



STATE OF MARYLAND

Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

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UMD School of Public Health

Rebecca Rehr,
MD Environmental Health Network

Benoy Thomas,
Federal Government

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

November 9, 2016

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the invitation to make recommendations as you consider equity in pursuing the goals of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA). We value inclusion in your charge to “address any disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income and vulnerable communities” as it aligns with our work. We look forward to collaborating with you as we work towards achieving equity through climate policy. After several discussions with the Mitigation Working Group and responses to an initial list of recommendations we sent in April, we understand you are specifically asking for areas of the state where you can focus enhanced outreach with support from the Education, Communications, and Outreach Working Group.

At our annual meeting in July, we agreed on two areas of the state where the MCCC could focus outreach: Brandywine in Prince George’s County and the Eastern Shore exact location TBD. Each area is facing an overburden of pollution, and is vulnerable to climate change impacts. We recommend that the fall is spent identifying community-based leaders who can help the MCCC prioritize issues and resources that will be most useful to the community, and then 2017 be spent hosting the meetings.

We can continue to serve in an advisory capacity as you implement these recommendations.

Sincerely,

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities