

Comments to MWG draft recommendations, October 4, 2022

The MWG has made some great progress. I do have some observations....

As many have stated, electrification of all new private vehicles, trucks and buses will impose a severe strain on the electric grid, requiring rapid expansion on electric generation capacity and storage. Other than natural gas plants, I do not foresee any way to provide enough new capacity quickly enough – and these plants will add more greenhouse gases, offsetting much of the reduction from the transportation sector. Encouragement of purchase of small PVs to replace SUVs would help. The report's encouragement of increased funding for walking and bicycle facilities and public transportation would really help.

Solar farms. I am one of those who would require convincing of their development. These fields remove lots of farm field from circulation and create more impervious surfaces, aggravating storm runoff and flash flood potential. This issue is discussed in the September 13<sup>th</sup> Delmarva farmer:

“In the Chesapeake watershed, Maryland and Pennsylvania have policies that either consider the panels pervious under most conditions or exempt them from being considered impervious for the purposes for the purpose of stormwater management.

Until March, Virginia did too. That's when the state's Department of Environmental Quality Director Mike Rolband announced that solar projects there would be subject to stronger post-development stormwater regulations, effective immediately.

In a memo announcing the change, Rolband said that treating solar installations as pervious cover could “underestimate the post-development runoff volume or runoff rate from solar panel arrays, which in turn has the potential to negatively impact downstream waterways or properties.” He noted that the Chesapeake Bay Program considers solar fields “unconnected Impervious” when calculating the impact of land use on water quality in the Bay and its rivers.”

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