

HB 31

Expanding Clean Energy Microgrids for LMI Communities

Clean Energy Microgrids keep community members safe during power outages.

Microgrids are localized grids that can disconnect from the traditional grid to operate autonomously. During events which compromise the grid, microgrids are essential infrastructure that provide “resiliency hubs” for Marylanders. “At a minimum, Resiliency Hubs provide emergency heating and cooling; refrigeration of temperature sensitive medications; plug power for charging of cell phone and computer batteries; ventilation and emergency lighting.”¹

Sources of grid stress are varied and increasing in Maryland. They include many types of adverse events including excessive heat, ice, fallen trees, high winds and large-scale service outages.

This Bill

- ✓ Expands “Resilience Hub” funding
- ✓ Targets microgrid development in LMI neighborhoods
- ✓ Develops opportunities for community ownership of solar
- ✓ Coordinates efforts with emergency preparedness funding
- ✓ Prepares the state to accept more federal funds for these efforts

Microgrid systems are already being constructed.

Here in Maryland.

Empowerment Temple- Baltimore

Status: Construction to begin in early 2022
Quick Facts: With a 500 kwh storage capacity, **this microgrid can operate for 3 days cut off from the grid on its battery bank alone.**

POWER House- Baltimore

Status: Complete
Quick Facts: System was successfully tested in 2018 when it maintained power through a multiple city block power outage caused by extreme heat.²

In other states.

St. Peter Apartments- New Orleans, LA

Size: 45,000 SF with 50 residential units
Quick Facts: This system powers a 45,000 SF building comprised of 50 residential units. So far, **this microgrid has kept the lights on through three storms: Hurricane Zeta, Winter Storm Uri, and Hurricane Ida.**³

If you have questions on this bill, please call the Office of Delegate Lorig Charkoudian at 410-841-3423 or email us at lorig.charkoudian@house.state.md.us

²

<https://news.maryland.gov/mea/2018/11/08/resiliency-hubs-are-an-open-invitation-to-help-neighborhoods/>

³

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90671663/in-new-orleans-a-solar-microgrid-is-keeping-lights-on-in-this-affordable-apartment-building>

¹ <https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Resiliency-Hub.aspx>