How 1 Percent Energy Savings Will Help Lower Energy Costs for Low-Income Marylanders

Low-Income Marylanders Face High Energy Burdens:

- Low-income Marylanders face an unsustainable combination of high energy costs and poorly insulated homes and apartments. From rural Maryland to Baltimore City, these residents often endure broken HVAC systems, drafty windows, and unreliable electrical systems, all of which contribute to high energy bills and unhealthy living conditions.

- **Maryland's low-income residents pay 550% more** as a portion of income for energy than non low-income Marylanders. The majority of these households (55%) are Black, Hispanic, or Asian households, meaning the racial disparities evident in the availability of quality, affordable housing also affects the distribution of high energy burdens. Money they spend on higher than average utility bills is money they cannot use for other daily necessities, from school supplies to medical bills. (APPRISE Report, October 2018)

- **Maryland lags behind other states** in helping low-income residents achieve energy savings and lower their energy costs. Nationally, low-income households dedicate 8% of their annual incomes to energy costs, while Maryland's low-income households pay 13%. (APPRISE Report)

- At Maryland's current funding levels, **it will take 130 years** for state programs to provide energy efficient upgrades in all 450,000 limited-income households.

- Marylanders can't afford to wait. Residents in low-income homes already endure dangerous heat in poorly insulated homes, including one Baltimore City child's bedroom where **the heat index reached 113 degrees** in July 2019. (Capital News Service, Code Red: Heat & Inequality, September 2019)

**1 Percent Energy Savings Can Reduce Utility Bills for
Low Income Marylanders:**

- Maryland has no energy efficiency goal for low-income households most in need of energy savings. Marylanders with the highest energy burden in the state get the least amount of benefit from customer-funded energy efficiency programs.

- To solve this problem, Energy Efficient Maryland urges Maryland to **set a goal of 1% annual energy savings for low-income households** (at or below 80% of the area median income). That means achieving energy consumption savings equal to 1% of annual low-income electricity demand and .5% of annual low income gas demand in Maryland.

- The savings would be achieved by increasing funding for the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development's Multifamily Energy Efficiency & Housing Affordability (MEEHA) program and the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program (LIEEP) programs.

- The programs enable state-funded home energy performance audits in qualified low-income homes and then fund needed **energy efficiency improvements such as new insulation, better windows, EnergyStar® appliances, LED lightbulbs** and more.

- 1% energy savings would also **achieve greater energy equity for all low-income Marylanders**, especially minority households that currently pay disproportionately higher costs.

- **Both rural and urban Marylanders would benefit.** One in every five low-income Marylanders lives outside of urban areas. (APPRISE Report)

About Energy Efficient Maryland:

Energy Efficient Maryland is dedicated to lowering energy costs for Maryland households, preserving affordable housing, protecting Maryland's environment, and building a stronger state economy through energy efficiency. Our Partners are business, consumer, health, environmental, energy efficiency, and affordable housing advocates who see how strong energy efficiency policies benefit the lives of everyday Marylanders. Learn more at energyefficientmaryland.org. Energy Efficient Maryland is the Maryland affiliate of Energy Efficiency for All and the Network for Energy, Water and Health in Affordable Buildings, a national organization and member network dedicated to linking the energy and housing sectors to tap the benefits of energy efficiency for millions of low-income households.