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STATE OF MARYLAND



CONTACT: Tori Leonard
410-767-8054
443-680-1619 (c)
tori.leonard@maryland.gov
 

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

Maryland PSC Advances Community Solar Pilot Program

(BALTIMORE, MD—February 26, 2016) – The Maryland Public Service Commission moved to advance proposed regulations to establish a community solar pilot program in Maryland, with an emphasis on providing renewable energy benefits for low and moderate income customers. The proposed regulations will be submitted for publication in an upcoming issue of the *Maryland Register*. The public will have 30 days from the date of publication to comment on the regulations.

The proposed regulations initiated from legislation (HB 1087) passed in the 2015 Maryland General Assembly session and signed by Governor Larry Hogan, and were considered in a rule making process docketed by the Commission as [RM56](#).

Under the proposed regulations, the three-year community solar pilot program will:

- Provide access to solar-generated electricity – in a manner similar to rooftop solar and net metering – for all Maryland customers without requiring property ownership;
- Incentivize solar companies to provide service to low- and moderate-income customers;
- Attract new investment in Maryland’s renewable infrastructure and green economy;
- Allow renters to contract for solar energy with the same benefits as rooftop owners;
- Set aside program capacity for each area of the state with a statewide cap of 218MW;
- Create separate program capacity for small systems and systems built on brownfields, parking lots, or industrial areas;

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER 6 ST. PAUL STREET BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-6806

410-767-8000

Toll Free: 1-800-492-0474

FAX: 410-333-6495

MDRS: 1-800-735-2258 (TTY/Voice)

Website: www.psc.state.md.us

- Allow smaller and rural service territories to make use of existing solar facilities while encouraging construction of new systems in the urban and suburban areas of Maryland;
- Include significant consumer protections, including prohibition against unreasonable fees and clear contract disclosure requirements; and
- Allow the Commission Staff to collect data necessary data and study the impact on Maryland's electricity grid over the three-year pilot program.

About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses and Transportation Network Companies), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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410-767-8000 Toll Free: 1-800-492-0474 FAX: 410-333-6495
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