

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:
“GOAT NOAT” FOR JANUARY 2022

2022 Legislative Session: Two Bills of Particular Interest

On January 12th, the Maryland General Assembly will convene for the 2022 legislative session. It is hard to know how the upcoming election in November 2022 will influence the political calculus of decision-making in the Assembly that runs for 90 days and closes on April 11th. GOAT, through its participation in Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM) and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), will be keeping track of some key pieces of environmental legislation and seeking engagement from Homewood Friends Meeting. A top priority will be early passage of the **Climate Solutions Now (CSN) Act**. After failing to pass in the closing hours of the 2021 General Assembly, this comprehensive and multi faceted bill has garnered even stronger support. The strategy will be to pass the bills in both chambers and resolve any differences, early in the session. If the Governor chooses to veto the legislation, he will be required by law to do so during the session. The Assembly can then override the Governor’s veto before the session ends.

If this happens many observers believe that the **Maryland Environmental Human Rights (MDEHR) Amendment** has a better chance of passing the Assembly than ever before. If passed, the Amendment would be sent to the voters for a decision in the November 2022 General Election.

GOAT is very interested in and supportive of these efforts. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business heard from GOAT on 12/5/21. Renewing our commitment to support Climate Solutions Now – it was approved in 2021 – and sign onto a resolution in support of the Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment will be on the agenda on January 9th Meeting for Business. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Gary Gillespie, Clerk of GOAT, or John McKusick, GOAT member.

Other news from GOAT:

As part of the Centenary Celebration, we are working on an electronic pamphlet that will summarize and plot over time, the many improvements that Homewood – primarily the House and Grounds Committee – has made

over the years to reduce our carbon footprint and increase the energy efficiency of the building.



The garden keeps on giving even as winter overtakes Maryland! While we may not be in the building for a while due to the raging omicron variant, the garden features some plants with an abundance of colorful berries. This person's (John's) favorite is American Beauty Berry with its gorgeous purple berries.

Image credit and purchasing information when they aren't sold out:
<https://nursery.dnr.maryland.gov/product-p/beautyberry.htm>

Members of GOAT are: Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, Luke Mayhew, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, and Heather Ravlin