



VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK

www.vcnva.org | 804.644.0283

About VCN and our Role

125 Nonprofits and Community Groups

Aggregate Power

- Pool Expertise
- Collaborative Advocacy

Elevate Issues

- Public Officials
- Opinion Leaders/Media
- Grassroots

Attain Conservation Victories

- General Assembly
- Regulatory Process



VCN Mission Statement

- *The Virginia Conservation Network combines the voices of environmental organizations across Virginia to conserve our commonwealth's natural resources and ensure its future prosperity.*



VCN Resources & Programs

www.VCNVA.org

- ❑ “Our Common Agenda” Briefing Book
- ❑ Advocacy Campaigns
- ❑ Conservation Events
- ❑ Grants
- ❑ Job Openings
- ❑ Give Online

Ways to Get Involved

- ❑ Legislative Workshop
{Dec. 5, Richmond}
- ❑ Conservation Lobby Day
{Jan. 18, Richmond}
- ❑ Environmental Assembly
- ❑ Legislative Contact Teams





Process

Transparent, Ongoing, Strategic



Setting Our Common Agenda

VCN Workgroups

- 5 issue areas: land, energy, water, forests, transportation
- Open to all VCN affiliates
- Monthly Mar.-Nov.
- Draft white papers
- Regulatory watchdogging

Legislative Committee

- Reviews white papers for Briefing Book
- Assess legislative strategy
- Recommend priorities
- Meet twice weekly during session



Advancing Our Common Agenda

Policy Makers

- Briefing Book to all legislators, agencies
- In-district meetings with key volunteers
- Sample bills, support to champions
- Testify to committees
- Leverage mass media

Citizens

- Legislative Contact Teams
- Legislative Workshop
- Conservation Lobby Day
{Jan. 18, Richmond}
- E-mail updates and online activism





Clean Energy



Key Energy Issues

- Energy Efficiency Resource Standard
{maintain adequate incentives, set hard targets}
- Inclining Block Rates for Residential Customers
{make the first kilowatt the cheapest}
- Peak-Shaving and Demand Management
{utilize smart grid, time-of-day-pricing}
- Renewable Energy Incentives
{offshore wind, solar, biomass}





Healthy Rivers



Key Water Issues

- **Stormwater Management**
{uphold science-based standards that citizens support}
- **Nutrient Pollution**
{uphold achievable permits for wastewater treatment plants}
- **Agricultural BMPs**
{don't starve a thriving program}
- **End Valley Fills in Southwest Virginia**
{keep coal mining waste out of streams}





Green Communities



Key Community Issues

- **Transit and Transportation Choices**
{more trains, buses, sidewalks and bike lanes}
- **Land Conservation Funding**
{tax credits and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation}
- **Urban Development Areas that Work**
{UDAs should focus (re)development for smarter growth}
- **Proffers and/or Impact Fees**
{New development should pay its fair share}





Green Government



Key Governing Issues

- **Bipartisan Redistricting**
{put integrity back in the system}
- **Green Government Buildings**
{invest taxpayer money wisely}
- **End Tax Credits for MTR Coal**
{reallocate money to better serve the coalfields}





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