

Virginia Clean Economy Act:

What it does:

- plan to reach zero carbon emissions by 2045 for Dominion, and 2050 for APCo
- mandatory energy efficiency resource standard for electric utilities to save Virginians money on their electric bills
- mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard to ensure that Virginia makes the transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2045
- guarantees that all fossil fuel plants in Virginia will be closed by 2050 and a moratorium on new fossil fuel projects in 2030 if utilities are not reaching their carbon goals
- moratorium on any new carbon-emitting generation plant until at least January 1, 2022
- path to build competitively sourced offshore wind facilities with strong ratepayer protection
- 6x increase in the cap on rooftop solar and a 10x cap increase on power purchase agreements in Dominion territory
- a third of the new renewable energy will be independently owned, introducing energy competition in Virginia
- Creates a program to provide additional energy efficiency help for marginalized, low-income communities

More information:

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/summary-of-the-virginia-clean-economy-16631/>

<http://www.ripsullivan.com/news-clips/northam-signs-clean-economy-act-which-seeks-boost-renewable-energy>

<https://electrek.co/2020/04/14/egeb-virginia-clean-economy-act-eversource-boston-virtual-energy-assessments/>

Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act:

What it does:

- Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a carbon dioxide cap and trade program to reduce emissions by electric generation sources
- This is necessary to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- funds from selling these allowances can be used for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund and the Shoreline Resiliency Fund

Why it's important:

- a cap-and-trade program is essential to reducing emissions, because it creates an auction market where companies can buy allowances to emit certain amounts of CO₂ into the environment
- incentivizes companies to move away from carbon-emitting sources of energy
- provides the state with the money necessary to fund programs that are so important to saving our coastlines
- necessary to join RGGI, a battle we have been fighting for years
- these funds will be incredibly helpful to communities who have been negatively affected by flooding and shoreline change, like our Chesapeake Bay area communities

More information:

<https://climate-xchange.org/2020/02/19/virginia-set-to-join-rggi-a-massive-step-forward-for-cap-and-invest/>

<https://www.rggi.org/>

Chesapeake Bay Watershed protections:

What it does:

- Sets December 31, 2025, as the date to achieve the water quality goals in the [Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan \(WIP\)](#)

Why it's important:

- The Watershed Implementation Plan is Virginia's roadmap to achieving the cleanest possible water in our Chesapeake Bay

More information:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/programs/watershed_implementation

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ChesapeakeBay/ChesapeakeBayTMDL/PhaseIIIWatershedImplementationPlanning.aspx>

Local Disposable Bag Tax:

What it does:

- Allows localities to implement a 5 cent tax per plastic bag given out

Why it's important:

- Plastic bag pollution is incredibly detrimental, because those bags do not deteriorate for hundreds of years
- tax revenue generated from this will be split by retailers, and the money that goes to the county will be used for environmental cleanup programs and to provide reusable bags to SNAP recipients

More Info:

https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/attachments/4d5115b55b216984be9d0c3c20e3b0fc42096fa5/store/bc678f1fd91593abc69c737c5c8a6da925a2ba8bce03b1dade052e095e58/Bag-tax-results-memo-PUBLIC.FINAL_.pdf

Defining “Unreasonable Restrictions” for Solar Panels in HOAs:

What it does:

- Clarifies unreasonable restrictions placed on homeowners in HOAs who want to install solar panels on their homes
- Unreasonable restrictions are defined as anything that decreases the efficiency of the system by 10% or increases the price by 5%

Why it's important:

- Many homeowners in HOAs are denied their right to install solar panels on their homes and take control of their energy future by community guidelines that are technically unreasonable, but there were no laws on the books that said exactly what “unreasonable” meant
- Defining these terms allows homeowners to prove that restrictions by HOAs can be unreasonable, and will allow more people to take advantage of solar technology in their homes
- Since 2014, more than 315 homeowners were forced to abandon solar projects due to unreasonable restrictions set by HOAs - represents over \$6 million in lost revenue to our economy

More info:

<https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2020/03/virginia-bill-hoa-solar-installation/>

<http://www.karriedelaney.com/news-clips/legislation-could-help-virginia-homeowners-blocked-hoas-installing-solar>