



The Baker Greenprint for Maryland

Rushern Baker sees a Maryland where everyone can enjoy clean water, clean air, resilient communities and a healthy and beautiful environment for our children and future generations. Rushern Baker knows that a green future for Maryland is not just about protecting our environment, but about fueling sustainable economic development and creating jobs across the state.

Rushern Baker's environmental stewardship of Prince George's County, the second-largest county in the state, is unmatched and has been recognized by the Obama White House for its innovation and success. Through Rushern Baker's leadership, the county is now leading the state in recycling and composting, and is emerging as a state leader in solar energy generation. Rushern Baker created dozens of local green businesses, created hundreds of jobs and 10,000 green construction work hours through strategic procurement policies.

Maryland could be a national leader in clean energy production if we harness our natural resources as energy sources. We are a state with a geography that appeals to renewable energy industries. Together, we can advance the expansion of a clean energy economy and help combat the state's reliance on the fossil fuels that contribute to the global climate crisis.

As governor, Rushern Baker will transform Maryland into the national leader for environmental progress in a time when we need it more than ever.

The **Baker Greenprint for Maryland** includes aggressive and innovative approaches to make Maryland the first state to reach 100% clean energy and zero waste. The plan will also work to significantly reduce air pollution, build resilient communities and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Making Maryland the First 100% Clean Energy State

Transitioning the state to clean energy sources will not only reduce greenhouse gases and the release of toxic pollutants into the air and water, it will create jobs in Maryland.

As County Executive, Rushern Baker launched the Maryland Smart Energy Communities program in 2013 to secure local government commitment to sustainable energy use, and to encourage the adoption of energy efficiency, renewable energy and transportation efficiency policies.

As Governor, Rushern Baker will make Maryland the first state to reach 100% clean energy. He will develop an aggressive transition plan within one year of his election.

Here's how Mr. Baker will increase renewable energy production, keep energy costs down to save residents and businesses money, and create green jobs throughout the state:

- **Make Baltimore America's Clean Energy Manufacturing Capital.** Baltimore is a historic manufacturing city that specializes in big projects. Rushern Baker will incentivize clean energy companies, including wind and solar, to locate in Baltimore. This will



revitalize Baltimore's industrial sector, create an economic engine and make Baltimore a clean energy capital of the country.

- **Grow the Clean Energy Workforce.** Rushern Baker will create the Maryland Sustainable Energy Workforce Development Program to provide statewide work-based learning and training in solar, wind and energy efficiency, modeled after successful programs in the county.
- **Require that all New Maryland State Buildings Must be LEED Certified.** Similar to what Rushern Baker did in Prince George's County, as governor, Rushern Baker will require that all new state buildings must be LEED certified. In addition to doing our part to combat carbon emissions, it will help spur economic opportunity in the renewable energy industry.
- **By 2030, all Construction in Maryland has to be LEED certified.** Inefficient buildings are a major contributor to carbon emissions. By 2030, all Maryland construction must be LEED certified (or equivalent). This will reduce carbon emissions and create green jobs in Maryland. Advances in manufacturing, technology and a growing renewable energy market will continue to drive down the costs of efficient building construction.
- **Incentivize Renewable Energy Companies to Move to Maryland.** Prioritize "green certified" businesses in procurement targets for state contracts, particularly small and women- and minority-owned businesses located in our state.
- **Phase Out Coal and Fossil Fuels, Phase in Clean Local Energy.** Starting with our oldest coal fired power plants, phase out dependence on dirty sources of energy. However, phase outs must be complemented by phase-ins of clean energy, with a strong emphasis on local generation. Rushern Baker will establish a program to locate additional sites in Maryland for solar and wind generation, including appropriate use of agricultural and offshore locations.
- **EmPOWER Maryland Plus.** Rushern Baker will continue to support one of the nation's most successful energy efficiency initiatives and work collaboratively with utilities to create "EmPOWER Maryland Plus" – a strategic effort to enhance existing energy efficiency measures and operationalize the Maryland Public Service Commission, moving toward a Grid-of-the-Future initiative which is designed to reimagine and modernize energy systems while optimizing economic growth in the State.

Making Maryland the First Zero Waste State

Compostable materials represent the largest amount of waste generated in Maryland, with paper products representing the next largest amount of waste.

As County Executive, Rushern Baker introduced the Zero Waste Plan, a roadmap to move the county toward zero waste. Minimizing waste will have an obvious and positive impact on the environment. The more we reduce, reuse, recycle and recover materials from our waste stream, the fewer virgin raw materials will be needed in order to produce more products and packaging. This in turn reduces the amount of energy consumed and greenhouse gases produced at the beginning of a product's life-cycle.



As governor, Rushern Baker will create statewide recycling and composting systems in order to make Maryland the first Zero Waste State. This will not only benefit the environment, but have a significant impact on local revenue, job creation and business expansion.

- **Institute a Statewide Styrofoam Ban and a Plastic Bag Ban.** Mr. Baker will enact a statewide foam (polystyrene) and plastic bag fee.
- **Statewide Resource Recovery System.** Rushern Baker will invest in infrastructure for a statewide recycling and composting system to divert valuable materials out of landfills and incinerators. The system will reduce waste in landfills, create green jobs and save local jurisdictions money.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility** - Mr. Baker will develop a cradle-to-cradle framework to ensure that manufacturers are part of the solution to our waste challenges, to avoid the externalization of costs so cleanup efforts are not the sole responsibility of the government and taxpayers.

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Maryland is one of the states most vulnerable to sea-level rise and the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. Urban and suburban communities alike are experiencing increasing volatility in weather patterns.

Working with 100 Resilient Cities, labor, utilities, and industry, Rushern Baker will prepare the entire state and build communities that can survive, adapt, and thrive, under various environmental, social and economic stresses:

- **Require Microgrids for all Critical Infrastructure.** Locally generated and stored energy can stand on its own in a disaster. Rushern Baker will introduce legislation requiring microgrids for key development projects and strategic assets like hospitals, public safety, grocery stores, and utilities to ensure that Maryland is resilient and ready to withstand disasters.
- **Commit to “Coast Smart” Spending.** As governor, Rushern Baker will invest state dollars in infrastructure projects in flood-critical regions impacted by sea level rise and extreme weather events. This investment will include the development of new materials, technologies and processes to modernize and extend the life of infrastructure, expedite repairs or replacement and promote cost savings.
- **Make ‘Smart Growth’ Smarter.** Smart Growth is critical for the restoration of the Bay, our communities, and for Maryland in general. Smart growth will help us direct growth to existing communities to help maintain their viability and therefore limit growth on farm and forest land. With thousands of miles of vulnerable shoreline in a state that is one of the most vulnerable to sea level rise in the country, we need a real commitment to combating the effects of climate change. Mr. Baker will protect our resources from being impacted with a combination of land preservation and protection, enforcement of environmental laws, and restarting Maryland’s smart growth efforts.



Protecting Our Treasured Chesapeake Bay

Maryland's iconic Chesapeake Bay blue crabs to its 8,000 miles of shoreline that hosts millions of beach goers each year, our state is rich with resources that we love and must keep healthy and protected. Prioritizing environmental health doesn't just benefit the air we breathe and water we drink, it creates jobs and is an important source for our growing economy.

The Chesapeake Bay is not only a national treasure and integral part of Maryland's identity, but it's an economic driver for the state. With 95% of Maryland in its watershed, the Chesapeake Bay region is also one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to sea level rise.

Stormwater runoff is one of the biggest sources of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. As County Executive, Rushern Baker created the nationally renowned Clean Water Partnership, a public-private partnership to expedite stormwater restoration projects and provide opportunities to local, small, and women- and minority-owned businesses. The program saved tens of millions of dollars, created hundreds of jobs and took major steps towards restoring the Bay. The agricultural sector is the largest source of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

As governor, Rushern Baker will take the following steps to to expand his successful stormwater restoration program and reduce agricultural waste in the Bay:

- **Establish a Maryland Clean Water Partnership.** Using the successful model of the county partnership, Rushern Baker will create a statewide public-private partnership to expedite stormwater restoration projects across the state and provide opportunities for local, small, and women- and minority-owned businesses, and create green jobs across the state.
- **Require Upstream Accountability for Neighboring Businesses.** Rushern Baker will require private companies to meet Maryland regulations in order to do business with the state government.
- **Restore our Tree Canopy.** Rushern Baker will lead the effort to restore our tree canopy by ensuring the Forest Conservation Act fulfills its mission to replace every tree cut through tracking and transparency, and partnerships with parks, agricultural and local jurisdictions.
- **Restore Oyster Sanctuaries.** Rushern Baker will expand oyster sanctuaries to preserve the oyster ecosystem and expedite the restoration of the bay.

Improving Maryland's Air Quality and Public Health

Marylanders are plagued by unacceptable rates of respiratory illness, particularly in minority communities. Maryland has done little to address the concentration of polluting facilities, especially near low income and minority communities in Baltimore. The Maryland Department of the Environment's air quality inspection unit has been inadequate.



As governor, Rushern Baker will make sure that no one community bears the brunt of polluting facilities and will ensure the MDE has proper funding and resources to inspect air quality:

- **Capping Neighborhood Pollution.** Rushern Baker will champion legislation requiring new cumulative impact laws to ensure that no neighborhood bears the brunt of industrial pollution by capping the amount of total pollution in any one community, as opposed to capping the pollution of a particular facility.
- **Fund MDE's Air Quality Inspection.** Rushern Baker will ensure MDE has the technology and resources, including real time centralized air quality monitoring.

Smart Growth:

Reducing emissions from vehicles is critical to combating climate change, which requires significant investments in a transportation system that prioritizes mass transit over mass vehicles. Rushern Baker's transportation plan, which will be announced in the coming weeks, will make Smart Growth smarter. Rushern Baker's transportation plan will ensure that Maryland makes investments in crucial infrastructure projects that give taxpayers the best return on investments by improving quality of life, creating jobs, growing the economy and combating climate change.

America used to be a world leader on the environment. Now, it's up to states to show the innovation, creativity and drive to protect our planet. With the Baker Greenprint, Maryland can be that state.