



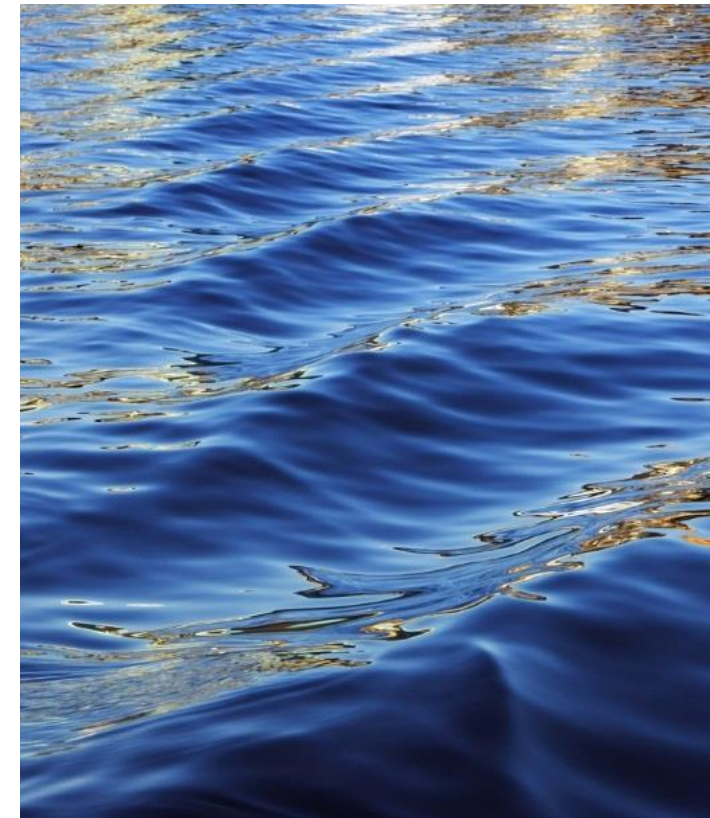
Becoming an Advocate for Climate Policy

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HoLLIE

*Howard County Legacy Leadership
Institute for the Environment*





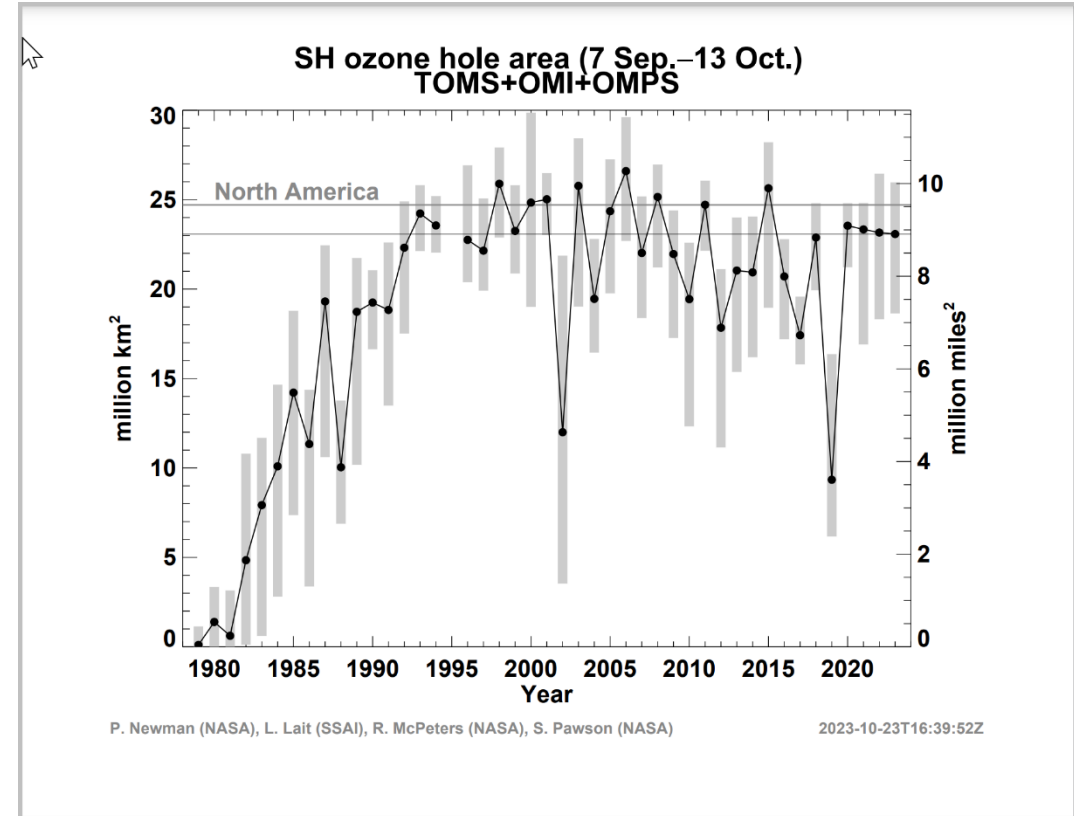
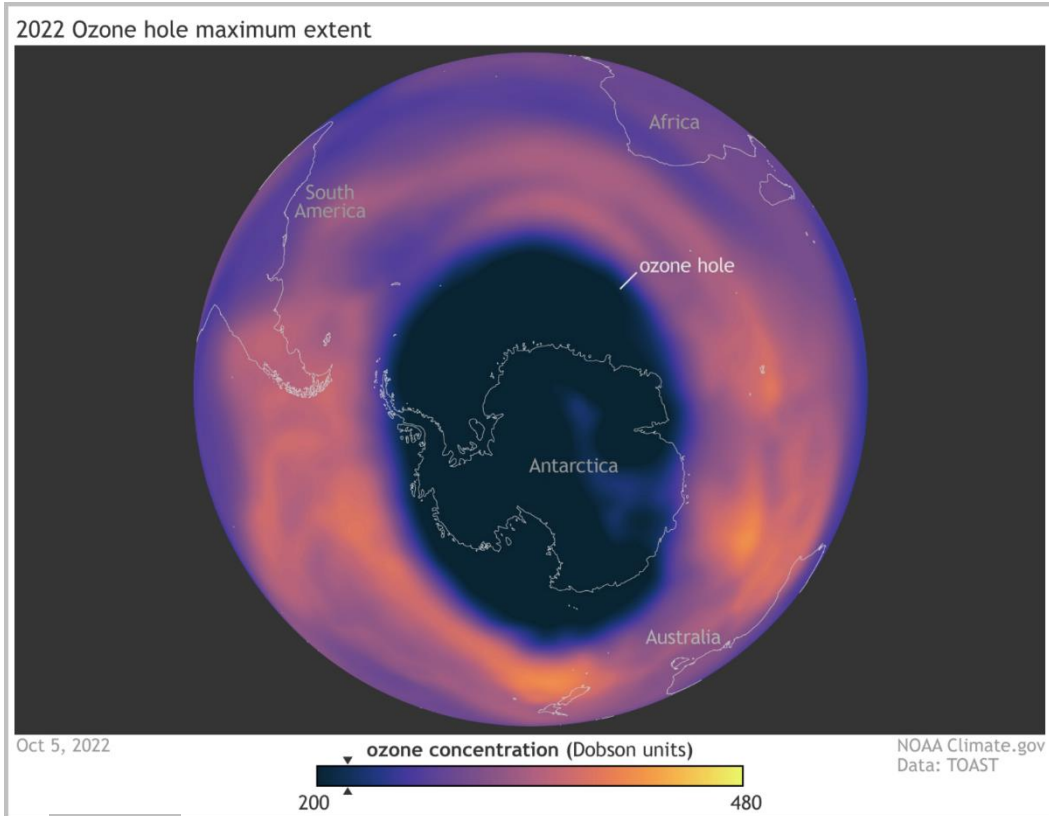
Dr. Sara Via

**Professor & Climate Extension
Specialist
University of Maryland, College Park**

**Find webinar videos from 2020-2023 and sign
up for the Newsletter at
www.climatecorner.org**

The hole in the Ozone layer after the Montreal Protocol U.N. Treaty, 1987

Max size 2006, complete healing predicted 2060



NOAA www.climate.gov

Some things we MUST do TOGETHER



**Climate Policy is
TOO IMPORTANT
to be left
to Politicians.**



Becoming a Climate Policy Advocate

STEP 1: Be Informed about legislation in play and upcoming elections

STEP 2: Pitch in as often as you can



Howard County

- County Council meets at the George Howard Bldg in Ellicott City – easy access, free lighted parking, next to Police Headquarters
- Council is 5 district reps
- Know your district # and your rep: Based on your address
 - Go to <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/>
 - Click the **Who Represents Me** button for your reps contact info
- There is a **ContactUs** button with a form you can submit with questions or comments
- Call your councilperson ANYTIME
- councilmail@howardcountymd.gov Goes to the whole council

For other counties, start at www.maryland.gov

Get yourself on an email list for county climate legislation



For example:

<https://www.hococlimateaction.org/>

Sign up & get newsletters and alerts!



RESPOND TO REQUESTS for emails and calls to politicians, or show up when you can to events. It's all about NUMBERS of supporters once you get legislation in play.



Maryland State

- State of Maryland legislature is called the “General Assembly”
- It meets in Annapolis only 90 days starting in January each year (2024: Jan 10 – April 8)
- You are represented by 2 delegates to the MD State House and 1 delegate to the MD State Senate, based on your address
- Find out your district and who your reps are:
<http://mdelect.net/>



Your address goes here



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for various services. Below it, the title 'Elected Officials Near Me.' is displayed. A search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for an address or locate on map' is present. Below the search bar, there's a section titled 'Maryland Elected Officials'. Under this section, there's a heading 'Your Elected Officials' followed by a list of officials with their names underlined: Governor - [Wes Moore](#), Lt. Governor - [Aruna Miller](#), Attorney General - [Anthony G. Brown](#), Comptroller - [Brooke Elizabeth Lierman](#), US Senators: [Benjamin L. Cardin](#) and [Christopher Van Hollen Jr.](#), US Representative: 3RD District [John P. Sarbanes](#), State Senator: District 9A [Katie Fry Hester](#), and State Delegate(s): District 9A [Chao Wu](#) and [Natalie Ziegler](#).

Clicking the underlined name gives you contact info



The screenshot shows a website profile for Kathryn A. (Katie) Fry Hester. The navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'CONTACT', 'GLANCE', and 'EXECUTIVE'. The profile features a photo of Kathryn A. (Katie) Fry Hester, a Democrat from District 9, Howard County. Her contact information is listed: James Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401; phone numbers (410) 841-3671 and (301) 858-3671; e-mail: katiefry.hester@senate.maryland.gov; fax: (410) 841-3395, (301) 858-3395; web: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/sen.html>. Below the photo, it states she is a Member of Senate since January 9, 2019 (representing Carroll and Montgomery counties since Jan. 11, 2023), Deputy Majority Whip, and Chair of the Senate Committee on [Audit and Evaluation](#).

Get yourself on an email list for State Climate Legislation alerts



Examples:

<https://www.hococlimateaction.org/>
Sign up for newsletters & updates



<https://indivisiblehocomd.org>
Sign up for the Environmental Action Team



<https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/>
Sign up for updates, see testimony



NUMBERS MATTER!!! MAKE THE CALL!!

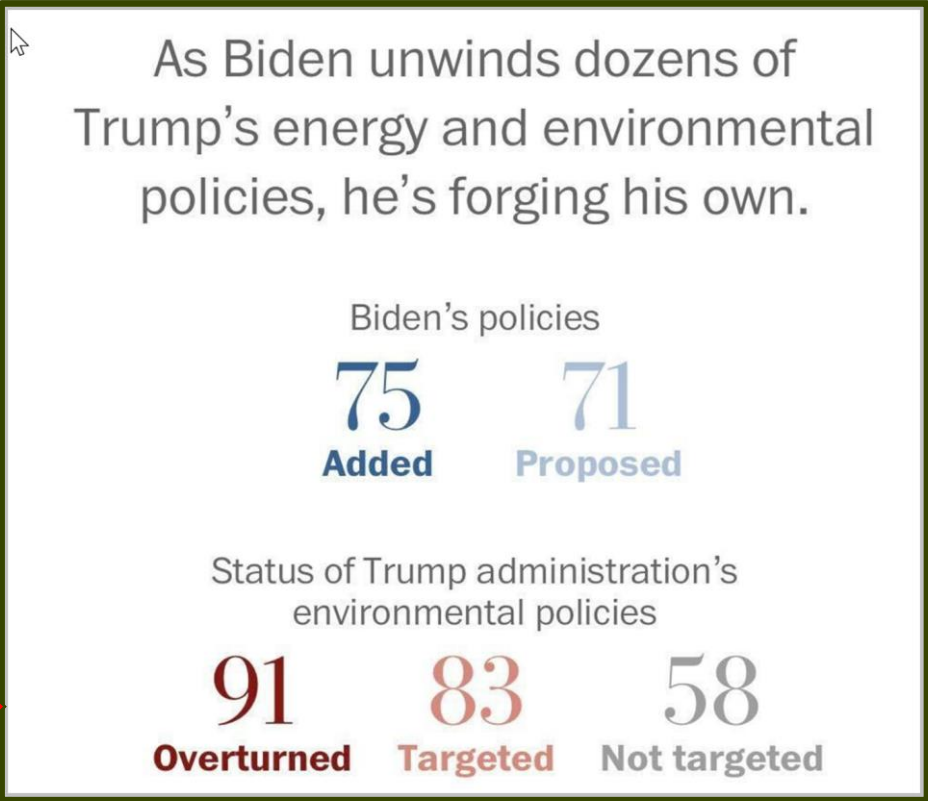


Federal Elections

- You are represented in the US Congress by two Senators and 1 member of the House of Representatives.
- The 2 Senators are for the entire state.
- Your member of the House of Representatives depends on your district which depends on your address.
- ANYBODY can call the Congressional switchboard and give your opinion on ANYTHING to your senators and your rep. 202-224-3121
- Our Senators and (most) MD reps are firmly in the pro-environment camp



Biden signed the biggest pro-climate, clean-energy bill in history August 2022 (Inflation Reduction Act)



Source: Washington Post Climate Coach, Oct 26 2023
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/newsletters/climate-coach/>

Federal Elections – MD & Other States



- The US House is controlled by a 5-seat Anti-climate majority
- The US Senate is controlled by a 1-seat Pro-climate majority

***WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE COMPLACENT BECAUSE
MARYLAND IS OK***

- The GOOD NEWS:

You can work in almost ANY ELECTION IN ANY STATE

- *Best to focus on swing states*
- *Don't ignore state-level elections – statehouses control WHO COUNTS THE VOTES*

Get yourself on an email list to work-from-home on out of state elections



Examples:

<https://swingleft.org>



<https://indivisiblehocomd.org>

Sign up for general emails or sign up for the Red2Blue Action Team



<https://www.mobilize.us/>
Search for yourself





Things you can do from your computer

Phone banks, Text banks to anywhere

- Candidate support
- Get-Out-The-Vote contacts
 - Mail-in-ballot help
 - Registration checking
 - Redistricting follow up
- Voter Registration
- Ballot Curing



WHY DOES A SMALL THING MATTER?

Critical elections now are decided by 1% - 2% of the votes.

WE HAVE THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT because of the GA Senators elected in 2020, decided by less than 1.5% of the vote.

Becoming an Advocate for Climate Policy



- Don't tune out
- Be aware
- Pitch in when you can



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TOO IMPORTANT
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to Politicians.**

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.” – Alice Walker



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