

MD-DC-VA Solar and Storage Round-Up



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Boosts to Solar Markets

- **Virginia:** HB628/SB175 The DG Expansion Act
- **Virginia:** HB1255, which protects residential solar customers from “stand-by charges” from the utility, unless the system is over 20 kW
- **Virginia:** The shared solar programs have been expanded by over 500 MW; the SCC will determine the size of subsequent expansions for Dominion and APCo programs
- **Maryland** Energy Administration is offering support to counties to adopt SolarAPP+ and quicken residential solar permitting/inspections process
- There are no recent policy changes providing added support to **DC** solar markets

Headwinds to Solar Development

- **Federal:** Repeal of the ITC and resulting deadlines are hurting customer-owned residential solar, shifting the market to leasing, and causing a rush for commercial-scale projects (including public projects)
- **Virginia:** SCC ruled to maintain the “direct transfer trip” requirements for systems over 250 kW; DTT requirements can add several million dollars to project costs
- **Maryland:** Abrupt transition for net metering programs is causing disruptions for C&I, public projects that are at risk of meeting certain deadlines
- **DC:** Proposed rollbacks of Renewable Portfolio Standard would hurt solar value proposition for energy consumers

Growing Energy Storage Markets

Maryland: Case No. 9517, Maryland Energy Storage Initiative Working Group

Virginia: HB897/SB448 increases statewide storage targets

- 16,780 by 2045 for short-duration storage
- 4,520 MW by 2045 for long-duration storage
- 10 percent of targets must be connected to the distribution grid

Energy storage is being increasingly recognized by policymakers as critical for meeting affordability and reliability needs.

- Public policy needs to catch up by creating grid services programs, consumer rebates, and tariffs.
- Battery storage siting and permitting rules are needed at the local level to enable homeowners and commercial property owners to adopt storage for themselves.
- In-house familiarity of battery storage systems needs to be developed for permitting and inspection.
- Landowners also need clear rules so they know if/how they can host larger storage assets.

Intersection of Solar/Storage Policies and Local Government



- Automated or Smart Permitting for residential solar systems
 - Local government mandate for automated permitting in **Maryland** if permitting/inspection processing times are more than 5 business days (HB1532)
 - **Virginia** Energy is developing a statewide platform for residential solar permitting that would incorporate local ordinances and processes (HB590/SB382)
- **Maryland:** Renewable Energy Certainty Act of 2025 aligning local solar ordinances with statewide rules
- **Virginia:** HB711/SB347 creates a “ban on bans” for groundmount solar, creates solar siting limits in local ordinances, and increases transparency for local government permitting decisions with filings to the SCC
- **Virginia:** Battery storage model ordinance work group hosted by Virginia Energy