

DELAWARE ENERGY JUSTICE SNAPSHOT



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
Environmental and Climate Justice Program

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SUMMARY

Access to clean energy is not just an environmental issue, but also a civil right. Communities of color bear a disproportionate share of the burdens of a fossil fuel based energy economy. This is why the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program stands for just energy policies that will help protect our communities from harmful energy production processes and provide equitable access to the clean energy economy.

This Snapshot profiles Delaware's energy portfolio, evaluates key state energy policies, documents state utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy. Delaware's commitment to renewable energy helps to reduce the state's reliance on imported natural gas and coal. As a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, funds are used to support energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

With this in mind, it is critically important that NAACP leaders actively engage in these debates in order to ensure that the community's needs motivate just energy policies. This snapshot provides information that will inform NAACP members on avenues for engagement.

Energy Portfolio¹

Delaware's energy consumption is much greater than its energy production. has one of the lowest energy consumptions in the nation because of its lower population size. However, the state has a higher energy use per capita than almost half of



the states because of its energy-intensive food processing, petroleum refining, and chemical and plastics manufacturing industries.

Despite not having fossil fuel resources, in 2015, electricity was generated predominately from natural gas (85 percent) and coal (8 percent). Since the state has no natural gas reserves, gas is transported from Pennsylvania through interstate pipelines. The coal is transported by rail from Pennsylvania. Seven out of ten of the largest power plants are natural gas plants. Since switching to natural gas, Delaware has cut its carbon emissions by more than 5 percent.

Delaware has one of two coking refineries on the east coast, which has the capacity to produce 182, 200 barrels per day. The Port of Wilmington has a bulk petroleum terminal and storage depot that handles heating oil, fuel oil, and other petroleum products.

Delaware has renewable resources including solar, wind, and landfill gas. In 2010, the University of Delaware added onshore utility-scale wind turbines adding to the state's renewable energy capacity. Biomass and solar dominate renewable energy resources in Delaware and account for 2 percent of the state's generation. Delaware has three utility-scale power plants that use landfill gas. Some of Delaware's residents use solar energy to heat their homes.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard requires retail electricity suppliers in

Delaware to purchase increasing amounts of electricity they sell in-state from renewable resources. The ultimate goal is 25% by 2025-2026. A portion of each year's expansion of renewable energy generation must come from solar energy.

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity, 2013
Solar PV 56 MW
Wind power 2 MW
Biomass 8 MW
Totals 66MW

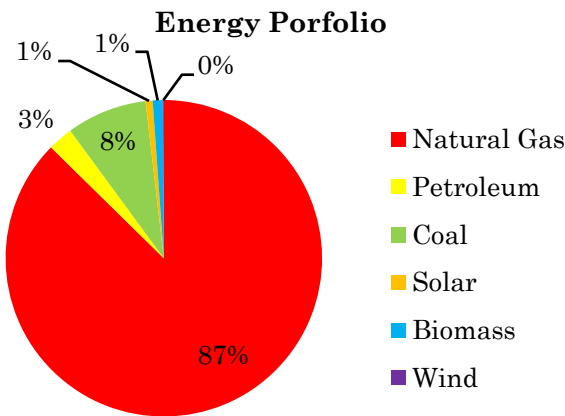


Figure 1. Delaware Energy Consumption Profile

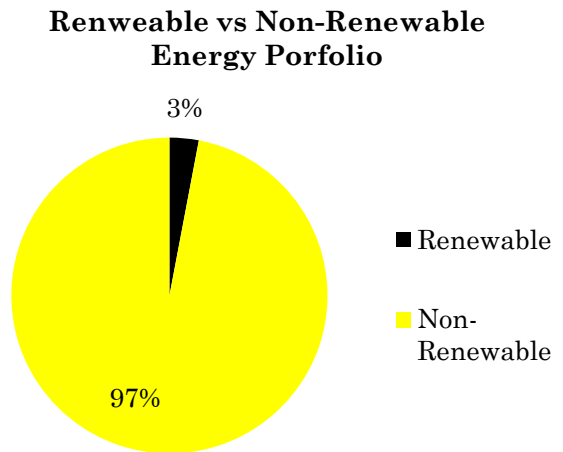


Figure 2. Renewable vs. Non Renewable Energy consumption in Delaware

For more detailed information and data on Delaware's energy portfolio visit the U.S. Energy Information Administration's webpage:

<https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=DE>

State Energy Policies

Policy Type	NAACP Recommended Policy Standards	Delaware Policy Details
Net Metering	<p>Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer.</p> <p>Capacity Limit Recommendation: 2,000 kW (minimally), per system</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	<p>Delaware has a mandatory net metering policy that varies by utility and ratepayer type. System capacity limits are 2 MW for non-residential Delmarva customers; 500 kW for non-residents and municipal utility customers; 25 kW for all residential customers.</p>
Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	<p>A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum amount of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 25% renewable by 2025</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p> <p>Allowable Sources: Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy</p>	<p>Delaware has a mandatory renewable energy standard of 25% by 2025-2026, and solar photovoltaic development to culminate in 3.5% by 2025.</p>
Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)	<p>A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency program.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year's retail electricity sales.</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	<p>Delaware has an energy efficiency standard, but the Public Service Commission has not yet established rules to implement the new rules.</p>
Local Hire Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content • Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state • Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plant located in-state • Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally • Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts 	<p>Delaware's electricity providers can earn an additional 10% in compliance credits for renewable energy by sourcing at least 50% of wind or solar equipment or components from Delaware's manufacturers; and earn an additional 10% in compliance credits by hiring Delaware residents for at least 75% of personnel to perform solar or wind energy installations.</p>
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training opportunities • Notify DBEs of state business opportunities • Set-aside funds for DBEs 	<p>Delaware certifies minority businesses, women-owned businesses, and businesses run by veterans for state contracts.</p>

Utility Disconnection Policies

<p>Notice</p>	<p>Written notice must be provided fourteen days before the scheduled disconnection.</p> <p>During the winter protection period, the utility must make two attempts at telephone notice before disconnection. At least one attempt must be made after 6:00pm.</p> <p>During the summer protection period, the utility must make one attempt at telephone notice after 6:00pm before disconnection.</p>
<p>Date Based Protection</p>	<p>Yes. June 1–September 30, November 15–March 31. Additional notice requirements apply during these periods.</p>
<p>Temperature Based Protection</p>	<p>Yes. No disconnection on a day when temperatures are below 32°F or above 105°F.</p>
<p>Payment Plan</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Reconnection Fee</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Disconnection Limitations</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Other Protections</p>	<p>No disconnection with medical certification.</p>
<p><i>Utility shut-offs have a disproportionate impact on low-income and African American communities. Check out the NAACP report, “Lights Out in the Cold” for more information.</i></p>	



Access to energy is not a luxury, it's a necessity. With exposure to both extreme heat and extreme cold, folks should not be forced to choose between paying for medications or their energy bill. Public officials have implemented some policies that protect consumers from the life-threatening practice of utility disconnection (As outlined to the left). However, energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections.

More disconnection policy details are available at the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program State Disconnection Policies** webpage: <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm>

Action steps: Meet with the Public Utilities Commission or your local utility company to advocate for the adoption of the following:

- Restriction on reconnection and disconnection fees
- Strong limitations on service disconnections
- Expanded protection for vulnerable populations

Hot Topics, Issues and Developments

Renewable Energy Education Center, at the Delaware State University: The center's mission is to increase access to clean energy and advance the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of 25 percent by 2025.²

Delmarva Power has set up 30 MW of Bloom Energy servers. The fuel cells have enough energy to power approximately 22,000 homes. This is the largest deployment of fuel cell technology in the United States.³

DEVELOPING THE BLACK-GREEN PIPELINE

The NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative promotes the equitable inclusion of communities of color into the green economy to address unemployment in our communities and to increase the voices and influence of our communities in the green economy.

Overall, African Americans and Latinos suffer from higher unemployment and poverty rates. According to the 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national rate of unemployment for African Americans was 9.6 percent. In Delaware, the average for unemployed African Americans is 8.0 percent. African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector.⁴

The green economy offers an opportunity for communities of color to join a career-level field with opportunities for upward mobility. The green job field is diverse with 45 percent of all green jobs in the United States being held by workers with a high school diploma or less. It is the goal

of the NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative that African Americans will have increased representation across all sectors of the clean energy economy.

To subscribe to the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative Weekly Digest send a blank email to:

naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahogroups.com

The Green Labor Market and Communities of Color

Delaware has an average concentration of energy employment with 6,145 traditional energy workers statewide. This percentage accounts for 1.4 percent of total state employment, which is below the 2.4 percent national employment average. However, Delaware has an additional 12,232 jobs in Energy Efficiency, which accounts for 0.6 percent of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide.⁵ The majority of the energy efficiency jobs are in traditional HVAC firms.

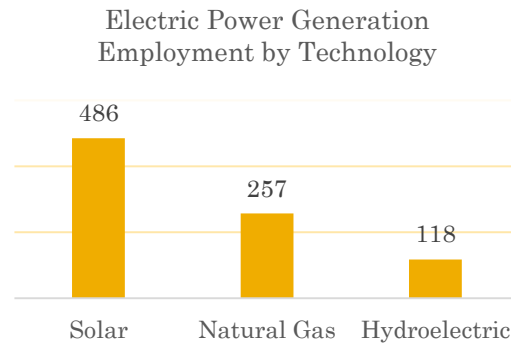


Figure 3. Electric Generation Employment in Delaware

In Delaware, the electric power generation segment employs 862 workers with solar making up the largest segment with 482 jobs, followed by natural gas generation with 257 jobs. Construction jobs dominate the electric power generation sector with 50.9 percent. In 2015, the Solar

Foundation reported that thirty-three states, including D.C. saw a positive growth in solar jobs.⁶

Solar Workers by Project Scale

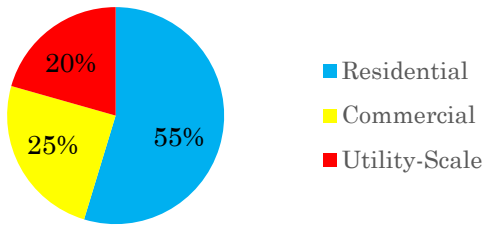


Figure 4. Solar workers by Project Scale in Delaware

In 2016, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) reported that recent solar capacity additions in the United States have been predominately commercial and utility-scale projects. However, in 2016 over half of the nation’s solar workers were at work on residential solar projects. This imbalance is attributed to the fact that utility-scale generation typically produces more megawatts per labor unit installed compared to distributed generation.⁷



Figure 5. Wind energy projects and manufacturing facilities in Delaware

Figure 5 above shows the online wind projects and the gears represent the manufacturing facilities in Delaware. Investing in wind adds jobs in operations, maintenance, construction, manufacturing and support sectors. In 2016, the wind industry added 1,000 to 2,000 direct and indirect jobs to the energy job sector.⁸

TAKE ACTION!

Host a Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Roundtable

- The NAACP ECJ Program is committed to advancing a meaningful dialogue and concerted action on engagement of communities of color in the green economy.
- To start taking action, organize a multi-stakeholder roundtable with socially responsible energy business leaders, historically black colleges and universities, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions, and others to discuss developing and implementing a strategy to ensure that policies/laws/regulation, research initiatives, community level practices, corporate social responsibility measures, etc. are in place to ensure greater engagement of communities of color in the green economy.

Implement a demonstration project such as a community solar garden or rooftop solar project

- Interested in taking a direct role in implementing clean energy practices in your community? Install rooftop solar or community solar.
- There are several rebates and incentives available to residents interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit energy.gov for a list of renewable energy incentive program available on the state and federal levels.

Launch a Just Energy Policies Campaign

- Identify one or more of the focal policies outlined in this snapshot and documented more extensively in the Just Energy Policies to champion.
- Build a coalition with likeminded energy justice advocates and other local and state allies to build power and momentum.
- Host a town-hall to educate the community about the policy and get input from members on their needs, priorities, and perspectives. .
- Set up lobby trainings and coordinate a lobby-day with elected officials.

Make public the NAACP energy justice platform and engage the public through media

- Develop and place an op-ed by NAACP Unit President or ECJ Chair in a local newspaper
- Participate in a radio interview, TV interview, podcast
- Be quoted in a local newspaper
- Post an article or blog to an online platform

CLOSING

With the repeal of several federal environmental laws, it has become imperative to make a just transition to clean renewable energy. States like Delaware have become leaders in energy transition and demonstrate that our energy systems can be both clean and just.

Embracing a transition to clean renewable energy sources will not only provide significant environmental and health benefits for Delaware, but will also diversify and strengthen the state's renewable energy economy. NAACP just energy leaders should advocate on behalf of a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard, Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and Net Metering standards. In addition, Delaware should ensure that policies are in place to ensure equity in energy enterprise such as local hire provisions and disadvantaged business enterprises.

Although there is a little debate as to whether or not Delaware should transition to a clean energy economy, the path to 100 percent renewable is still being paved. Delaware has made some major strides in renewable energy generation, the state still faces decisions that will determine how and if it can meet this goal. At stake is the fundamental question of whether power should be generated from the top-down or bottom-up. Will customers be able to seize control of energy generation through distributed power generation or will utility companies maintain a monopoly that prevents the equitable distribution of power, ownership, and economic rewards of the electricity system?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Delaware Interfaith Power & Light

<http://delawareipl.org/wp/>

Energize Delaware

<https://www.energizedelaware.org/Sustainable-Energy/>



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Created by the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program

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¹ "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." Pennsylvania - State Energy Profile Overview - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). June 15, 2017.

² "Renewable Energy Education Center." Delaware State University. July 13, 2017.

<https://www.desu.edu/academics/adultcontinuing-education/renewable-energy-education-center>.

³ "Delmarva Power - Clean Energy Customer Story." Bloom Energy. <http://www.bloomenergy.com/customer-fuel-cell/delmarva-power-clean-energy/>.

⁴ "Unemployment rates for African Americans by state in 2015 : The Economics Daily." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. March 04, 2016. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/unemployment-rates-for-african-americans-by-state-in-2015.htm>.

⁵ The U.S. Energy Employment Report (2017) U.S. Energy Information Administration, November 2016 Monthly Energy Review. https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/us_energy_jobs_2017_final.pdf

⁶ *The Solar Foundation's National Solar Jobs Census 2015*. Publication. The Solar Foundation. 2016. 1-65.

⁷ "Solar Market Insight Report 2016 Year In Review." Solar Energy Industries Association. 2016.

<http://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-2016-year-review>.

⁸ "State Fact Sheets." AWEA - American Wind Energy Association. 2017. <http://www.awea.org/state-fact-sheets>.