

CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY

Conservation Lobby Day



MAXIMIZING LOCAL, COMMUNITY SOLAR OPTIONS

As Virginia builds out clean energy projects to reach a 100% carbon-free grid, we must ensure we're prioritizing building solar on-site and on pre-existing structures or already degraded lands to the greatest extent possible. Putting solar energy projects on pre-existing infrastructure and at site-of-use decreases the amount of land needed for larger projects and creates a more resilient, decentralized grid.

SUPPORT:

HB1883 (Callsen) Increases the amount of solar that should be built on previously disturbed lands and rooftops

HB2037 (Bulova) Allows localities to require solar canopies over parking areas

HB2266 (Tran) Spreads out the costs of energy projects connecting to the grid more fairly

HB2346 (Hernandez) / SB1100 (Hashmi) Establishes a "virtual power program" to meet peak power demand with clean energy instead of polluting power plants

HB2356 (King) & SB853 (Rouse) Creates an apprenticeship program to provide training and ensure clean energy jobs are good paying jobs

HB2413 (King) & SB1021 (Surovell) Improves utilities' Integrated Resource Plan to include a systems-wide approach and consider the social cost of carbon

SB823 (Rouse) Requires Virginia's electric utilities to submit comprehensive plans when constructing renewable energy facilities to enhance renewable energy development and workforce considerations.



HARK VINEYARS, EARLYSVILLE, VA
PHOTO BY SARAH STRYKER



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INCREASING EV ACCESSIBILITY

The transportation sector is the leading source of carbon pollution in the Commonwealth. The General Assembly must ensure an affordable transition to electrifying Virginia's vehicles by supporting and advancing the accessibility of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

SUPPORT:

HB1791 (Sullivan) & SB1225 (Aird) Creates the Rural Charging Infrastructure Program and Fund, which would provide developers with grants to installing EV charging stations in rural and low income localities, as well as state parks and near federal lands

OPPOSE:

SB806 (Stuart) Repeals the Clean Car Standards

TRANSITIONING TO CLEAN ENERGY

Virginia is making progress in addressing climate change through policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fund clean energy projects, and provide job and economic opportunities across the Commonwealth. The General Assembly must continue this progress while protecting against any attempts to roll back or undermine our foundational climate policies.

SUPPORT:

HB1672 (Jones) & SB1216 (Pekarsky) Appropriately defines "zero-carbon electricity" and expands customer's options for renewable energy purchase

HB1821 (Reid) Accelerates the transition to zero-carbon electricity by expanding renewable energy opportunities for large commercial and industrial customers

HB1935 (Bolling) & SB777 (Locke) Establishes the Low-Income Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Task Force to look at how more low-income households can save on energy bills

HB2537 (Sullivan) & SB1394 (Bagby) Increases the targets for energy storage, which is critical for providing reliable clean power to the grid

HB2545 (Rasoul) Requires gas pipelines to add odorants as a safety precaution to detect leaks

HB2604 (Tran) & SB1403 (Surovell) Requires that an electric utility evaluate all clean energy options available before seeking approval to build a climate-polluting energy facility

HB2635 (Webert) Amends the Virginia Brownfield and Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund by increasing the grant amount for renewable energy projects located on brownfields

OPPOSE:

SB973 (Hackworth) Allows utilities to call burning coal mine methane renewable energy

HB1875 (Bloxom) & HB2365 (Wilt) Changes the definition of "zero-carbon electricity" so that coal-fired and natural gas-fired plants could qualify for the Renewable Portfolio Standard

HB2185 (Freitas) & SB1077 (Peake) Repeals regulations that usher in clean energy investments, reduce and regulate air pollution, and prevent unnecessary build-out of new fossil

HB2200 (Kilgore) Removes all incentives for utilities to comply with the Renewable Portfolio Standard, a critical component to the Virginia Clean Economy Act

HB2552 (Bloxom) & SB1160 (Obenshain) Removes large sections of the Virginia Clean Economy Act that ensure Virginia achieves zero emissions by 2050, develops clean energy, and retires fossil fuel plants.