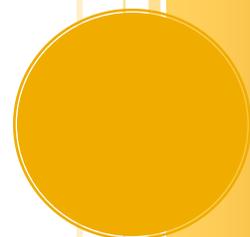


VIRGINIA ENERGY JUSTICE SNAPSHOT



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



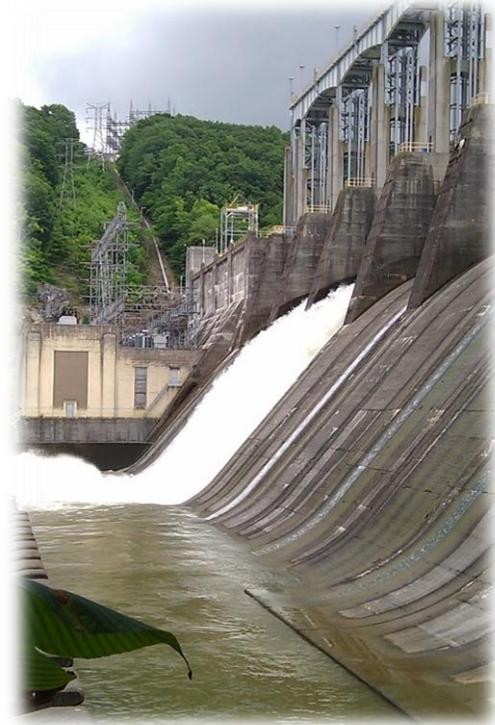
VIRGINIA ENERGY JUSTICE SNAPSHOT

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 Virginia's energy portfolio, evaluates key state energy policies, documents state utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy. For many years nuclear energy controlled the energy portfolio in Virginia. In the past few years, Virginia has made the transition to natural gas.

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 Portfolioⁱ

Virginia's energy portfolio is dominated by nuclear and natural gas. In 2015, natural gas surpassed the generation from the state's two nuclear power plants for the first time. Natural gas fields are located in seven Virginian counties. The Appalachian Plateau holds almost all of the state's oil and natural gas fields.

Virginia's ports are the leading exporters of U.S. coal. The Ports in the Norfolk Customs District, the largest coal export center, processed more than 35% of the U.S. coal exports in 2015. Although, now natural gas has exceeded coal generation in the state.



Virginia generates solar, biomass, hydroelectricity, and wind energy. In terms of solar generation, the state has a small but increasing amount of distributed (customer-sited small-scale) solar photovoltaic (PV) generation.

In 2015, biomass provided almost 5% of the state's total net electricity generation. Wood and wood waste, solid waste, and landfill gas are the most commonly used forms of biomass in the state.

Virginia has conventional and pumped hydroelectric facilities, including the largest hydroelectric facility in the world. Although Bath County Pumped Storage State generated 3,003 Mega-Watt (MW), hydroelectric accounts for less than 2% of the state's energy portfolio.

The state has limited onshore wind energy resources, but there is potential off of Virginia's Atlantic coast and in the Chesapeake Bay. In 2015, The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy received the first federal offshore wind energy research lease issued by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The plan is to conduct a wind energy research offshore by building a grid-connected, 12 MW wind test facility.

Additional Resources

State Policy Opportunity Tracker

<http://spotforcleanenergy.org/state/virginia/>

Renewable Energy in Virginia

<http://www.acore.org/files/pdfs/states/Virginia.pdf>

Energy Portfolio

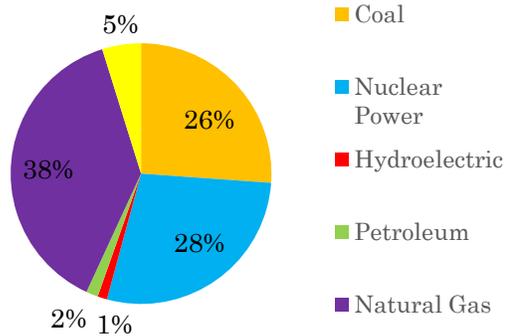


Figure 1. State Energy Consumption Profile

Renewable Energy Portfolio

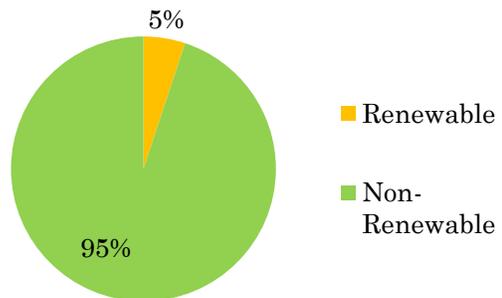


Figure 2. State Renewable vs. Non Renewable Energy consumption

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity, 2013

Solar PV 10.5 MW

Hydropower 832 MW

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

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

State Energy Policies

Policy Type	NAACP Recommended Policy Standards	Virginia 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>Virginia has mandatory net metering standards that set state and system capacity limits. Net metering statewide is limited at 1% of utilities' adjusted peak-load forecast for the previous year; and system capacity limits are 500 kW for non-residential customers and 20 kW for residences.</p>
Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	<p>A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum among 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>Virginia has a voluntary RPS goal of 15% of sales of base year 2007 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>10% electricity savings in 2022 over 2006 base sales</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 plate 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>No Local Hire provision</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>Virginia's Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE) certifies small businesses, women-owned businesses, and MBEs. The Virginia DMBE sponsors seminars, offers one-on-one counseling, and "matchmaking" events.</p>

Utility Disconnection Policies

Notice	Written notice must be mailed at least ten days before the scheduled disconnection.
Date Based Protection	None.
Temperature Based Protection	None.
Payment Plan	N/A.
Reconnection Fee	Yes.
Disconnection Limitations	N/A.
Other Protections	Postponement of disconnection for thirty days with medical certification. Postponed for ten days based on written or oral reporting of medical condition to allow for a medical certification to be submitted. Electric utility is not required to provide the ten-day postponement more than once in a calendar year.
<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:

- Temperature and date based protections
- Restriction on reconnection and disconnection fees
- Stronger limitations on disconnections during specific periods
- Expanded protection for vulnerable populations

Hot Energy Developments

Senate Bill (SB) 1393: SB1393, signed into law on March 16, 2017, established a three-year Community Solar Pilot Program in the territories of the investor-owned utilities. The utility is required to contract with a third-party solar developer to construct a minimum of 10.5 MW of solar generation. The utility is also responsible for selling subscriptions to customers who want to purchase solar. The bill provides customers, who cannot afford the upfront cost of solar or whose rooftops cannot accommodate a solar system, with access to the benefits of solar.ⁱⁱ While this bill mirrors some community solar programs in other states, it falls short of providing communities with actual control over local renewable energy projects. Projects remain under utility purview.ⁱⁱⁱ

House Bill (HB) 1760 and companion bill SB 1418: HB1760 and SB1418 promote the development of pumped hydroelectric storage facilities in Virginia's coalfield counties. If the facilities use renewable energy as all or a portion of their power source and are located in the coalfield region, the utility can recover the costs of building the pumped storage facilities. Since the bill does not contain specific directives to accomplish the goal, it may not result in any new solar or wind generation. Additionally, customers would face increased rates without experiencing any efficiency benefits.^{iv}

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%. In Virginia, the average for unemployed African Americans is 7.9%.^v There is an opportunity to address this unemployment through the green economy, however, there are barriers to this that must be removed.

African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector. 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% 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

Virginia has an average concentration of energy employment with 50,467 traditional energy workers statewide. This percentage accounts for 1.3% of total state employment, which can be compared to the 2.4% national employment average.

However, Virginia has an additional 75,552 jobs in Energy Efficiency, which accounts for 3.5% of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide.^{vi}

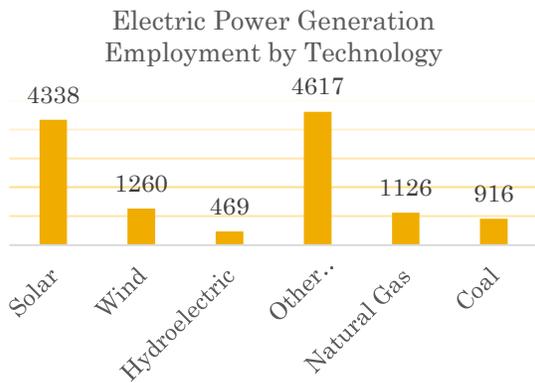


Figure 3. Electric Generation Employment in Virginia

In Virginia, the electric power generation segment employs 13,036 workers with solar making up the largest segment with 4,338 jobs, followed by traditional fossil fuel generation. In 2015, the Solar Foundation reported that thirty-three states, including D.C. saw a positive growth in solar jobs.^{vii}

In 2016, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) reported that recent

Solar Workers by Project Scale

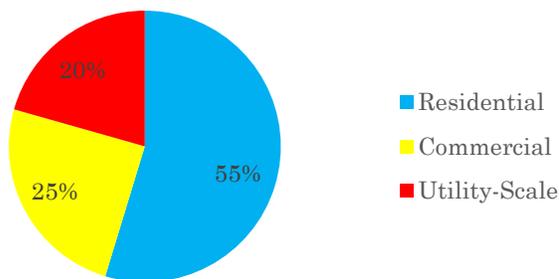


Figure 4. Source: Solar Energy Industries Association

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.^{viii}



Figure 5. Wind energy projects and manufacturing facilities in Virginia

Source: American Wind Energy Association

Figure 5, pictured above, shows the online wind projects and the gears represent the manufacturing facilities in Virginia. 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.^{ix}

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. Virginia has transitioned to natural gas from being dominated by nuclear power for years. This transition is not aligned with the vision our communities should be working toward. With proposed clean legislations, Virginia has the opportunity to 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 Virginia, 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, Virginia 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 Virginia should transition to a clean energy economy, the path to 100% renewable is still being paved. Virginia has made some 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 questions 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

Virginia Conservation Network

<http://www.vcnva.org/>

Department of Environmental Quality

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/RenewableEnergy.aspx>

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light

<http://vaipl.org/>



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

ⁱⁱ "SB 1393." Virginia's Legislative Information System. <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171%2Bful%2BCHAP0580>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Pierobon, Jim. "Virginia 'community solar' plan leaves out the 'community,' advocates say." Southeast Energy News. March 27, 2017. <http://southeastenergynews.com/2017/03/16/virginia-community-solar-plan-leaves-out-the-community-advocates-say/>.

^{iv} "VA HB 1760." Virginia's Legislative Information System. <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171%2Bful%2BCHAP0246>.

^v "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>.

^{vi} 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

^{vii} *The Solar Foundation's National Solar Jobs Census 2015*. Publication. The Solar Foundation. 2016. 1-65.

^{viii} "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>.

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