

# Disconnect Among Policy Goals

Working Group #4

# Common Themes

- ▶ A major repeated theme is that **Maryland lacks a clearly shared framework for balancing affordability, reliability, and climate objectives.**
- ▶ Repeated points:
  - ▶ affordability is often discussed without a consistent definition
  - ▶ reliability and decarbonization are treated as separate policy conversations
  - ▶ infrastructure timelines do not align with policy timelines
- ▶ Several respondents note that many **policy debates become prolonged because stakeholders are not operating from the same affordability metric.**

# Areas of Disagreement

- ▶ The biggest disagreement is **how much current policy conflict reflects real tradeoffs versus implementation problems.**
- ▶ One group argues:
  - ▶ climate policy has moved faster than infrastructure can support.
- ▶ Another group argues that the goals themselves are compatible, but the mismatch arises from:
  - ▶ permitting delays
  - ▶ staffing shortages
  - ▶ PJM queue delays

# Particularly Interesting Points

- ▶ One particularly important observation is that Maryland has not defined whether affordability means lower immediate bills or lowest lifetime total cost.
- ▶ Throughout the survey and policy conversations stakeholders are using different definitions of affordability.
- ▶ Another interesting repeated theme is that “No-regrets” actions often still stall in process.

# Potential Solutions

*As identified by working group participants in a survey earlier this year.*

Solution	Working Group
Better define gas generators in state classification as “non-residential”	Disconnect Among Policy Goals, Financing & Market Design
Clarify that the Natural Gas Line Extension Order (2025) should not apply to new gas generation facilities	Disconnect Among Policy Goals, Financing & Market Design
Target brownfields, rooftops, and other zones instead of productive farmland for renewable development	Disconnect Among Policy Goals, Supply & Demand
Economic impact analysis before environmental mandates enacted	Disconnect Among Policy Goals, Supply & Demand, Transmission & Distribution