

COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM (SB 786/HB 1192)



WHAT IS COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY?

Community Renewable Energy (CRE) is electric energy generated from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and moving water. CRE generating systems are flexible and locally-scaled. They can be designed to suit a variety of environments and may take many forms such as a solar panel installation on the roof of an apartment building or church, an installation of small-scale wind turbines or a 'micro-hydro' facility in a small stream or creek. Under the terms of this pilot legislation Maryland residents, community organizations, businesses, and others will be able to subscribe to or invest in a CRE generating system. This legislation will make it possible for Marylanders who might otherwise be excluded from the renewable energy market—such as low-income individuals, renters, and those with properties unsuitable for renewable energy development—to pool their resources and benefit from the production of clean, locally-produced electricity.



HOW IT WORKS

- 1) Electricity customers subscribe to or purchase shares in a Community Renewable Energy generating system
- 2) Electricity is generated by the system is transmitted to the grid
- 3) CRE members receive a credit on their utility bill for their share of the electricity produced by the system. That's a lot of people who can now afford clean, renewable energy!

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR MARYLANDERS

- Creates opportunities for all Maryland residents to benefit from renewable energy.
- Allows low-income citizens, renters, and those who are unable to install renewable energy on their own homes or businesses to now participate
- Creates local green jobs
- Increases energy production during peak demand periods when electricity is most needed
- Contributes to the US goal of energy independence
- Contributes to Maryland's goal of proving a cleaner and safer environment for all Marylanders

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Talya Tavor with Environment Maryland at talya@environmentmaryland.org, go to our website: <http://tinyurl.com/MDCRE2014> or join [MD-Sun](#), md-sun@googlegroups.com, to find out up-to-date developments on renewable energy and this bill.

KEY PROVISIONS OF SB 786/HB 1192 Electricity - Community Renewable Energy Generating System - Pilot Program

- This legislation establishes a multi-year pilot program for the development of Community Renewable Energy Generating Systems.
- A “Community Renewable Energy Generating System” or “CREGS” is defined as a renewable energy system that generates electricity from animal-manure anaerobic digestion gas, biomass, biogas, solar, wind, moving water, or hydrogen reformed with renewable energy.
- A CREGS must be located within the state of Maryland.
- A CREGS may be no larger than two megawatts and must have at least 2 subscribers.
- All Subscribers to a CREGS must be customers of the same utility in which the CREGS is located.
- If a Subscriber to a CREGS ceases to be a customer within the distribution service territory, the subscriber must transfer or assign their subscription back to their Subscriber Organization or to any person or entity that qualifies to be a Subscriber under the act.
- The legislation is modeled on legislation that has been enacted or proposed in 15 different states and territories including, most recently, the District of Columbia (B20-0057, “Community Renewable Energy Amendment Act of 2013”).
- The legislation is independent and does NOT amend or alter Maryland’s current Interconnection, Net Metering and Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard rules.
- This legislation establishes a “Community Renewable Energy Offset Credit”. This credit is measured in a dollars per kilowatt-hour rate that is approximately equal to the per kilowatt-hour retail rate an electricity customer would normally be charged by an electricity utility in the state of Maryland. This dollar value is then applied as a credit to the Member’s own electric bill during each applicable billing period.
- The monetary value of the electricity generated by a CREGS, or credit, will be assigned to the electricity bills of the members of the facility through a billing arrangement in which a Member’s share of the electricity generated by the CREGS is given a dollar value.

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