



Media Advisory & Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information: Task Force members, additional media contacts, the report, goals, and objectives, <https://gwrccc.org/maryland-biofuels-task-force/>

GWRCCC/Maryland Biofuels Task Force to Hold Press Conference on Landmark Report

The Maryland Biofuels Task Force, convened by the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), will hold a **Press Conference** to release the findings of the **Maryland Biofuels Task Force Report** on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library at 1410 West St, Annapolis, MD.

- **1:00 PM – 1:30 PM ET: Press Conference**
- **1:30 PM to 2:00 PM: Media and Leadership Briefing Q&A**

Maryland Biofuels Task Force Report: An Assessment of the Challenges, Costs, Benefits, Risks, and Feasibility of Utilizing Higher Blends of Biofuels to Help Decarbonize Maryland's Transportation Sector

Speakers at the press conference will highlight key findings on the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of higher biofuel blends, along with research and recommendations to support the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's recent recommendation that the state adopt a Clean Fuel Standard.

Key Findings

- Reduce 3.0 million metric tons of CO₂ annually—equal to removing nearly 1 million gasoline vehicles.
- Lower gasoline prices by \$0.20–\$0.40 per gallon, saving Maryland drivers \$569M–\$1B annually.
- Reduce diesel prices by 1–4%, lowering trucking, farm, and consumer costs by more than \$100M.
- Improve air quality by reducing BTEX aromatics, PM2.5, and mobile-source air toxics—lowering health care costs and preventing an estimated 30 premature deaths annually.
- Preserve farmland and support agricultural income while slowing Maryland's rapid rate of farmland loss.
- Strengthen Maryland's resilience to fuel disruptions and foreign oil volatility through expanded domestic renewable fuel supplies.

Press Conference Contact: Burl Haigwood, Maryland Biofuels Task Force Coordinator, burlhaigwood@gwrccc.org, M: 202-441-2400

Materials to be provided at the press conference and on the GWRCCC website (link above):

- Media Advisory and Press Release
- Task Force Report
- Leadership and Media Briefing Document

In Person: Michael E. Busch Library, Campbell-Chambliss Community Meeting Room, 1410 West St, Annapolis, MD 21401

Virtual Attendance: Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86731438599?pwd=I5wr2kGCXS3cQMxJGSUApSzSEa2pDZ.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3143 8599 | **Passcode:** 573904 | **One tap mobile:** +13126266799,,86731438599#,,,*573904# US (Chicago), +16465588656,,86731438599#,,,*573904# US (New York)

Press Release

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

Until Monday, December 15, 2025, at 3:00 PM ET

This press release is being shared in advance under embargo. Please do not publish or distribute any information from this release until the embargo lifts.

Maryland Biofuels Task Force Releases Landmark Report Showing Major Economic, Environmental & Public Health Benefits of Higher Biofuel Blends

Report highlights lower fuel prices and immediate reductions in carbon and air-toxic emissions under a proposed Clean Fuel Standard.

Annapolis, MD — Monday, December 15, 2025 — The Maryland Biofuels Task Force, a diverse coalition of ~50 subject-matter experts representing 30+ agricultural, environmental, governmental, nonprofit, academic, and industry organizations, today released its comprehensive report assessing the challenges, costs, feasibility, and statewide benefits of expanding the use of higher biofuel blends across Maryland.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) estimates that achieving state carbon reduction targets could generate \$135 billion in societal benefits. The report concludes that adopting a Maryland Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) would accelerate progress toward these goals while reducing energy costs for consumers and improving statewide economic and environmental resilience.

Key Findings

- Reduce 3.0 million metric tons of CO₂ annually—equal to removing nearly 1 million gasoline vehicles.
- Lower gasoline prices by \$0.20–\$0.40 per gallon, saving Maryland drivers \$569M–\$1B annually.
- Reduce diesel prices by 1–4%, lowering trucking, farm, and consumer costs by more than \$100M.
- Improve air quality by reducing BTEX aromatics, PM2.5, and mobile-source air toxics—lowering health care costs and preventing an estimated 30 premature deaths annually.
- Preserve farmland and support agricultural income while slowing Maryland’s rapid rate of farmland loss.
- Strengthen Maryland’s resilience to fuel disruptions and foreign oil volatility through expanded domestic renewable fuel supplies.

Antoine M. Thompson, Executive Director, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) stated, “Maryland now has a clear roadmap showing that cleaner, cheaper, and healthier transportation options are available today—and biofuels are one of the fastest ways to get there. Higher blends like E15 and B20 can be deployed immediately, using existing vehicles and infrastructure, to lower emissions, strengthen the state’s economy, and improve the state’s very vulnerable energy security. This report proves Maryland can meet its climate goals while lowering costs for families, farmers, small businesses, and truckers.”

Jill Hamilton, Chair, GWRCCC Board of Directors, and President of Sustainable Energy Strategies, Inc., stated, “The Task Force brought together an unprecedented coalition of agriculture, energy, environmental, and public-health leaders. What we found is unmistakable: biofuels are a powerful complement to electric vehicles (EVs) and other clean technologies, offering Marylanders affordable choices that reduce pollution right now. These findings give Maryland the opportunity to lead the nation in clean transportation.”

The Task Force report outlines how Maryland can benefit from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change’s recent recommendation for the state to adopt a clean fuel standard. A new Clean Fuel Standard will help meet the state’s Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) requirement of a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2031 and fill a gap created by a rollback in federal environmental regulations for clean vehicles and trucks, as well as federal funding for EVs and EV infrastructure.

“By transitioning from the current 10% ethanol national renewable fuel standard (E10) to 15% blends (E15) and adding 20% biodiesel to diesel fuel (B20), Maryland would benefit from an immediate, scalable, and cost-effective tool that can save money, taxes, farms, and lives – one more gallon of biofuels at a time,” said Task Force Coordinator Burl Haigwood.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Support research to quantify the benefits of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change’s recommendation for Maryland to adopt a Clean Fuel Standard.
2. Create a roadmap to implement a statewide transition to E15 and B20, including adoption by state and local fleets.
3. Expand consumer education and improve fuel content transparency.
4. Incentivize the development of more refueling infrastructure to sell higher blends of biofuels.
5. Preserve farmland and support agricultural markets through stable biofuel demand.
6. Integrate the awareness of the benefits of biofuels into driver education, fleet training, and public health outreach campaigns.
7. Support the research and development of Maryland-based renewable fuel production facilities using 2nd-generation feedstocks, e.g., sustainable aviation fuels, renewable natural gas, cellulosic, cover crops, and waste feedstocks.

Additional Task Force Member Quotes and Contact Information

Lindsay Thompson, Executive Director, Maryland Grain Producers & Utilization Board: “Maryland is losing thousands of acres of farmland every year, and the economic pressures on grain farmers are real. Biofuels stabilize crop prices, preserve working farmland, and reduce global greenhouse-gas emissions. Without strong local demand for corn and soybeans, we risk losing farms permanently to development—and once farmland is gone, it never comes back.”

Danielle Bauer, Executive Director, Maryland Soybean Board: “Biofuels are a lifeline for Maryland’s farm economy. Biofuels produced from corn and soybeans create reliable markets for growers, add value to every bushel, and support thousands of farm-sector jobs. Simply increasing the percentage of biofuels in gasoline and diesel fuel will strengthen the agricultural backbone of this state while delivering cleaner air and more affordable transportation fuels for all Marylanders.”

Ed Hubbard, General Counsel, Renewable Fuels Association: “Maryland drivers could save hundreds of millions of dollars each year simply by choosing a cleaner, higher-octane fuel that works in 97% of the vehicles on the road today. Expanding access to higher ethanol blends, such as E15, has proven to increase fuel supplies, lower gasoline prices, and reduce imported crude oil, which the U.S. still imports from members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+). Many of the OPEC+ members are considered our hostile geopolitical adversaries.”

Stephen Dodge, Vice President of State Government Affairs, Clean Fuels Alliance America: “Biodiesel and renewable diesel lower the cost of diesel fuel, improve fuel availability, and provide immediate emissions

reductions for the trucks, buses, and heavy-duty industrial equipment Maryland relies on every day. A statewide move to B20 is a win for consumers, for truckers, and for cleaner air across Maryland.

Jonathan Phillips, Executive Director, Groundwork Elizabeth: “Communities across Maryland—especially in Baltimore—live with some of the highest burdens of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and exposure to mobile-source air toxics. Increasing biofuel blends reduces BTEX aromatics, particulate matter, and carbon emissions. The health benefits are substantial, lifesaving, and immediate. This is environmental justice in action with real health care savings. As we witnessed with the tobacco industry, federal and state governments and every consumer eventually pay for the increased cost of health care from the negative health effects of air pollution, about half from transportation fuels.”

Joanne Ivancic, Executive Director, Advanced Biofuels USA: “Advanced Biofuels USA commends the Maryland Biofuels Task Force Work Group for preparing materials for the public, and leaders in policy and business, so they can better understand the crucial need for and benefits of biofuels in Maryland,” noted executive director Joanne Ivancic. “Encouraging and facilitating a transition to renewable fuels for existing on-road transportation as soon as possible with the low-carbon fuels currently available has immediate benefit for climate change mitigation and should not be delayed a moment longer,” she continued. As an educational organization focused on next-generation renewable and sustainable fuels, Advanced Biofuels USA has submitted an addendum that provides additional information about the potential to replace fossil fuels with renewable fuels for aviation, trains, marine/maritime/shipping, heavy-duty equipment and trucks, farm equipment, forklifts, etc. More information is available at www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org

About the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCC)

The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) is a public–private partnership focused on the Washington, D.C. metro area. As part of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Clean Cities and Communities network, GWRCCC collaborates with fleets, fuel providers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to promote affordable, domestic transportation fuels, increase the use of alternative fuel and electric vehicles, and encourage energy-efficient, low-emission mobility solutions. Through technical assistance, education, outreach, and project development, GWRCCC works to improve air quality, enhance energy security, and advance environmental justice across the region.

Additional Media Contacts

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