

2026 LEGISLATIVE KICK OFF

BEEAC

Robert Christopher
Environmental Planner

BEEAC
February 19, 2026

CEEPC Legislative Committee Background

- CEEPC's Legislative Committee is a small group of CEEPC members who periodically meet with staff to review legislative initiatives in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia
- COG staff track various bills during the legislative session that fall within COG's legislative priorities
- A series of ad hoc calls are held to determine specific bills to send comment letters on
- The committee primarily runs from January – April

COG Board Legislative Priorities

The COG Board adopts [legislative priorities](#) every year in January covering:

- Transportation Funding
- Housing
- Environment: Water Quality, Climate Resiliency, Air Quality
- Human Services
- Public Health Preparedness
- Homeland Security
- Food Security
- Infrastructure Investment

<https://www.mwco.org/documents/2026/01/14/cog-legislative-priorities-featured-publications-infrastructure-legislative-priorities/>

2026 COG Legislative Priorities

Climate and Energy Innovation & Air Quality Protection

- Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals
- Support Accelerated Multi-Sector Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Criteria Pollutants
- Ensure Sustainable Secure Energy Access for All
- Support Aggressive State Renewable Portfolio Standards
- Expand Clean Energy Innovation, Technology and Finance
- Support Aggressive Energy Efficiency Goals
- Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Resilient Infrastructure
- Support Policies that Preserve and Protect Regional Air Quality and Public Health

Key Dates in VA/MD/DC

Virginia

- Session convened January 14
- Crossover is February 17
- Adjournment: March 14

Maryland

- Session convened January 14
- Crossover is March 23
- Adjournment: April 13

D.C.

- 2-year session 2025-26

Virginia Legislation

1. Emissions

- a) **HB 154:** Would require data centers to publicly report when using emergency generation
- b) **HB 507:** Would limit amount of emitting backup generators and would require energy storage as backup power.
- c) **SB 69:** Would repeal requirements requiring regulations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generating sources
- d) **SB 5:** Would establish a task force to determine and address barriers to access to energy efficiency programs

2. Infrastructure and Development

- a) **HB 324:** Would create an Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund to offset installation costs in certain localities on or within one mile of public land.
- b) **HB 562:** Would authorize electric cooperatives to establish virtual power plant programs

Maryland Legislation

1. Renewable Energy

- **HB 345:** Would authorize the purchase, installation and use of portable solar energy generating systems. Balcony solar.

2. Greenhouse Gas Initiative

- **HB 66:** Would withdraw Maryland from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

3. Emissions

- **HB 167:** Would prohibit the State from purchasing gasoline powered leaf blowers and prohibit the State or any contractor or subcontractor employed by the state from using gasoline powered leaf blowers.

4. Financing

- **SB 23:** Would establish the Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits Loan Program to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems and for actions that improve energy efficiency.

Robert Christopher

Environmental Planner
rchristopher@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002