



## Why Energy Efficiency?

### History

- 2006: North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) issued warning to Maryland that electricity supply and reliability were at risk if steps to reduce energy usage were not taken.
- 2008: EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 established a statewide goal of 15% reduction in per capita electricity consumption and peak demand by the end of 2015.
- 2017: [Section 7-211 of the Public Utilities Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland](#) updated with a new annual energy savings goal of 2% of gross energy sales through 2023.
- 2022: goals increased to 2.25% in 2025 and 2026 and to 2.5% in 2027+ by Climate Solutions Now Act.

### Benefits

- EmPOWER programs generate approximately \$2.12 in benefits for every \$1 spent.
- Expected savings of nearly \$15 billion over the life of the installed energy efficiency measures through the end of 2023.
- **System-wide benefits:** avoided investments in transmission infrastructure, distribution infrastructure, and peak production capacity.
- **Societal benefits:** reduced air pollution emissions, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and increased reliability and security.
- **Participant benefits:** reduced costs for operating and maintaining equipment like HVAC systems, reduced costs in energy bills, and improved health and comfort.

### Historic Performance

- EmPOWER programs have saved 16,441,741 MWh and 3,231 MW of peak demand.
  - This is equivalent to reducing 11.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide or the greenhouse emissions from:
    - Over 2.7 million vehicles driven or over 2.2 million homes' energy use for one year.
- \$4.59 billion spent on both energy efficiency programs and demand response programs since 2009.
- For the average residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month, the 2024 EmPOWER surcharge ranges between \$8.50 and \$11.55 depending on the utility.

### Milestones for the Future

- Semi-annual hearings on 2024-2026 plans held in the spring and fall.