



Resilient Maryland

Resilient Maryland Pilot Program

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) incentive program, Resilient Maryland, is aimed at driving growth in the adoption of microgrid and other distributed generation energy systems. Resilient Maryland is a pilot program that provides competitive grants to stakeholders in Maryland's power infrastructure, facilities management, and distributed generation industries to gauge interest in, and feasibility of, the development of microgrids, advanced combined heat and power (CHP) systems that can island during power outages, and resilience hubs in the state.

The program was launched in response to feedback from Marylanders seeking help in identifying sites for new clean energy or distributed energy resources that provide broad benefits. Energy resources include those incorporated in buildings and the built environment located nearest to the electricity customers being served; benefits include reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering resilience by helping governments, businesses, and other organizations withstand power outages.

Resilient Maryland is designed to obtain detailed information on the scale of microgrids and CHP units (community, campus, building, and/or resilience hub) that will provide the best value to the state and its communities and residents. The program also examines what entities make good candidates to host the technologies under consideration. Grant funding is provided to conduct detailed feasibility analyses of potential sites to determine what hurdles and challenges a successful project must overcome, and what quantifiable and qualitative benefits projects will provide to Maryland residents, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses.



**Montgomery County Public Safety Headquarters Microgrid
(1,014 kW CHP System and 2 MW PV)**

SOURCE: MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Pilot Program Focus

The Resilient Maryland program recently disbursed \$1.03 million in grant funding for fiscal year 2020. Using this capital, 13 organizations and government entities will site, plan, and design microgrids, resilience hubs, resilient facility power systems, and advanced CHP systems. The MEA allocated \$933,000 for eight grants for individual community/campus microgrid planning, \$75,000 for three grants for resilient energy system planning, and \$23,000 for two grants for advanced CHP planning and design and resilience hub planning and design.

Grant recipients are planning and designing shovel-ready projects that will:

- Support local governmental essential services such as fire and rescue operations
- Attract new industries to economic development districts
- Provide resilient and efficient energy to academic organizations
- Provide high-quality power to businesses, multifamily housing communities, hospitals, and medical institutions.

Desired Outcomes

Resilient Maryland identifies prime candidate sites for clean energy systems that include CHP systems, solar photovoltaics (PV), energy storage systems, and other clean and innovative technologies. Program outcomes will provide MEA with valuable insight on how to fine-tune its existing programs and inform future program designs to respond effectively to the needs of Maryland's communities and the clean energy industry.

The desired outcomes of Resilient Maryland are to:

- Identify microgrid, advanced CHP, and resilience hub candidate sites
- Encourage clean energy development in the built environment
- Prime the market for broader clean energy system adoption
- Design shovel-ready microgrid, advanced CHP, and resilience hub projects
- Inform MEA and industry stakeholders of practical, replicable system designs
- Encourage technical and financial innovation in the energy services sector
- Connect participants to current and future MEA incentive programs
- Encourage constructive dialogue between communities, utilities, and other stakeholders on clean and resilient energy systems



Governor Larry Hogan tours Baltimore Washington Medical Center's CHP system in Glen Burnie, Md.

SOURCE: MARYLAND GOVPICS

Who Should Apply?

Resilient Maryland provides grants to help organizations identify opportunities to adopt clean energy technologies such as microgrids, resilient facility power systems, advanced CHP, and resilience hubs. These technologies have the potential to provide societal benefits to Maryland while creating new economic opportunities. Local governments could use these approaches to bolster essential services (e.g., fire, rescue, emergency shelters) and drive economic development in districts seeking to attract new industries such as data centers seeking high-quality power. Community colleges and universities can protect key efforts (e.g., research) while providing additional benefits to the surrounding community. Multifamily communities can help protect low- and moderate-income community members who may not be able to afford hotels during outages or cannot easily relocate to shelters. Hospitals and health care facilities can protect the health of residents. Any organization seeking highly reliable, resilient, clean, and affordable energy can benefit from this program.

MEA recognizes that the costs incurred in designing successful projects can be significant, and also that well-engineered and well-analyzed plans lead to shovel-ready designs that achieve quicker buy-in from decision-makers and capital providers.

– Brandon Bowser, Energy Program Manager, MEA

For More Information

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