

# Welcome to the Pollinator Workgroup



Bob Sadzinski  
February 5, 2018

# Agenda



- **Solar Site Characteristics**
- **Review SB 1158 (Copies Available)**
- **DNR's Draft Regulation**
- **Pollinator Scorecard**
- **Public Comments**
- **Next Steps**





0 8,000 ft



VEGETATIVE BUFFER  
AS REQ.

ATI SINGLE AXIS TRACKER  
RACKING (TYP)

15' PRIMARY ACCESS  
ROAD W/ GATE

ASSUMED 50' UTILITY  
EASEMENT

INVERTER LOCATION (TYP)

ASSUMED 50' UTILITY  
EASEMENTS

8' H BLACK VINYL FENCE  
SETBACK/MIN. 15' FROM  
ARRAY (TYP)

VEGETATIVE BUFFER  
AS REQ.

15' PRIMARY ACCESS ROAD W/ GATE

LOCATION OF BATTERY  
STORAGE SITE

PLANNED POINT OF  
INTERCONNECTION @ MASSEY ROAD

MEDIUM VOLTAGE LINE TO UTILITY  
POINT OF INTERCONNECTION



- ▲ Closest non-participating residence to Massey only
- Closest residence to both Massey and Blue Star
- Inverter / transformer pads







BACK OF MODULE TO FRONT OF MODULE ROW SPACING  
EQUATING TO THE GCR OF 40% @ A LEVEL GRADE

PRESUMED SUBSTATION LOCATION



**M+W GROUP**  
 Gehrlcher Solar America Corp.  
 A Company of the M+W Group  
 2000 Morris Avenue, Suite 102, Union, NJ 07083  
 Phone: 908-213-4270  
 Toll Free: +1 877 864 9176  
 Fax: +1 908 213 4275  
 Website: www.mwgroup.net

Professional Engineer

PT Desc:

**DRAWING ISSUE**

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary           | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Approval | <input type="checkbox"/> As-Built     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Final/Issued          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other        |

**REVISIONS**

| No. | By  | Description | Date |
|-----|-----|-------------|------|
| 01  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 02  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 03  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 04  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 05  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 06  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 07  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 08  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 09  | ... | ...         | ...  |
| 10  | ... | ...         | ...  |

**SYSTEM SUMMARY**

**MODULE**

MANUFACTURER: JASOLAR  
 MODULE MODEL: JAP6-T2/330/480  
 MODULE OUTPUT: 330  
 MODULE COUNT: 171,336  
 STRING SIZE: 35  
 NUMBER OF STRINGS: 4917  
 SYSTEM OUTPUT: 56,705.68 KW DC

**INVERTER**

MANUFACTURER: TM6C  
 INVERTER MODEL: PVH-L2700GR  
 RATING: 2700 KW  
 QUANTITY: 17  
 DC SYSTEM VOLTAGE: 1500 V  
 SYSTEM OUTPUT: 45900.00 KW AC  
 DC: AC RATIO: 1.24

**TRACKING**

MANUFACTURER: NEXTTRACKER  
 GCR: 40%  
 FOUNDATION: DRIVEN POST  
 CONFIGURATION: 1X24, 1056, 1X28  
 AZMUTH: 180°  
 MOTOR QUANTITY: 2242  
 MODULES PER TRACKER: 84 / 56 / 28  
 POST QUANTITY: 24840

**BOX**

COMBINER BOX RATING: 400 A  
 COMBINER BOX QTY: 372  
 TRANSFORMER RATING: 2700 KVA  
 SUBSTATION VOLTAGE: 34.5 / 69 KV

50' SETBACK  
 APPROX. AREA ENCLOSED  
 BY SETBACK = 296.2 ACRES

ACCESS ROAD  
 APPROX. AREA = 591,531 SQ.FT  
 APPROX. LENGTH = 25,314'

(PRESUMED) PROPERTY BORDER  
 CONTAINING APPROX. 319.4 ACRES

APPROX. TREE SHADE ON DEC 21  
 AT 10AM/2PM & 9AM/3PM  
 ASSUMED AVG. HEIGHT = 80'

FENCE  
 APPROX. 15,983 LF  
 APPROX. AREA ENCLOSED = 284.87 ACRES

2.7 MVA AC INVERTER PAD (TYP. 17)

AC TRENCH PATH: 15,822 LF

Project Name: URBAN GRID - CAMBRIDGE

Site Address: EGYPT RD, CAMBRIDGE, MD 21613  
 38°31'45.85"N, 76°06'02.86"W

Sheet Title:

**SITE LAYOUT**

Scale: 1" = 100'

Project ID: T10

Sheet No:

L1.1

APPROX. AREA = 591,531 SQ.FT  
APPROX. LENGTH = 25,314'

(PRESUMED) PROPERTY BORDER  
CONTAINING APPROX. 319.4 ACRES

FENCE  
APPROX. 19,983 LF  
APPROX. AREA ENCLOSED = 284.87 ACRES



2.7 MVA AC INVERTER PAD (TYP. 17)

AC TRENCH PATH: 15,822 LF

2:21 PM '80

1000 Morris Av  
Phone Main: +1 817  
Toll Free: +1 817  
Fax: +1 800 211  
Homepage: www

Professional E

PE Seal:

- Planning
- Civil
- Electrical
- Mechanical

| LF | LF | LF | LF | LF | LF |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |

CAMBRIDGE

## Church Hill 7MW Ground Mounted Solar Project, Maryland, USA





# Review SB 1158



LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., Governor

Ch. 372

Chapter 372

(Senate Bill 1158)

AN ACT concerning

## ~~Power Plant Research Program~~ Department of Natural Resources – Solar Generation Facilities – Pollinator-Friendly Designation

FOR the purpose of requiring the power plant research program of the Department of Natural Resources to include in its research an evaluation of the pollinator benefits that would occur under a certain standard or plan implemented on the land on which a certain solar generation facility is located; requiring the ~~power plant research program~~ Department to designate a certain solar facility as ~~pollinator-friendly~~ pollinator-friendly under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to adopt a certain scorecard for certain solar generation facilities; providing that a solar generation facility may receive a certain designation only by the Department; prohibiting the owner of a solar generation facility from making certain claims unless the facility has received a certain designation; requiring an owner of a pollinator-friendly solar generation facility to provide appropriate maintenance of the pollinator vegetation; requiring the owner of a certain solar generation facility to make certain standards and plans available to certain entities; a certain entity; authorizing the Department to charge an owner of a solar generation facility a certain fee to cover certain costs; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to the ~~power plant research program~~ designation of solar generation facilities as pollinator-friendly.



# Bill Requirements

(from Maryland's General Assembly)



- Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shall research the pollinator benefits that would occur under a pollinator-friendly vegetation management plan implemented on the land with a ground-mounted solar generation facility;
- PPRP, in consultation with MDA, shall create pollinator-friendly designation program for solar generation facilities;
- PPRP shall adopt regulations;
- PPRP shall adopt a scorecard.



# Pollinator Research

- The Maryland Pollinator Protection Plan (MDA; Jan 2016)
- Native Herbaceous Plantings Establishment, Maintenance and Management for Wildlife Habitat and Pollinators (USDA; January 2017)
- Maryland Environmental Service Pollinator Habitat Plan (MES; June 2017)
- PPRP Research Efforts
  - White Paper: Promoting Pollinators on Power Facility Properties in Maryland (DRAFT)
  - Proposed Egypt Road Solar Stormwater Monitoring Study



## Maryland Environmental Service Pollinator Habitat Plan

June 2017

The purpose of the *Maryland Environmental Service Pollinator Habitat Plan* (referred to in the following as the “MES Plan”) is to provide Maryland Environmental Service (MES) property managers with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the maintenance, creation, enhancement, and restoration of pollinator habitat on MES owned properties. The MES Plan was developed in accordance with Maryland House Bill 132 “State Government – Pollinator Habitat Plans – Plan Contents – Requirements and Prohibition”, §2-1801(b) of the Agriculture Article. HB 132 was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2016 and amended by HB 830 in 2017 in order to utilize public lands for pollinator habitat enhancement projects. The legislation requires that three state agencies (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), State Highway Administration (SHA), and MES) each establish, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), a specified pollinator habitat plan by July 1, 2017 for implementation on the properties owned by each agency.

The guidelines presented in the MES Plan follow the guidance provided by the MDA’s 2016 managed pollinator protection plan publication, *The Maryland Pollinator Protection Plan* and also the finding of the 2015 Maryland Department of Legislative Services report, *Pollinators, Health and the Use of No...*

The collage includes several documents:

- USDA United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Fact Sheet** (dated January 2017) titled "Native Herbaceous Plantings" for Wildlife Habitat and Pollinators. It includes an introduction, a "SELECTING A MIX" section, and a "PROPOSED FERTILIZATION" section.
- Maryland Environmental Service Pollinator Habitat Plan** cover page, dated June 2017, with a photograph of a bee on a white flower.
- The Maryland Pollinator Protection Plan** cover page, featuring the Maryland Department of Natural Resources logo.

# Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## Pollinator Habitat Plan



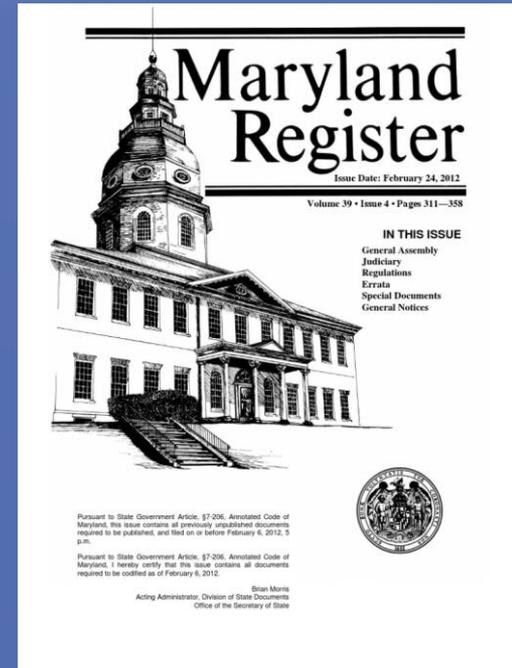
A blueprint for the conservation of pollinators and pollinator habitat on the natural lands managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the benefit of Maryland's citizens



# DNR's Proposed Regulation



# Pollinator-Friendly Designation of Solar Generation Facilities Regulation



# DNR's Regulation

SB Bill 1158: 3-303.1(I): “The Department shall adopt regulations to carry out this section”.



Connexus Energy's pollinator-friendly community solar garden is not only producing renewable energy, it is now producing honey.

# DNR's Regulation Process



## Internal Process

- We are currently in the development phase of the pollinator regulations (discussion, drafting, economic impact determination, etc.)
- Regulation must be reviewed by PPRP, AAG, and Office of the Secretary
- Once the regulation is approved to move forward, it follows the Administrative Procedures Act.



# Administrative Procedures Act



Regulations sent to AELR



About 1 month

Regulations published in Maryland Register (Posted online, 30 days of public comment)



1 month

Public comment is reviewed and final regulation decision made (withdraw, adopt, non-substantive changes)



About 2 weeks

Final regulation published in Register



10 days

Not less than 10 days after publication the regulation is effective



# Draft Regulation



- Presently, our Regulation is a work-in-progress.
- Will discuss its general framework that classifies the designations two step process.

# Draft Regulation

- Sections:
  - Definitions
  - Designation (Application) Process
  - Designation Renewal
  - Application Modification



# Definitions

- What can be counted toward the designation?
  - Solar facility: within the fence line?
  - Land controlled by developer (leased/controlled land) not being used for solar generation;
- No credit given to vegetation on land adjacent to leased parcel.



## Pollinator–Friendly Designation Requirements

### SB Bill (page 4):

A solar generation facility may be designated by the Department as pollinator-friendly if the facility:

1. Is ground-mounted
2. Is at least 1 acre in size and
3. Meets or exceeds the minimum score identified in the Solar Pollinator Habitat and Planning Assessment Scorecard.

The facility is planted and managed in accordance with a pollinator friendly vegetation management standard or pollinator habitat plan .

# DNR's Proposed Designation Process



Two part designation process:

- Part 1: Application
- Part 2: On-site inspection



# Conceptual Application

- Includes completed application
  - General information:
    - See next slide
- Pollinator Habitat Plan
  - Examples on our website
- Scorecard

**Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning and Assessment Form** **DRAFT**

*To be used in the process of site and seed mix planning/designing or site evaluation.*



1a. Percent of site with flowering plant species (select one)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-15 percent  | 5 points  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-30 percent | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 31-45 percent | 15 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46-60 percent | 20 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 61+ percent   | 25 points |

1b. Flowering plant seed mix to be used  
(Points only for seed mix planning; add all that apply)

Includes five or more plant species appropriate for the region or local habitat identified by USDA as beneficial to pollinators 5 points

Amount of seed to be planted (lbs/acre) is determined according to seed provider's recommended application rate and/or planting density for planned species in the target area 5 points

2. Percent of site to be planted with native plant species (select one)

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-50 percent  | 5 points  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 51-75 percent  | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 76-100 percent | 15 points |

3. Planned cover diversity within the ground cover area (# of flowering plant species that will constitute >2 percent cover each, select one)

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9 species        | 5 points  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-19 species      | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 or more species | 15 points |

4. Seasons that will have at least 3 blooming species with >2 percent cover each (add all that apply)

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring       | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early summer | 5 points  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late summer  | 5 points  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall         | 5 points  |

Total:

5. Observed nesting habitat within 0.25 miles (add all that apply)

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare ground with undisturbed, and/or well-drained soil              | 5 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest edge habitat   | 2 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cavity nesting sites (e.g., dead trees, snags, fallen logs, stumps) | 2 points |

Total:

6. Planned existing management practices (add all that apply)

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mowing occurs no more than once per year                  | 5 points       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed establishment plan                               | 10 points      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed monitoring plan                                  | 10 points      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caution of nesting habitat features (e.g. boxes, tunnels) | 0.2 points per |

Total:

7. Vegetation "screen" adjacent to the solar site (add all that apply)

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least 50% of screen area planted with flowering plant species | 5 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least 50% of screen area planted with native plant species    | 5 points |

Total:

8. Signage/Education (add all that apply)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three or more signs legible at 40 feet stating pollinator habitat                             | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bench and educational display suitable to outdoor conditions regarding the pollinator habitat | 5 points  |

Total:

9. Pesticide risk

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planned on-site insecticide use | -40 points |
|--|------------|

Grand Total:

Meets Standard 70-84  
Provides Exceptional Habitat >85

Developer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
Target Seeding Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed forms to: MD Dept. of Agriculture, MD Dept. of Natural Resources PPRP

**DRAFT**  
24

# Application Includes:



- Application, Pollinator Habitat Plan and Scorecard sent to DNR
  - Required Contents of Application
    - Name, address of contact owner/developer, ....blah blah blah.
    - Proposed or existing facility?
    - Identify land parcel, boundaries, acreage (must be more than 1 acre)
    - Describe the facility.

# Application Process

- Application reviewed
  - Approved – or
  - Incomplete



# Application Process – cont'd



- If the Application is Approved
  - The applicant moves forward with their Plan, hire a consultant (if necessary)
  - Consultant and applicant refine the Pollinator Habitat Plan
    - Final application, Scorecard and Pollinator Plan are submitted for Approval
    - According to the Bill - site must be planted and managed prior to certification.

# Application Modification



- Modification after Final Application approval may include unforeseen significant changes in the VM Plan
- Submit appropriate paperwork.
- Reviewed by MDA and DNR



# Certification Renewal



- A new inspection is required every 2 years.
  - Submit Renewal Application and Scorecard

Regulation may have a DNR cancellation clause to remove the Certification

# Application Process



- Questions for the group:
  - Who can submit an application – owner and/or developer?
  - Should there be a timeline on the Application resubmittal?
  - How many solar sites will apply?
  - Are there examples of Pollinator Habitat Plans for solar sites?

**DRAFT**



**Solar Site Pollinator Habitat  
Planning and Assessment Form**

*To be used in the process of site and seed mix planning/designing or site evaluation.*

1a. Percent of site with flowering plant species (select one)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 31-45 percent | 15 points |
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1b. Flowering plant seed mix to be used  
(Points only for seed mix planning; add all that apply)

Includes five or more plant species appropriate for the region or local habitat identified by USDA as beneficial to pollinators 5 points

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|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
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|  |          |
|--|----------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest edge habitat   | 2 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cavity nesting sites (e.g., dead trees, snags, fallen logs, shrubs) | 2 points |

Total:

6. Planned existing management practices (add all that apply)

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mowing occurs no more than once per year                   | 5 points       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed establishment plan                                | 10 points      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed monitoring plan                                   | 10 points      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation of nesting habitat features (e.g. boxes, tunnels) | 0.2 points per |

Total:

7. Vegetation "screen" adjacent to the solar site (add all that apply)

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least 50% of screen area planted with flowering plant species | 5 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least 50% of screen area planted with native plant species    | 5 points |

Total:

8. Signage/Education (add all that apply)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three or more signs legible at 40 feet stating pollinator habitat                             | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bench and educational display suitable to outdoor conditions regarding the pollinator habitat | 5 points  |

Total:

9. Pesticide risk

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planned on-site insecticide use | -40 points |
|--|------------|

Grand Total

Meets Standard 70-84  
Provides Exceptional Habitat >85

Developer: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Target Seeding Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed forms to: MD Dept. of Agriculture, MD Dept. of Natural Resources PPRP

**DRAFT**

# Scorecard

# Scorecard

- Is a means to measure the potential benefit of the site for pollinators
- Receive points for benefits
- Minus points for negative impacts



# Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning and Assessment Scorecard



- According to SB 1158 (page 3 and 4)

The Scorecard must be:

- Recommended by Univ. of MD
- May be updated or amended only once every two years
- Applies only to Solar Generation Facilities



# For Example...

- Percent of facility with flowering plant species including trees
  - 30-45 percent
  - 46-60 percent
  - 61 or greater percent



# Seed Mix

- Points for number of species in the seed mix identified by USDA as beneficial to pollinators
- Lbs./acre of seed to be planted
- Points for seed mix with multiple blooming seasons.



# Site Prep

- Is the facility properly prepared for plantings/seeding?
- Credit for planned BMPs including:
  - Minimizing Mowing
  - Creating nesting habitat
  - Invasive species control
  - Bare ground



# Scorecard Criteria

- Creating pollinator habitat outside the fence
- Signage
- Educational events
- Points subtracted –  
Insecticide use



# Vegetative Buffer?



# RIVERSIDE SOLAR FARM, NY



# RIVERSIDE SOLAR FARM, NY

## ARTIST RENDERING



# Scorecard Criteria

## Recommendations for Scorecard Criteria?



# Next Steps



- Application Forms will be web-based
  - <http://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Pages/pollinator.aspx>
- Generate Pollinator Habitat Plan Guidelines

Maryland.gov Phone Directory State Agencies Online Services Translate



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



HOME LANDS WATERS PARKS **FISHING** HUNTING BOATING WILDLIFE TREES

### Power Plant Research Program

- > [Power Plant Home](#)
- > [Power Plant Research Advisory Committee](#)
- > [Renewable Portfolio Standard Work Group](#)
- > [Energy Storage Work Group](#)
- > [Power Plants in Maryland](#)
- > [Power Plant Licensing](#)
- > [Other Program Activities](#)
- > [Projects Under Review](#)
- > [Request for Proposals](#)
- > [Smart Siting](#)
- > [Contact the Program](#)

## Solar Generation Facilities - Pollinator-Friendly Designation

The Pollinator-Friendly Designation Program bill (  SB 1158) was signed by Governor Larry Hogan in May 2017. SB 1158 established a pollinator-friendly designation program for commercial ground-mounted solar facilities. The bill did have a scorecard attached which will serve as the initial basis for pollinator-friendly designation of a site.



There are several steps that the department is coordinating before moving forward including:

- Drafting and adopting regulation
- Developing a commercial solar pollinator-friendly application form
- Assembling a workgroup to review the regulation, scorecard and applications

This webpage will be updated with the latest information including the designation process and all necessary forms. Please contact Bob Sadzinski at the Power Plant Research Program with questions: [bob.sadzinski@maryland.gov](mailto:bob.sadzinski@maryland.gov).

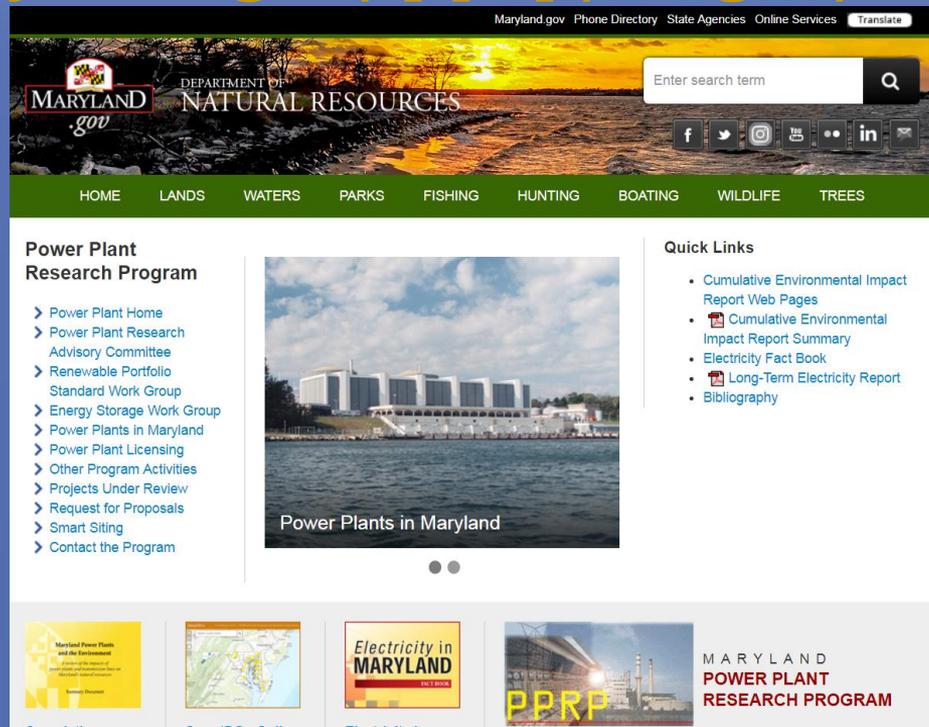
### Pollinator Habitat Workgroup Members

- Matt Tefteau - Chairman
- Marcia Haas - SunEast Dev.
- Jennifer Selfridge - MD DNR

# PPRP Webpage



- <http://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Pages/default.aspx>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the PPRP (Power Plant Research Program) on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website. The header includes the DNR logo, a search bar, and social media icons. A green navigation bar contains links for HOME, LANDS, WATERS, PARKS, FISHING, HUNTING, BOATING, WILDLIFE, and TREES. The main content area features a "Power Plant Research Program" section with a list of links and a "Quick Links" section with a list of reports. A large image of a power plant is also visible.

Navigation: HOME LANDS WATERS PARKS FISHING HUNTING BOATING WILDLIFE TREES

### Power Plant Research Program

- › Power Plant Home
- › Power Plant Research Advisory Committee
- › Renewable Portfolio Standard Work Group
- › Energy Storage Work Group
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- › Contact the Program

### Quick Links

- Cumulative Environmental Impact Report Web Pages
- Cumulative Environmental Impact Report Summary
- Electricity Fact Book
- Long-Term Electricity Report
- Bibliography

Power Plants in Maryland

Maryland Power Plants and the Environment

Electricity in MARYLAND

PPRP

MARYLAND POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM

# Workgroup Next Steps



- Written comments accepted for next 2 weeks.
- Material and minutes will be posted to website.
- Scorecard approval through University of Maryland Bee Lab
- Regulations updated and officially submitted
  - Public comment period
- Adoption

A dense field of wildflowers, primarily yellow and white, with green foliage. The flowers are scattered throughout the frame, creating a vibrant and textured background. The text is overlaid on this natural scene.

**The End**

**Bob.Sadzinski@Maryland.gov**