



Meeting Summary
March 4, 2021

Council Members Present (via Zoom):

Carlo Colella, Vice President, Administration and Finance (Chair)
Mary Hummel, Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs (in for Patty Perillo, Vice President, Student Affairs)
David Cronrath, Associate Provost
Maureen Kotlas, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk
Scott Lupin, Assoc Dir., Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk, & Dir., Office of Sustainability
Susan Corry, Manager, Engineering & Energy, Facilities Management
Bryan Quinn, Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
David Cooper, Assistant Director of Operations, Division of IT
Eric Wachsmann, Prof., Materials Science and Engineering and Director, MD Energy Innovation Institute
Giovanni Baiocchi, Associate Professor, Geographical Sciences
Jennifer Hadden, Associate Professor, Government & Politics
Nina Jeffries, Undergraduate Student Representative
Nicole Barbour, Graduate Student Representative

Guests Present:

Kristy Long, Executive Director, Operations & Maintenance, FM

Meeting start time: 10:00am

Meeting Highlights

Sustainability Fund Grant Recommendations

The Sustainability Fund Review Committee recommended grants for five projects:

- **reACT Living Lab**
 - Recommended grant: \$120,000
 - Council vote: Approved
- **Office of Sustainability COVID-19 Support**
 - Recommended grant: \$65,000
 - Council vote: Approved
- **Mobile Sustainability Outreach Center**
 - Recommended grant: \$30,172
 - Council vote: Approved
- **Engineering for One Planet**
 - Recommended grant: \$5,990
 - Council vote: Approved

- **Gemstone Team PISO**
 - Recommended grant: \$5,000
 - Council vote: Approved

Legislative Update

Mark Stewart from the Office of Sustainability provided an overview of select climate bills in the Maryland General Assembly's 2021 legislative session. See slides in appendix.

Program Updates

Office of Sustainability staff provided status reports on a few open items.

- **Student Sustainability Fee**
 - Student leaders in SGA and the Sustainability Fund Review Committee are interested in increasing the Student Sustainability Fee, which is the funding source for the University Sustainability Fund.
 - The Office of Sustainability hosted a listening session on February 25, 2021, to hear ideas from the campus community on what could be accomplished for sustainability if additional funding were available. Many of the ideas presented focused on creating opportunities for student to work on sustainability projects and programs.
 - The Sustainability Fund Review Committee plans to develop its recommendation on a fee adjustment before the next Council meeting.
 - Carlo Colella – It is significant that students are in support of this proposed increase to a student fee. Consider collecting data on the student sustainability fee rates at other universities.
- **Sustainability Curriculum Project**
 - The Office of Sustainability assembled a search committee of faculty to review applications and interview applicants for the Faculty Director position.
 - Dave Hawthorne, Professor of Entomology and out-going Director of Education of the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center, was offered and has accepted the position.
 - Dave and Mark Stewart are developing a plan and timeline for the project but hope to start working with faculty this summer to integrate sustainability into courses offered next fall.
- **Water Report**
 - The Water Steering Committee plan on developing an updated report on sustainable water management for UMD.
 - Scott Lupin – Would the Council like to review the draft report?
 - Carlo Colella and others – Yes, the Council should review the draft report.
- **Progress Hub**
 - The Office of Sustainability officially launched the Progress Hub website and will be encouraging people through social media to engage with it.
- **SustainableUMD Video**
 - The Office of Sustainability worked with Strategic Communications on a three-minute video highlighting several sustainability success stories at UMD.
 - The Council watched a preview of the video.
 - The video will be released to the campus community in April.

Open Forum

- Nina Jeffries – Is there an update on the Council’s recommendation to move the university’s carbon neutrality deadline to 2025?
 - Carlo Colella – I am discussing it with President Pines. Stay tuned for an update.

Adjourn 11:50 pm

Legislative Update

Overview of Select Climate Bills in the Maryland General Assembly's 2021 Legislative Session

March 4, 2021

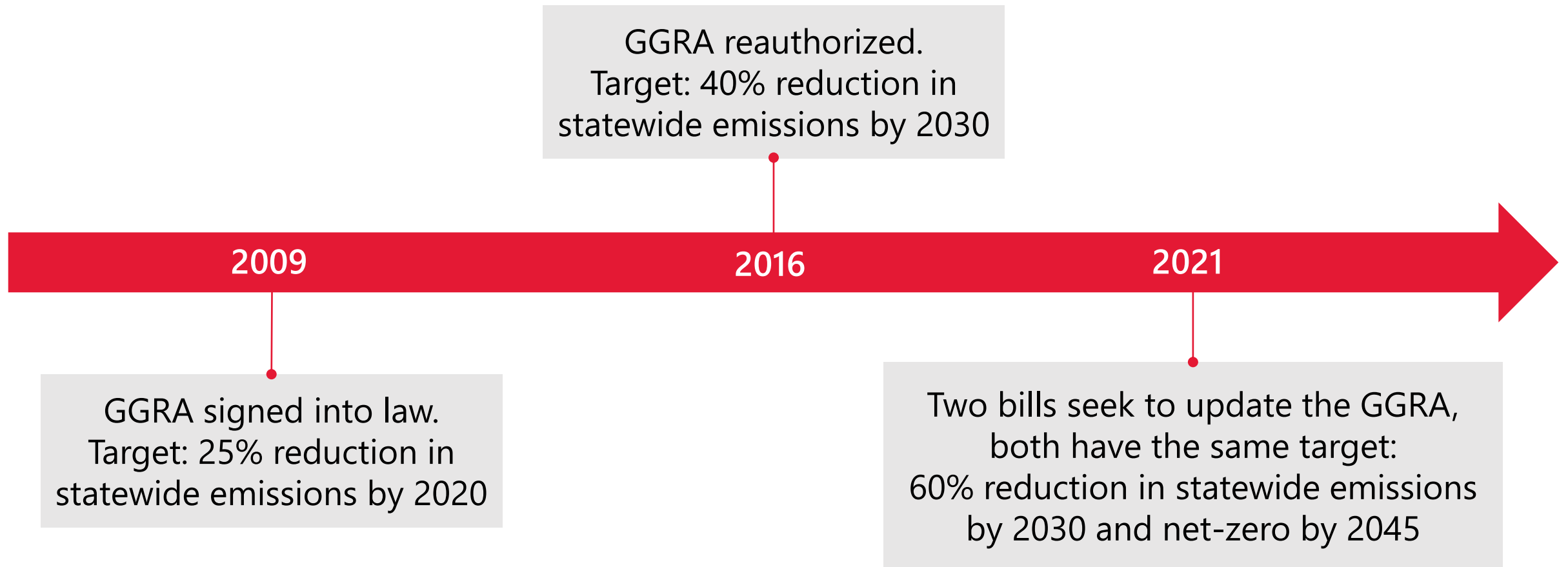


A Few Key Climate Bills

Bold = direct impact
on UMD's operations

- **SB 076/HB 033: Climate Crisis and Education Act**
- SB 148/HB 066: Transition from Fossil Fuels
- **SB 414/HB 583: Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021**
- SB 518/HB 503: Office on Climate Change – Establishment
- HB 044: Clean Cars Act of 2021
- **HB 520: State Buildings – Geothermal Energy Systems Requirement**
- **HB 592: State Vehicle Fleet – Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles**
- HB 613: Prince George's County Coal and Gas-Fired Generating Stations Prohibition
- **HB 803: Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE Act)**

Maryland's Main Climate Law: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA)



SB 414/HB 583: Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

- Statewide emissions targets: 60% reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2045
- State must account for methane emissions using the 20-year global warming potential
- Social Cost of Carbon (at least \$50/ton) must be used in economic analysis
- Life cycle cost analysis of all-electric vs mixed-fuel construction for all new buildings by 2022
- New commercial and residential buildings must be net-zero energy by 2033
- 3% annual electricity use reduction within each electric utility territory
- **All new State buildings (at least 25% from State funds) must be net-zero energy starting 2021**
- **All new light-duty State vehicles must be zero-emissions vehicles (ZEV) by 2025**
- **Goal: 100% of the State's light-duty vehicle fleet should be ZEV by 2030**
- All new MTA buses must be ZEV starting in 2023
- 5 million trees planted by 2030

SB 076/HB 033: Climate Crisis and Education Act

- Statewide emissions targets: 60% reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2045
- Collect a Greenhouse Gas Pollution Fee based on the life cycle emissions from all fossil fuels brought into the State
 - Non-Transportation Fuels
 - **\$15/ton in 2022, increasing \$5/year thereafter; capping at \$60/ton in 2031**
 - **Any entity generating more than 25,000 kwh annually will pay the fees directly**
 - Transportation Fuels
 - **\$10/ton in 2022, increasing \$3/year thereafter; capping at \$37/ton in 2031**
- Fee revenue distribution:
 - \$350 million annually to fund the “Kirwan Commission” recommendations for education
 - Direct payment to households and employers
 - Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund – clean energy, just transition, resilient infrastructure, etc.

HB 520: State Buildings – Geothermal Energy Systems Requirement

- Beginning in 2021, all new State buildings (at least 50% from State funds) must be constructed with a geothermal energy system if the payback period for the system is 20 years or less

HB 592: State Vehicle Fleet – Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles

- Beginning in 2023, a State unit may not enter into a contract to purchase or lease vehicles that are not zero-emissions electric vehicles

HB 803: Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE Act)

- **Applies to USM Institutions; UMCES; Morgan State; and St. Mary's College of Maryland**
- **Carbon Neutrality for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2025, Scope 3 emissions by 2035**
- **Requirements on Carbon Offsetting**
 - **X% of carbon offset projects must be in Maryland, Chesapeake Bay Watershed, or through an environmental justice project**
 - **5% in 2025-2034; 25% in 2035-2044; 50% in 2045-2054; 75% in 2055 and thereafter.**
 - **By 2035, 10% of carbon offset projects must be designed to benefit a community that scores 0.51 or higher on the MD Environmental Justice Tool**
 - **If cannot meet requirements, may use alternative offsets. SGA to appoint students to review and approve alternative portfolio with staff.**
- **Dedicated sustainability officer shall report to the institution's president**
- **Requirements for regular meetings and reporting**

Many Other Bills to Watch

Maryland League of Conservation
Voters: **27 bills** on its watchlist

Maryland Clean Energy Center:
70 bills on its watchlist

Sierra Club Maryland Chapter:
100+ bills on its watchlist

