

# ANNUAL REPORT

**VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK**  
*2019-2020*





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## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### VCN IS A PROUD MEMBER PARTNER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After one of the most successful General Assembly sessions in history for the conservation movement in Virginia, we all suddenly found ourselves working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I quickly shifted spending my days building and running strategic campaigns with our Network Partners to figuring out how to build a spaceship out of an old cardboard box and leftover tissue paper with my four-year-old.



As you are navigating this new normal and whichever new challenges have been handed your way, I hope you'll join me in taking a quick break to reflect on the great work we accomplished together over the last year.

Over the next few pages you'll see the finished product - the victories VCN and our 125+ Network Partners accomplished together. You won't see the long hours and personal commitment made by the hundreds of advocates in Virginia's conservation community.

You will see that together we secured historic investments for natural resources in the budget and a plan to move our utilities to zero carbon by 2045. We finally banned offshore drilling in Virginia's waters, codified the Environmental Justice Council, and saw game-changing commitments to public transportation and rail infrastructure.

Our success is thanks to our ability to work together as a community - by identifying shared policy priorities early and building the public support these ideas need to win. This doesn't happen by accident. This past year VCN turned 50. Thanks to the incredible work of many before me, VCN became a trusted partnership for shared, strategic thinking. Over the past few years, those decades of experience have been infused with new, young leadership across our Network. As VCN works to lift up those voices, we are redefining the face of the conservation community and securing significant policy victories along the way.

If you're reading this, you were likely part of our work this last year. Thank you. Looking forward to our continued work together.

Mary Rafferty  
Executive Director

# FIGHTING FOR CONSERVATION VICTORIES YEAR-ROUND



VCN's team works year-round to develop a shared policy agenda of the conservation community and then helps build the public support it needs to be successful. This is accomplished through a three-step process: Develop the Common Agenda, Educate the Public, and Advocate and Mobilize.

## 1 DEVELOP THE COMMON AGENDA

VCN's Common Agenda is our shared set of policy priorities developed over a multi-month process and then pursued by our broader partnership through strategic campaigns. VCN kicks off our Common Agenda process during our Spring in-person workgroup planning meetings. Our workgroups meet year round to plan, strategize, and share information.

### VCN currently facilitates four main workgroups:

- Clean Energy / Climate
- Land Use and Transportation
- Healthy Rivers / Chesapeake Bay (in partnership with the Choose Clean Water Coalition)
- Land Conservation (in partnership with VaULT)



**125+**

Network  
Partners

**4**

Initiatives

**1**

Common  
Agenda

## OUR COMMON AGENDA



Our Common Agenda was released August 1st this year - earlier than ever. The annual publication, written by our leading conservation advocates, represents the policy agenda of our Network Partners. It provides an in-depth analysis of the leading conservation issues facing Virginia and provides practical, state-level policy solutions. The early release date came from feedback from policy makers who find the contents incredibly helpful and wanted more time to review the policy recommendations.

This year's briefing book covered a range of important topics including: restoring our rivers and streams to meet our Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals; a pathway to power Virginia with clean energy; transforming our transportation through investments in transit and walkable/bikeable communities; and conserving Virginia's landscape and our outdoor economy from farmlands to hiking trails.

**ALL TOO OFTEN ENVIRONMENTAL BURDENS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT STRUCTURALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES. THIS YEAR, THANKS TO A RECOMMENDATION FROM OUR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, EACH AUTHOR WAS ASKED TO CONSIDER THEIR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH A JUSTICE LENS AND TO CONSIDER HOW THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS MAY IMPACT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES – PARTICULARLY LOWER INCOME VIRGINIANS AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. WHILE WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, THIS WAS A GOOD ADDITIONAL STEP IN THE PROCESS OF ENSURING OUR POLICY PRIORITIES LIFT UP ALL VIRGINIANS.**

## EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

2

Once the Common Agenda is set, VCN works with our partners to build public support for our shared priorities through media coverage, coalition building, public education, and events.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY

The Virginia Environmental Assembly brings together conservation leaders from across the Commonwealth to discuss the Common Agenda.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY PREVIEW

In preparation for Virginia's General Assembly session, VCN and its Network Partners convene for a preview of what's in store for our natural landscapes and resources.



3

## ADVOCATE & MOBILIZE



When the Assembly begins in January, VCN advocates for the Common Agenda. VCN has a team of advocates in the General Assembly building to track, advocate, and coordinate the capacities of VCN Partner advocates.

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The VCN Legislative Committee is chaired and facilitated by Network Partners. The group provides an opportunity for advocates to share information, strategize, and request that VCN take public positions on bills in the General Assembly.

### BILL TRACKER

The public positions taken by VCN's Legislative Committee and Board of Directors are made available weekly on the VCN website and include talking points for the positions taken.

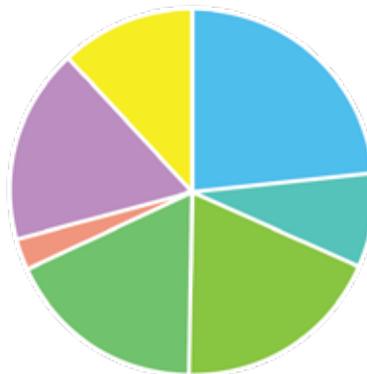
### LOBBY DAY

Volunteer advocates join professional staff to meet with state legislators and encourage them to support strong conservation policy. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## VCN AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year, VCN and its Network Partners enjoyed an unprecedented year for conservation victories. Of the 150 bills supported by the community (compared to just 46 last year), 95 bills passed, while just five of the 25 opposed bills were successful. The following pages highlight these successes.

### BILL POSITIONS



### ISSUE AREAS

- Restoring Virginia's Waters
- Protecting Communities From Toxics
- Building Sustainable Communities
- Powering Virginia With Clean Energy
- Conserving Virginia's Natural Landscapes
- Preserving and Enhancing Wildlife Habitats and Fisheries
- Promoting an Inclusive and Transparent Government

# RESTORING VIRGINIA'S WATERS

This year started the **five-year countdown to meet our Chesapeake Bay clean-up goals**. This session, the legislature passed a plan to reduce pollution from agriculture by fencing cattle from perennial streams and ensuring farms operate under a nutrient management plan. While the suggested \$200 million for the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program was funded only at \$95 million, it was a banner year for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund at \$50 million, and \$50 million for upgrading wastewater treatment plants to modern pollution control standards.

With the removal of outdated language from state code, Virginia is now officially on record requesting removal from the federal government's offshore drilling plan. Moreover, **drilling infrastructure in Virginia's state-managed coastal waters from the coastline to three miles offshore is now prohibited**. This process will protect Virginia's coastal economies and environment from the near-shore activities that specifically accompany the offshore oil and gas extraction industries. Lead campaign partners: *Oceana, Southern Environmental*

*Law Center, Lynnhaven River NOW, and Sierra Club Virginia Chapter.*

Hydraulic fracturing (aka fracking) by the fossil fuel extraction process poses a sizable risk to water quality and quantity of both ground and surface water resources that many depend on for drinking and agricultural needs. As of this year, **fracking in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area is now prohibited**, applying to all of the western shore localities east of the Interstate 95 corridor. Lead campaign partners: *Friends of the Rappahannock and Sierra Club - Rappahannock Group.*

Reducing the amount of plastic used in the Old Dominion received a great deal of attention this session, with a slew of legislation introduced. **Localities are permitted to tax the use of plastic bags**, and an increase to the litter tax will generate more revenue for programs designed to reduce litter. We're expecting another big push to limit plastics next year. Lead campaign partner: *Clean Fairfax.*

# PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM TOXICS

Shockingly, at least 90 percent of people in the United States have human-made chemicals in their bodies. But a growing public health concern, combined with a lack of federal action to regulate these toxic substances, sparked Virginia to pass several pieces of critical legislation. These bills include **funding a**

**study of the prevalence of PFOA, PFOS, and PFAS in public drinking water, and lead testing in public schools and child daycare programs**. Lead campaign partners: *Virginia League of Conservation Voters and James River Association.*

# BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Governor Northam's transportation omnibus will leave an indelible mark on the Commonwealth's mobility policy. By adjusting Virginia's wholesale fuel tax to be on par with national peers, the bill will raise the necessary funding to **shift our state towards a more sustainable transportation policy, both environmentally and financially**. The money raised through this omnibus will help pay for the Governor's historic \$3.7 billion rail package. Lead campaign partners: *Southern Environmental Law Center and Coalition for Smarter Growth.*

Rail ridership in Virginia has increased significantly over the past decade, however, rail travel within the Commonwealth is limited by the lack of east-west routes. Joint resolutions this year called for a **study of the feasibility of the proposed Commonwealth Corridor passenger rail service**, which would connect Hampton Roads, Richmond, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Roanoke, and the New River Valley. The service would also connect 65% of Virginia's higher education students, serve nearly 3.7 million Virginians who live within 20 miles of a rail station, help reduce traffic, and substantially cut pollution. Lead campaign partners: *Virginians for High Speed Rail and Southern Environmental Law Center.*

For the first time, **Hampton Roads will be on the receiving end of dedicated, regionally-derived funding for transit**. The region currently has an extremely unreliable and inefficient

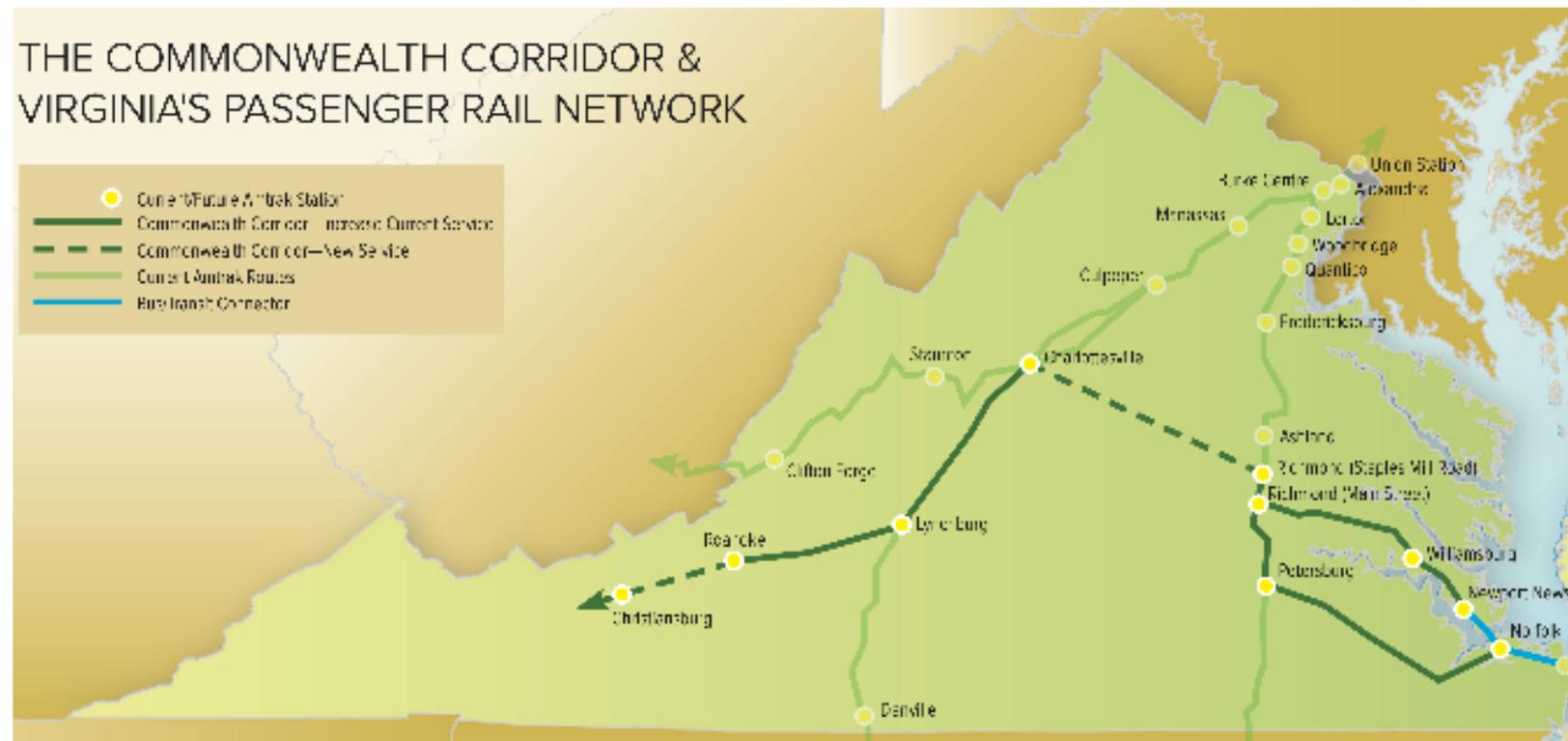
bus system (there were a record 18,653 missed trips last year). Despite the lack of money, however, the HRT is a huge boon for the region with an annual \$338 million in economic benefits, 930,000 gallons in fuel savings, and 8,200 metric tons of reduced carbon pollution. The region needs to provide meaningful regional transit service if it wants to reduce traffic congestion, lower air pollution, and provide greater economic opportunity to its residents.

When cities, towns, and large counties with populations of more than 100,000 expand and develop their comprehensive plan, they must now consider **incorporating strategies to promote transit-oriented development**. This includes efforts to build denser housing along transit routes in an effort to reduce congestion, boost public transportation, and provide greater travel options for Virginians.

At the beginning of session, there were four bills intended to weaken the Commonwealth's award-winning project prioritization system: SMART SCALE. Since 2014, SMART SCALE has become a nationally-recognized model for ensuring objectivity and transparency in transportation funding decisions. After lots of work done by our transportation workgroup, **all efforts to weaken SMART SCALE were defeated.**



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) VOLUNTEERS PICK UP TRASH FOR PROJECT CLEAN STREAM (CREDIT: ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY); RIPARIAN BUFFER EVENT HOSTED BY CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, FEATURING SEN. HANGER IN SWOOPE, VA.; DEL COLE TRIES OUT AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (CREDIT: DRIVE ELECTRIC RVA); THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH CORRIDOR (SOURCE: VIRGINIAN'S FOR HIGH SPEED RAIL); CONGRESSWOMAN SPANBERGER TOURS DRAGONFLY FARMS WITH VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS.





(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) SEN. MCCLELLAN AND REP. SULLIVAN CELEBRATE THE PASSING OF THE VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT; ADVOCATES RALLY AT THE CAPITOL DURING CLEAN ENERGY LOBBY DAY (CREDIT: ADRIENNE ELCHNER); VCN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARY RAFFERTY, EXAMINES A BLUE CRAB ON A TOUR WITH CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION; VCN NETWORK PARTNERS TOUR THE HARRISON LAKE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY.

# POWERING VIRGINIA WITH CLEAN ENERGY

**The Virginia Clean Economy Act puts Virginia on a path to a 100% carbon-free electricity grid and eliminates pollution by Virginia's utilities by 2045.** This will create tens of thousands of new clean energy jobs and give us cleaner air while tackling the Commonwealth's contribution to climate change. This landmark legislation takes the following four steps to get us to 100% carbon-free electricity with zero utility emissions:

- Fully decarbonizing Virginia's electricity grid by 2045, while shuttering our most polluting plants by 2030;
- Establishing aggressive efficiency standards for electricity use in the state while protecting low-income households;
- Incentivizing a broad expansion of rooftop solar generation across the state; and,
- Kickstarting a massive offshore wind industry with firm ratepayer protections.

Lead campaign partners: *Southern Environmental Law Center, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, and Sierra Club Virginia Chapter.*

After more than six years, **the Commonwealth finally cleared its last hurdle to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).** Last year, joining RGGI was stalled by bad budget language forbidding the Commonwealth to spend any money on the plan. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a cooperative effort that currently comprises nine East Coast states from Maine to Maryland, that caps and reduces carbon

emissions from power plants. Under RGGI, power plants in participating states purchase allowances for every ton of carbon that they emit. Revenue from Virginia's auction of pollution allowances will go towards low-income energy efficiency programs (50%), flood resilience (45%), and government administration which may include a new climate office at DEQ (5%). Lead campaign partners: *Chesapeake Climate Action Network and Virginia League of Conservation Voters.*

Customers of investor-owned utilities in Virginia - like Dominion - have been unable to make big moves in the direction of solar generation due to a litany of barriers. The passing of **the Solar Freedom Act removes barriers to increasing solar generation in the Commonwealth by introducing eight reforms to current legal barriers.** These regulatory changes include raising the cap on the total amount of solar that can be net metered, allowing government-owned and multi-family residential buildings to also install solar, and permitting ratepayers to generate up to 150% of their previous year's demand. Lead campaign partner: *Sierra Club Virginia Chapter.*

When a utility retires a power plant early but has been found to be over-earning, it is allowed to use those over-earnings to cover the remaining balance on the plant instead of refunding ratepayers. This year, legislation was passed that put an end to that practice, meaning that **instead of keeping all the excess profits, utilities will be dictated by the SCC on how to handle the repayments.** Lead campaign partner: *Clean Virginia.*

# CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Virginia's protected landscapes safeguard both our game and non-game wildlife, keep our waterways clean, and help spur our outdoor recreation economy. Crucial to meeting our land conservation goals is fully funding our land conservation grant programs. This year's legislative session saw **funding increases of \$20 million for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund and \$2.5 million for the Battlefield Preservation Fund.** However, funding for the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund fell short

of its target and was funded at a level of \$500,000.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Scenic Rivers program, six rivers were added to Virginia's Scenic Rivers program. In addition, eight historic African American Cemeteries were designated funding to ensure their historical preservation. Lead campaign partner: *Scenic Virginia.*

# PRESERVING AND ENHANCING WILDLIFE HABITATS AND FISHERIES

After a battle that spanned nearly two decades, **the management of the critical menhaden fishery was finally transferred to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.** The menhaden fishery was formerly managed by the General Assembly, which partly led to Virginia falling out of compliance with the federal menhaden management plan of capping harvest numbers. This transfer saved Virginia from receiving a ban on harvesting menhaden from the federal government, which would have severe consequences not only for workers but also for fisheries and Chesapeake Bay communities that catch and rely on menhaden for bait. Lead campaign partner: *Chesapeake Bay Foundation.*

Virginia has the unfortunate distinction of consistently ranking in the top ten for states with the highest number of deer-vehicle collisions. Passed this year, **the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan establishes corridors of safe passage for species, will help reduce dangerous collisions with wildlife, and combats the impacts of habitat degradation and fragmentation.** These measures will help identify priority projects throughout Virginia to protect and enhance wildlife corridors. Lead campaign partners: *Wildlands Network and Wild Virginia.*

# PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

In 2017, Gov. McAuliffe created Virginia's first advisory council for environmental justice with Executive Order 73. However, the creation of councils through executive order meant they had to be reestablished under each administration. This year, **legislation codified the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice, ensuring consistency for the council to provide recommendations with input from environmental justice communities.** Although no separate funding was allocated for the Environmental Justice Council, funding for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by members of the Council performing their duties will be provided by the Secretary of Natural Resources. Lead campaign partners: *Environmental Justice Collaborative.*

All too often, polluting facilities disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, people of color, and low-income communities. In the Commonwealth, that is no different. Vulnerable populations in Virginia continue to bear increased

risks from all kinds of activities, including oil, gas, and mineral extraction, new polluting facilities, the burning and transport of fossil fuels, and the impacts of climate change itself. To address this, passed legislation **clearly defines environmental justice and makes it an official policy of the Commonwealth to promote and carry out such measures.** Lead campaign partners: *Appalachian Voices* and *Virginia Interfaith Power and Light.*

Under previous law, contributions to legislators under \$10,000 received in the brief period between January 1 and the start of session - a time in which bills are being drafted and introduced - are not reported until mid-April. New legislation closes that loophole and **advances public disclosure by requiring the reporting of contributions of \$1,000 or more within 24 hours of receipt.** Lead campaign partner: *Sierra Club Virginia Chapter.*

## ADVOCATING FOR FEDERAL ACTION

This year saw numerous attacks on federal policies designed to conserve and protect our natural resources. The Trump administration and the EPA **suspended enforcement of U.S. environmental laws indefinitely, blaming the global COVID-19 pandemic.** With this lawless and unprecedented decision, the EPA is avoidably placing communities in danger through unchecked air pollution and other pollution that threatens our air, water, land and wildlife resources — putting vulnerable Virginia communities at risk.

The Trump administration also **stripped Clean Water Act protections for more than half the nation's wetlands and**

**millions of miles of streams** – numbers confirmed by the administration's own analysis. The cuts put drinking water sources for millions of people in the U.S. at risk and jeopardize the ability to counter floods, droughts, toxic algal blooms, groundwater depletion and other worsening water issues driven by the climate crisis. At least 57% of Virginia's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction of development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Citing red tape and a detriment to progress, the EPA also **gutted the National Environmental Policy Act and introduced rollbacks of the clean car standards.**

## ORGANIZING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

While the main focus of VCN lies in action at the state level, we recognize that federal policies can greatly impact our ability for us to fight for conservation victories.

**12**

Events

**23**

Media Hits

**1500+**

Grassroot Actions

**20**

Lobbying Visits

## SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF BANNING URANIUM MINING

After battling for many years, **the United States Supreme Court ruled to keep the ban on uranium mining in Virginia.** When the uranium industry was unsuccessful in overturning the ban in 2011, they tried the courts. The ban was debated all the way up to the United States Supreme Court. In June, the Supreme Court handed Virginia a huge win. By a 6-3 vote, the justices agreed the Commonwealth has the right to uphold the moratorium on uranium mining. This win is not only thanks to smart legal minds, but the tireless work by community members over the decades. In celebration, Sen. Frank Ruff joined the group (right) and thanked everyone for their work. In addition, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring shared a video thanking all the community advocates for their continued advocacy on this important issue.



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) ADVOCATES MARCH AT VIRGINIA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT'S END ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM: MARCH WITH UNION HILL RALLY (CREDIT: VIRGINIA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT); AN AERIAL VIEW OF VIRGINIA'S BARRIER ISLANDS DURING A FLIGHT WITH SOUTHWINGS; SEN. RUFF JOINS COALITION MEMBERS CELEBRATING THE SUPREME COURT'S UPHOLDING OF THE BAN ON URANIUM MINING; CONSTITUENTS MEET WITH DEL. WYATT DURING VCN'S CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY.





## EQUITY WORKSHOP CENTERED ANNUAL MEETING

On October 11 – 12th, more than 180 members of Virginia's conservation community convened in the Commonwealth's capital for the Virginia Environmental Assembly and Annual Meeting – our two-day conference bringing experienced and emerging conservation leaders together to learn, strategize, and network. As part of Friday's Annual Meeting, Network Partners participated in a two-part workshop: Embedding Equity Into Organizational Policies, Practices, and Culture, led by Angela Park. Park is the founder of Mission Critical, an organization dedicated to making social justice and equity hallmarks of advocacy and policy making. This was the first training VCN has held specifically for our network partners on how to ensure our movement and our organizations are embracing the values of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice. Other featured panels included addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, expanding outdoor recreation opportunities, and a panel highlighting conservation efforts in Richmond led by the Mayor of Richmond, Hon. Levar M. Stoney. In partnership with National Organic Process Enterprises and the Virginia Composting Council, VCN was able to divert 80% of all waste produced from the assembly to composting.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY PREVIEW STREAMED LIVE TO 9 WATCH PARTIES ACROSS THE STATE

On Saturday, December 7, more than 350 members of Virginia's conservation community convened in multiple locations across the Commonwealth for a preview of what's in store for our natural resources and landscapes in the 2020 General Assembly session. Continuing with VCN's commitment to making its events as accessible as possible for advocates across the state, the organization's Network Partners hosted nine watch parties (a record high) in addition to hosting the in-person event in Richmond. This year, experts highlighted the need for taking bold action on climate, securing funding in the budget for our conservation priorities, reducing plastic pollution and toxics in our waterways, and much more. The agenda also included a panel of experts to cover what legislation we expect regarding transportation funding, Dominion Energy accountability, creating wildlife corridors, and protecting our coasts from offshore drilling.

## CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY BROUGHT HISTORIC WINS FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

More than 250 conservation advocates met with legislators in January for VCN's 2020 Conservation Lobby Day. Advocates completed more than 50 meetings in the Pocahontas building, lobbying their state representatives on legislation including the Virginia Clean Economy Act, cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, and a variety of additional goals for the conservation community. The sold out event began with a charge from Dels. Bulova, Samirah, and Jones before the group descended on the Pocahontas building. Following the office visits, the lunch program featured remarks from Virginia's First Lady, Pam Northam, and a panel discussion with Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Bettina Ring, and Secretary of Natural Resources, Matt Strickler.

## COMMUNITY TRANSIT LISTENING SESSIONS

Over the course of the summer, VCN partnered with the Virginia Transit Association to host community listening sessions throughout the Commonwealth to find out how public transportation could be improved. The six sessions were hosted by Jay Fissette, former chair of the Arlington County Board, and covered a wealth of local transportation-related issues. Listening sessions were held in Arlington, Fairfax, Roanoke, Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Richmond. Topics included regional-specific issues, a large focus on funding, and the desire for more local control. Diversity and equity of services also played a large role throughout all conversations.



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) WILD COMMON PERFORMS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING RECEPTION; CONSTITUENTS MEET WITH DEL. TONY WILT AT CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY; VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN A TREE PLANTING WITH JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY; HON. MAYOR OF RICHMOND LEVAR STONEY LEADS A PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY; ATTENDEES PARTICIPATE IN A WORKSHOP AT THE ANNUAL MEETING; CHRIS BAST (DEQ) PRESENTS AT A TRANSPORTATION PANEL AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY; ADVOCATES TAKE PART IN ONE OF VCN'S COMMUNITY TRANSIT LISTENING SESSIONS; DEL. JONES DELIVERS REMARKS AT CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY.

# VCN NETWORK PARTNERS

Founded as the Conservation Council of Virginia in 1969, Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) began as a roundtable of major conservation groups and has grown to include over 125 Network Partners across the Commonwealth. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.

VCN's Network Partners work on a wide range of issues from stream restoration to transportation reform to renewable energy advancement to promoting sustainable community growth and more. Given the diverse work of our Partners, VCN organizes its programs into four main categories: Healthy Rivers, Clean Energy and Climate, Land Conservation, and Land Use and Transportation.

## BALD EAGLE



## CARDINAL

Appalachian Citizens' Law Center · Charlottesville Climate Collaborative Chesapeake · Environment Virginia · Friends of the Rappahannock · Generation 180 · James River Association · Lynnhaven River NOW · Natural Resources Defense Council · Powered by Facts · Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation · The Nature Conservancy in Virginia · Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation · Wildlands Network

## TIGER SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance · Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay · Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley · Appalachian Trail Conservancy · Appalachian Voices · Audubon Naturalist Society · Blue Ridge Land Conservancy · Center for Progressive Reform · Climate Action Network · Clean Fairfax Council · Clean Virginia · Coalition for Smarter Growth · Foundation Earth · Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah · James River Garden Club · Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy · Mothers Out Front · New Virginia Majority · Northern Virginia Conservation Trust · Oceana · Pew Charitable Trust · Potomac Riverkeeper Network · Preservation Virginia · Richmond Audubon Society · Roanoke River Basin Association · Scenic Virginia · Shenandoah National Park Trust · SouthWings · Spotswood Garden Club · Trust for Public Land · Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton · Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke · UVA Law School, Environmental and Regulatory Law Clinic · Valley Conservation Council · Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts · Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative · Virginia Interfaith Power & Light · Virginia Living Museum · Virginia Native Plant Society · Virginia's United Land Trusts · Waterkeepers Chesapeake · Wetlands Watch

## DOGWOOD

1Planet · Albemarle Garden Club · Ashland Garden Club · Audubon Society of Northern Virginia · Black Family Land Trust · Blue Ridge Garden Club · Boxwood Garden Club · Capital Region Land Conservancy · Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park · Climate Action Alliance of the Valley · Clinch Coalition · Conservation Park of Virginia, Inc. · Drive Electric RVA · Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions · Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club · Friends of Accotink Creek · Friends of Dyke Marsh · Friends of the Rivers of Virginia · Garden Club of Norfolk · Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula · Garden Club of the Northern Neck · Goose Creek Association · Hands Across the Lake · Hunting Creek Garden Club · Leesburg Garden Club · Martinsville Garden Club · Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers Association · Mill Mountain Garden Club · Nelson County Garden Club · Old Dominion Smallmouth Club · Partnership for Smarter Growth · Potomac Conservancy · Rail Solution · Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection · Rappahannock Valley Garden Club · Rivanna Conservation Alliance · Rivanna Garden Club · Rockbridge Area Conservation Council · Rockfish Valley Foundation · Sierra Club – Blue Ridge Group · Sierra Club – Chesapeake Bay Group · Sierra Club – Falls of the James Group · Sierra Club – Great Falls Group · Sierra Club – Mount Vernon Group · Sierra Club – New River Valley Group · Sierra Club – Piedmont Group · Sierra Club – Potomac Region Outings Group · Sierra Club – Rappahannock Group · Sierra Club – Roanoke Group · Sierra Club – Shenandoah Group · Sierra Club – York River Group · Surfrider Foundation – Virginia Chapter · Virginia Association for Biological Farming · Virginia Association for Environmental Education · Virginia Bicycling Federation · Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society · Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action · Virginia Composting Council · Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited · Virginia Green Travel Alliance · Virginia Society of Ornithology · Virginia Wilderness Committee · Wild Virginia · Williamsburg Garden Club · Winchester-Clarke Garden Club



## VCN STAFF

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- David Oglethorpe** | Communications Manager
- Lisa McLaughlin** | Administrative Assistant & Events Coordinator
- Narissa Turner** | Policy & Campaigns Manager – Energy & Transportation
- Kelsey Hillner** | Policy & Campaigns Associate
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- Mary Rafferty** | Executive Director
- Pat Calvert** | Policy & Campaigns Manager – Land & Water
- Kyle Gatlin** | State Climate Organizer





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