



The Center for Climate Strategies

Helping States and the Nation Tackle Climate Change

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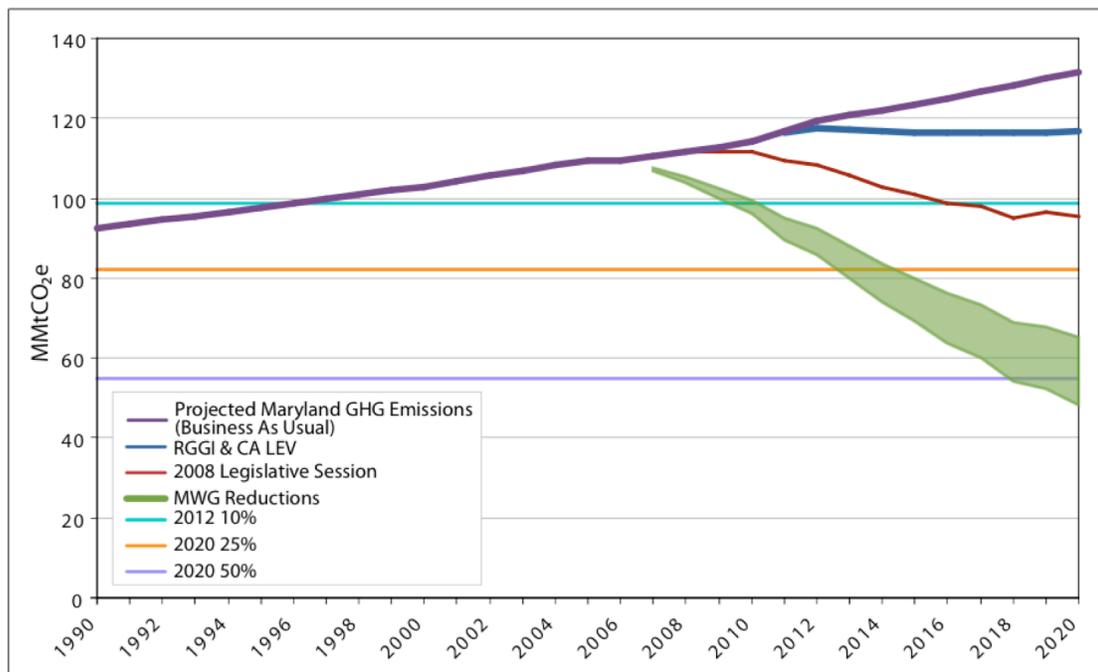
Maryland Climate Action Plan Summary

With the signing of the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act](#) (GGRA) on May 7, 2009, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley completed a process he began two years prior when he convened the [Maryland Commission on Climate Change](#) to develop a [Maryland Climate Action Plan](#). The Plan is the design and implementation roadmap of the GGRA.

The Commission, chaired by Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari T. Wilson, recommended 42 state and multi-state policy actions for reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions that would build on many state and regional actions already underway. It also provided numerous recommendations to evaluate and respond to impending climate change impacts on the state's economy, resource-based industries, infrastructure, buildings, and public health.

The [42 new policies](#) in the Maryland Climate Action Plan have the potential to reduce state GHG emissions to more than 13 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 at a net economic savings of \$2 billion, according to estimates developed by the Commission. The GGRA requires the State to achieve a 25 percent reduction in 2006 GHG emissions by 2020 (equal to 4 percent below 1990 by 2020), and a 90 percent reduction by 2050.

GHG Reduction Potential from Maryland's Recent and Proposed Actions

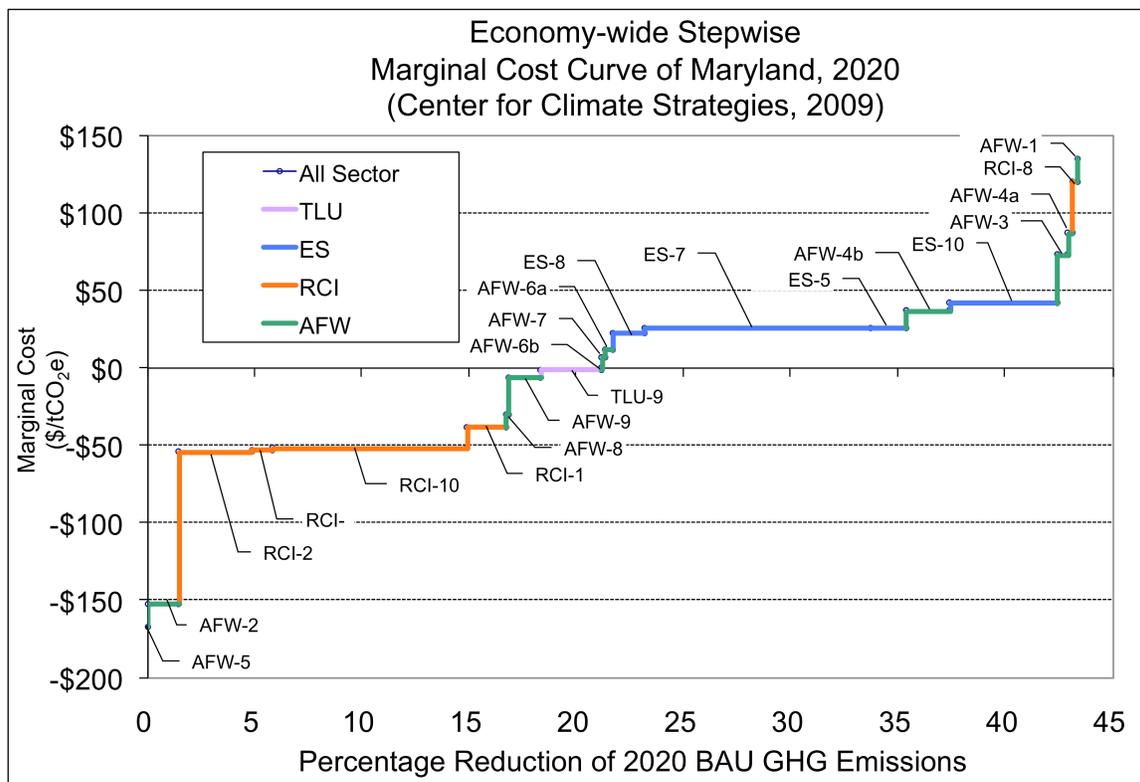


The [Center for Climate Strategies](#) (CCS) provided facilitation and technical support to the more than 100 diverse members of the Commission who were appointed by the Governor and state agencies. Members served on technical work groups that focused on policy development for all sectors of the Maryland economy. These include:

- [Agriculture, Forestry and Waste Conservation](#)
- [Clean and Renewable Energy \(Heat and Power Generation\)](#)
- [Energy Conservation and Efficiency \(Heat and Power Consumption\)](#)
- [Transportation and Land Use Improvements](#)

The cost curve below shows the cost effectiveness of many of the specific policy options in these sectors (represented by each color coded and labeled line segment) in terms of their savings or costs and their contribution to reducing GHGs.

Estimated Costs and Savings for Maryland Climate Mitigation Actions



The Maryland Climate Action Plan is one of [30 such state plans](#) that have been completed or are underway by U.S. states. The GGRA is one of three state laws that mandate a state target for GHG emissions reductions. The comprehensive structure of the Maryland Climate Action Plan includes an emissions target, a regional cap and trade program, and a comprehensive set of sector based policies and measures. Its design is consistent with [national climate policy](#) proposed in the U.S. Congress and Administration.