



THE MARYLAND GREEN NEW DEAL

MARYLAND GREEN PARTY

The Green New Deal seeks to build a society that is sustainable, prosperous, and just.

Our present economy is not sustainable. We must stop burning hydrocarbons or risk runaway global warming. We must reduce our waste and disposal of raw materials or face debilitating resource scarcity. A society that is not sustainable cannot long be prosperous.

Economic trends of recent years are not sustainable either. The ever-increasing gap between the wealthiest few and the rest of us threatens everyone. Establishing a living wage is essential. Taking back control over our financial system is another important component. Establishing a state bank would be an important first step, as would fostering community-owned banks and co-op banks, as well as worker-owned businesses.

Finally, we must ensure the equal treatment of all citizens under the law. Laws such as the death penalty and drug laws that have been demonstrated to be systematically biased in their enforcement should be changed or repealed.

MGP Supports These 2013 Bills

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Subject</u>
HB 295/SB 276	Death Penalty Repeal
HB 302	Medical Marijuana
HB 226/SB 275	Offshore Wind
HB 1306	State Bank
HB 1204/SB 683	Wage & Hour Law

MGP Supports These Prior Session Bills

2012: HB 1015/SB 206	Health Security
2010: HB917/SB601	Limited Liability
2010: SB710/2009: HB 1562	Petition Requirements

Additional Needed Economic Issues

Publicly Owned Utilities; Combined Reporting; Fair Trade; Union Right to Organize; Proportional Taxation; Millionaire's Surtax; Affordable Housing

Additional Needed Green Transition Issues

Feed-In Tariffs; Energy Cooperatives; GMO Labeling; Efficiency Retrofits; Organic Farming; Fracking Ban

Additional Needed Financial Issues

Public Banks; Credit Unions/Co-op Banks; Socially Responsible State Pension Fund

Additional Needed Democracy Issues

Public Finance; Instant Runoff Voting; Proportional Representation; Corporate Finance Ban; Ballot Access; Decriminalize Marijuana; Repeal Anti-Family "Secure Communities" Program

The Four Pillars of the Maryland Green New Deal



I: The Economic Bill Of Rights

We cannot truly move forward until the roots of inequality are pulled up and the seeds of a new, healthier economy are planted. Thus, the Green New Deal begins with the following Economic Bill of Rights for everyone.

- **Workers' Rights.** The right to a living wage, to a safe workplace, to fair trade, and to organize a union at work without fear of firing or reprisal. We support increasing the minimum wage, **HB 1204 / SB 683**, Maryland Wage and Hour Law - Payment of Wages.
- **Single-Payer Health Care.** The right to quality health care will be achieved through a single-payer Medicare-for-All program. We support the re-introduction and passage of HB 1015 / SB 206 (2012), Maryland Health Security Act of 2012, to establish a single-payer health insurance system.
- **Free College.** The right to a tuition-free, quality, public education system from pre-school through college. We will phase out all student tuition and fees for in-state students at the Maryland University system.
- **Affordable Housing.** The right to decent, affordable housing, including an immediate halt to all foreclosures and evictions. A state bank with local branches could take over homes with distressed mortgages and either restructure mortgages to affordable levels or, if the occupants cannot afford a mortgage, rent homes to the occupants. We support **HB 1306** establishing a task force to review and evaluate the creation of a Maryland State Bank.
- **Publicly Owned Utilities.** The right to accessible and affordable utilities—heat, electricity, phone, internet, and public transportation—through democratically run, publicly owned or cooperatively owned utilities that operate at cost, not for profit.
- **Proportional Taxation, Based on Ability to Pay.** The right to fair taxation distributed in proportion to ability to pay. We support re-introducing the millionaire's surtax and passing the combined reporting legislation to ensure that corporations pay taxes to Maryland on all income earned in the state.



II: A Green Transition

The second priority of the Green New Deal is a Green Transition Program that will convert the old, unsustainable economy into a new economy that is environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.

- **Offshore Wind Energy.** Promote offshore wind energy. Studies show that it could meet 70% of the state’s annual energy demand. We support **SB 275 / HB 226**, the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act; it is only the first small step and must be aggressively followed up with more wind energy projects.
- **Feed-In Tariffs.** Establish feed-in tariffs that reimburse anyone who produces renewable energy. These have been highly successful in Europe, where some countries produce half of all their electricity from renewable energy. *California and Rhode Island have been the first states to implement feed-in tariffs.*
- **Energy Cooperatives.** Establish neighborhood and community energy cooperatives to reduce the costs and spread the benefits of renewable energy.
- **Efficiency Retrofits.** Launch a comprehensive effort to retrofit all buildings for energy efficiency. *A study last year found that a \$279 billion investment nationwide in energy-efficient retrofits could save the United States \$1 trillion over the next ten years, produce 3.3 million job years, cut energy consumption by 30%, and reduce emissions by 10%.*
- **Sustainable, Organic Farming; GMO Labeling.** Promote sustainable, organic farming in Maryland as the foundation for an economic revival in rural Maryland. Pass strict labeling requirements for genetically modified foods.
- **Fracking.** Ban hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.



III: Real Financial Reform

The takeover of our economy by too-big-to-fail banks and well-connected financiers has destabilized both our democracy and our economy. Under the Green New Deal, we will start building a financial system that is open, honest, and stable and that serves the real economy rather than the phony economy of high finance. It is time to take Wall Street out of the driver’s seat and to free the truly productive segments of working America to make this economy work for all of us.

- **Public Banks.** Form state and municipal public-owned banks that function as non-profit utilities.
- **State-Owned Banks.** Establish a state-owned bank, taking inspiration from the Bank of North Dakota, created 91 years ago by radical Non-Partisan Leaguers to serve as the depository for all state tax collections and fees. The bank avoided sub-prime lending and the derivatives markets during the recent real estate bubble and now has \$4 billion under

management. It continues to plow those deposits back into the state of North Dakota in the form of loans. We support **HB 1306**, establishing a task force to review and evaluate the creation of a Maryland State Bank.

- **Credit Unions and Co-op Banks.** Foster credit unions and community-owned cooperative banks to serve as Community Development Financial Institutions that support local businesses, affordable housing, green-collar jobs, and other community development projects.
- **Socially Responsible State Pension.** Invest the state’s pension funds in socially responsible funds, with a portion targeted to in-state development projects, particularly small-scale, local businesses that are all too often ignored by the mulch-national banks.



IV: A Functioning Democracy that Protects the Rights of All

We will not get these vital reforms without a fourth and final set of reforms to give us a functioning democracy. Just as we are replacing the old economy with a new one, we need a new politics to restore the promise of American democracy, created by the following initiatives.

- **Public Finance.** Publicly fund all Maryland state elections.
- **Instant Runoff Voting.** Ensure that the winning candidate received a majority of the votes.
- **Proportional Representation.** Bring full democracy with proportional representation in multi-member districts.
- **Corporate Finance Ban.** Prohibit any business entity from contributing to a campaign finance entity, and define the term "business entity" to mean a corporation, a general or limited partnership, a limited liability corporation, or a real estate investment trust. **SB601 (2010) / HB917 (2010)**
- **Ballot Access.** Promote the introduction of new ideas into the political system by easing the requirements for independent and third-party candidates to gain ballot access. Reduce the requirement to get on the ballot to 5,000 valid signatures. **SB710 (2010) / HB 1562 (2009)**
- **Death Penalty Repeal.** End the death penalty, which is inherently inhumane and applied with a racial bias. **HB 295 / SB 276**
- **Decriminalize Marijuana.** Decriminalize marijuana use and re-evaluate other drug laws to eliminate racial bias in their implementation. We support **HB 302**, Maryland Medical Marijuana Act as a first step.
- **Repeal Anti-Family “Secure Communities.”** Repeal the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) “Secure Communities” program that breaks up families and creates fear and distrust between law enforcement and illegal immigrants.

