Clerk’s Note: The section number on the first page and in Line 1 were corrected to reflect the sections of County law amended by Bill 33-18

Bill No. 33-18
Concerning: Environmental Sustainability
- Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program – Property Tax Surcharge
Revised: 11/8/2018 Draft No. 3
Introduced: October 2, 2018
Enacted: November 13, 2018
Executive: Returned unsigned; becomes law November 27, 2018
Effective: February 26, 2019
Sunset Date: None
Ch. 31, Laws of Mont. Co. 2018

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Berliner
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Katz and Elrich, Council President Riemer,
Councilmember Hucker, Council Vice-President Navarro, and Councilmember Rice

AN ACT to:
(1) require the County to add the property tax surcharge to the property tax bill within a certain timeframe; and
(2) generally amend County laws related to the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program and environmental sustainability.

By amending
Montgomery County Code
Chapter 18A, Environmental Sustainability
[[Section]] Sections 18A-35 and 18A-36

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

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Sec. 1. [[Section]] Sections 18A-35 and 18A-36 [[is]] are amended as follows:

18A-35. Eligibility.

In order to be eligible for this Program, the following criteria must be met:

(a) Eligibility.

* * * *

(3) The property owner must submit the following to the private lender or the County designated lender at the time of application for funding:

(A) express written consent of any holder of an existing mortgage or deed of trust on a qualified property; [[and]]

(B) verification that there are no delinquent fees, taxes, water or sewer charges or other special assessments on the qualified property[[; and]]

(C) confirmation that the proposed improvements will be properly permitted and permanently affixed to the qualified property and comply with all applicable State and federal statutes and regulations, as determined by the appropriate regulatory authority.

* * * *

(b) Property assessed clean energy surcharge.

(1) The property owner of qualified property must agree to repay the amount financed through a surcharge levied on the County’s real property tax bill for the qualified property.

(2) A surcharge [[may]] must be imposed under a written agreement between the County designated lender or private lender and the County. The surcharge will be recorded in land records of the
County, at the expense of the owner, within 30 days of the execution of a clean energy loan financing agreement.

(3) As a condition for entering into an agreement under the Program, the County designated lender or private lender must provide the County designated program manager and the Department a copy of the loan documents and documents that verify:

(A) the property owner’s ability to repay the Property Assessed Clean Energy loan in a manner substantially similar to that required for a mortgage loan;

(B) there are no delinquent taxes, special assessments, or water or sewer charges on the qualified property;

(C) there are no delinquent assessments on the qualified property under the Program;

(D) [[the property owner has obtained all necessary permits;]

(E) the improvement is permanently affixed to the qualified property and complies with all applicable State and federal statutes and regulations, as determined by the appropriate regulatory authority;

(F))]] existing mortgage or deed of trust lender consent;

([[G)]]] (E) appraised value of the qualified property as certified in the appraisal report submitted by a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser if the eligibility requirement in 18A-35(a)(4) is based on the appraised value of the qualified property;

(H))]] (F) loan to value documentation; and

([[I)]]] (G) any other financial or program document that the Director deems necessary.
18A-36. Payment of surcharge; lien.

(a) The County must collect the amount financed through a surcharge on the property owner’s real property tax bill and forward payments received by the County to the County designated program manager or, if there is no County designated program manager, to the lender no later than 30 days after the payment due dates for real property taxes. Payment due dates for semi-annual real property taxes are September 30 for the first installment and December 31 for the second installment, and for annual real property taxes the payment due date is September 30.

(b) After receiving written notice from the County designated program manager of the execution of a clean energy loan financing agreement, the County must add the surcharge to the property tax bill [on July 1 of the year immediately following execution of the clean energy loan financing agreement].

(c) If the property owner sells the qualified property, the buyer must continue to pay the surcharge levied on the annual property tax bill.

[(c) (d) The surcharge and any accrued interest or penalty constitutes a first lien on the real property to which the surcharge applies until paid. An unpaid surcharge will be, until paid, a lien on the qualified property on which it is imposed from the date it becomes payable. The surcharge will accrue interest and penalty and will be treated and collected like all other County property taxes. Any delinquency will be collected through the County Tax Sale process. The provisions of Title 14, Subtitle 8 of the Tax – Property Article of the Maryland Code that apply to a tax lien will also apply to the lien created under this law. Any delinquent surcharge collected through the County Tax Sale process must be]
forwarded to the County designated program manager or, if there is no County designated program manager, to the lender no later than 30 days after the payment was received.
Approved:

Hans D. Riemer, President, County Council

Approved:

Returned Unsigned

Isiah Leggett, County Executive

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq., Clerk of the Council