



Maryland Student Climate Action Coalition



Madison Townsend

College Park Scholars – Science & Global Change Program
Environmental Science and Policy
maddit33@umd.edu

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MARYPIRG Students

Introduction

I interned for MaryPIRG’s Maryland Student Climate Action Coalition (MSCAC). MSCAC uses grassroots organizing to educate young voters about climate action and lobby for sustainable legislation.

Site Information:

MaryPIRG <https://mscaccoalition.wixsite.com/home>
3110 South Campus Diner, College Park, MD 20742

Site supervisor: Sarah Shames

Mission Statement: to champion the public interest — to speak out for healthier, safer, more secure lives for all of us

The particular goals of this site include public education, lobbying for carbon emissions reduction, and environmental justice.

Activities:

Last year, MSCAC drafted the FUTURE Act, a bill aiming make Maryland’s public universities carbon neutral by 2035. It is currently in the General Assembly, so many of my tasks centered around raising awareness and support for the bill. One of my main tasks was building profiles on Congresspeople and then meeting with their teams to secure support.

I also worked on various other tasks, such as:

- Helped organize educational and community outreach events
 - Events included: phone banking, climate research panels, climate rallies, writing and compiling testimonials
- Led workshops teaching students how to contact their local representatives
- Compiled voting records
- Created and dispersed educational materials such as infographics and literature
- Supported other coalitions (public health, world hunger, etc.) by attending their events and advocating for important issues

Issues Confronting Site:

- In this area, excessive carbon emissions have led to air pollution, changes in the temperature and species abundance in the Chesapeake Bay, and other environmental issues. UMD studies have also shown air pollution leads to increased flooding and droughts, which affects local ecosystems.
- Our overconsumption and dependence on fossil fuels is not only unsustainable, but also harmful to society.

Impact:

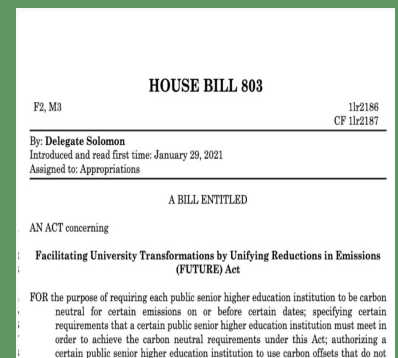
- Climate victories
 - University of Maryland has pledged to reach carbon neutrality by 2025.
 - Maryland will also make its operations carbon neutral by 2045.
- Personal Impact
 - I learned about different methods of grassroots organizing and the legislative process.
 - I also gained important skills like community outreach, organizing, and volunteer recruitment.

Future Work

- The Coalition is continuing to lobby for the FUTURE Act, which includes raising awareness about climate change and environmental justice.
- They are also advocating for the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which provides funding for conservation and restoration of wildlife habitats.
- Personally, I have continued my work in environmental policy. I am currently interning for State Senator Will Smith, performing community outreach and helping to advance his campaign.
- This internship helped me to realize that I was more interested in the political aspect than the grassroots organizing aspect.



Above is a climate research panel we hosted via Zoom with various environmental experts.



Acknowledgments:

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Image sources:

<https://www.instagram.com/md.msac/>

