

Poolesville Green - Climate questionnaire for candidates for state office, 2022

1. How high a priority should action on climate change be for Maryland? Should it be the top priority, among the top three, among the top ten, or not a top priority?

It absolutely is *the* top priority for our County, and our planet respectively. We cannot survive as a species without a functional atmosphere, clean air, and clean water. A habitable planet is a human right, and I plan to protect that right.

2. What main policies would you use to make Maryland's climate goals a reality – for example: generating the energy we use from clean sources within the state; importing clean energy from elsewhere; making our buildings and vehicles more energy-efficient; sequestering carbon through reforestation to offset our emissions, or something else?

All of the methods listed above are great starting points. We need to also bolster our recycling program locally while also helping the other counties in the state expand theirs as well (there are still counties without public recycling programs at all!). Something we can do locally as well to combat the climate crisis is to finally shut down the trash incinerator in Dickerson, which emits awful toxins into our nearby communities.

3. Can we get to net zero in 2035 without ending all fossil fuel use for buildings and vehicles by that year? If your answer is yes, please explain how.

It's very unlikely that this would happen. We likely would need to at a minimum completely stop the use of oil and switch to organically sourced biofuels like ethanol (E100), which is something that can be done in a quick turnaround.

4. Do you support a requirement that all new residential and commercial buildings in the State be powered by electricity by 2025?

Yes!

5. Do you support a requirement that all new motor vehicles sold in the State (i.e. cars, trucks and motorcycles) be powered by electricity by 2025?

Yes! California is already working towards this plan.

6. Should Maryland commit to increasing our forest cover, currently about 33%, to 50% by 2050?

It should be at least attempted. However most of the CO2 captured by our Earth is actually captured in our oceans and large bodies of water which is the reason why Maryland is at a substantial risk for catastrophic hurricanes, flooding, and water acidification. We should also try planting both trees and seaplants like eelgrass along the Atlantic coastline to reduce acidification.

7. The state of Maine adopted a law last year creating “extended producer responsibility” for packaging, making businesses responsible for taking back and recycling the packaging for the products they produce. Would you support Maryland adopting such a law?

Yes! We should also implement a rewarding bottle recycling program that pays consumers back for their empty packaging. Other states like Hawaii have this.

8. Do you support Maryland implementing mandatory curbside collection of compostable materials?

Yes! This would substantially reduce methane emissions at landfills.

9. How often should Maryland release updated data on our greenhouse gas emissions, so that elected officials can be held accountable for progress or lack of it towards its climate goals? Should it be annually, every other year, every third year, or less often, and why?

We need annual reports on climate change just because it’s an exponentially growing issue to our way of life. We don’t have much time to prevent irreversible damage to our atmosphere.