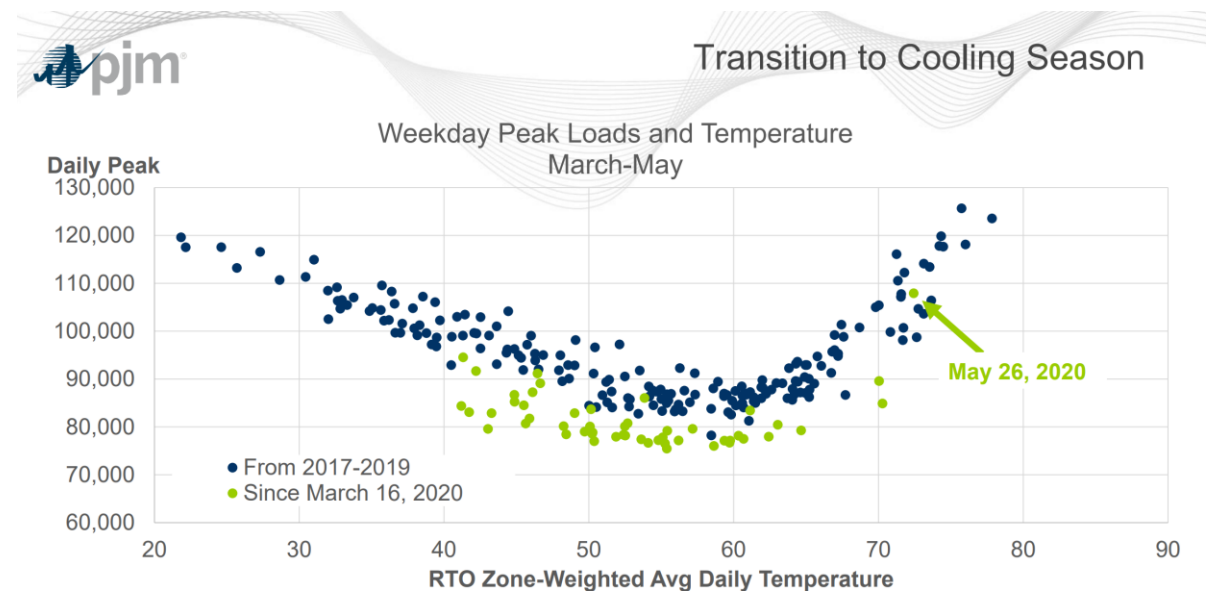
# Statewide Impact, National Leadership



# General Observations related to COVID-19

## b) Shift in energy use and consumption

- Residential loads increase with increased home quarantine hours
- Commercial office and retail loads decreased with closed or scaled back operations
- Municipal- school districts loads decreased with closed facilities
- Utilities regionally are seeing a net load reduction



# General Observations related to COVID-19

## **C) Use and reliance on technology for communications increased**

- a) Video conference apps/services
- b) Marylanders are innovating ways to manage forward

## **D) Economic Impact: Major. Local, Statewide, National and Global Impacts**

## **E) Solar is one industry that is contributing economic stability during COVID.**

We have not been immune to job losses however solar offers continued statewide investment and ratepayer value Post-COVID. Policy updates can help keep the jobs and ratepayer benefit engine going.

- How can we reach more?

# How is solar performing?

Achievement to date: Solar installed is about 20% of the CEJA 14.5% goal

- I. Systems In-Service since 1998 generating over 2.8% of MD consumption
- II. Systems In-Construction – residential, community solar, C&I, muni/ed, USS
  - I. Slowed initially, returning to the sites with new processes
- III. Systems In-Development – residential, community solar, C&I, muni/ed, USS
  - I. Slowed initially, returning with new remote tools to support customer decisions, county and utility approvals.



# I. Systems In-Service:

## Delivering and uninterrupted

Over 71,000 systems in-service  
Generating over 1,7450,000 MWh/yr

NEM/ANEM generating more  
than baseload, credits for future  
months.

1. Ratepayers with solar benefiting – NEM policies working
  - a) Homeowners – using more onsite generation, reducing bills benefits from minimizing costs of increased consumption. NEM sends unused solar generation to the grid for local use and credits homeowner for future use.
  - b) Muni-Schools – NEM/ANEM generating more than baseload, credits for future months. Closed schools and muni facilities with solar or participating with solar through MD NEM/ANEM are generating more than base load consumption. Surplus generation is distributed to the grid for local use and the school/muni is credited on future consumption.
  - c) Commercial - NEM generating more than baseload, credits for future months



# Systems in Service: Delivering and uninterrupted

CS pilot program is currently capped at 400 MW, each 1MW can power over 150 homes.

2. Ratepayers subscribed to the emerging pilot community solar projects benefiting. Project dollars going right back to the local community.
  - a) Resi subscribers – reducing impact of increased consumption with fixed discounts
  - b) Resi subscriber savings can equate to 4-10 additional Stimulus checks when enrolled over 25 yrs
  - c) Property owners receiving stable long-term lease revenue, available for multiple uses



# II. Systems In-Construction:

Initially interrupted, now returning to action

## 1. Residential systems construction

- a) This sector employs the most field teams and experienced the most jobs loss in the early months. Both installation crews and homeowners adapted to new procedures. Build rate can improve.

## 2. Commercial and Community Solar projects

- a) Like residential sector early COVID month's saw project construction slowed or halted.
- b) New COVID procedures are in place for solar construction, this is one sector that is maintaining and can growth jobs in Maryland.

# III. Systems In-Development:

Residential, community solar, C&I, muni/ed, USS

Achievement of CEJA goals will exceed an additional \$14 billion

1. Resi demand is strong but challenged- delays with permitting and inspections continue to cause frustrations with ratepayers and installers
2. Some counties exploring online tools to improve but support is needed across the state. Dated permitting practices are unintentionally delaying rooftop deployment
3. Some homeowners are delaying decisions due to overall uncertainties and new development and outreach efforts utilizing door-to-door messaging has slowed.
4. Community Solar program registration and capacity allocation with utilities needs support for clarity to speed project implementations

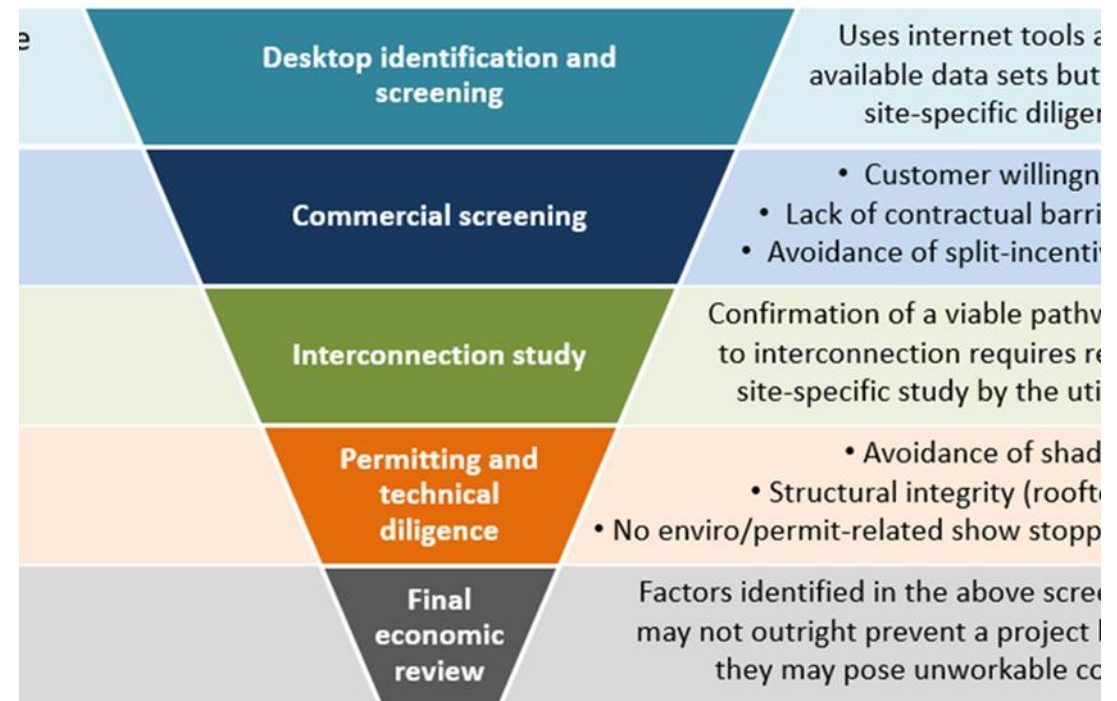
# III. Systems In-Development:

Residential, community solar, C&I, muni/ed, USS

## 4. Commercial and Community Solar projects

– Viable solar sites are a challenge

- a) Like residential sector early COVID months saw project development slowed or halted. Remote meeting tools deployed.
- b) Viable solar sites are a challenge. Chesapeake Conservancy GIS presentation.



Typical result: <10% of the initial pool is viable

Chart by MDV-SEIA member firm

# COVID Appendix Recommendations

A. Support expansion of NEM cap to accommodate more siting on Resi and C&I rooftop, parking lots and ground areas.

B. Provide access and expansion for commercial property owners and state agencies to participate in ANEM.

C. Support advancement of remote permitting and inspections statewide

D. Support increase ratepayer access to community solar and C&I projects with reduction of project personal property taxes to 20%. This encourages siting on qualified brownfields, parking lots, rooftops and other ground areas.

E. Others