

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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## CEEPC Legislative Committee

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# CEEPC Legislative Committee Background

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- 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

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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/2024/01/10/cog-legislative-priorities-featured-publications-infrastructure-legislative-priorities/>

# 2025 COG Legislative Priorities

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## *Climate and Energy Innovation & Air Quality Protection*

- Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals
- Support Multi-Sector Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gases
- 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

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## Virginia

- Session convened January 08
- Crossover is February 04
- Adjournment: February 22

## Maryland

- Session convened January 08
- Crossover is March 17
- Adjournment: April 07

## D.C.

- 2-year session 2025-26

# Virginia Letters

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## **HB 1616: Offshore Wind Industry Workforce Program and Fund**

Aims to establish an Offshore Wind Industry Workforce Program and Fund. The bill directs the Director of the Department of Energy to identify and develop training resources to advance workforce development in the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth. This initiative aligns with COG's legislative priorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the region's climate goals.

## **HB 1819: Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)**

Proposes changes to the C-PACE financing program. The bill includes adding a definition of property owner to include a lessee and providing that the lessee may also be eligible for a C-PACE loan by complying with certain conditions, including consent of the fee simple property owner. This bill supports COG's legislative priorities to expand clean energy innovation, technology, and finance in metropolitan Washington.

# Virginia Letters

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## **HB 1883: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program Requirements**

Amends certain renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements for Dominion Energy Virginia. The bill removes the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third-party power purchase agreement under a pilot program. This bill promotes the deployment of renewable energy within Virginia by easing certain restrictions and encouraging the use of existing developed sites for new solar projects.

## **SB 1040: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program Requirements**

Amends renewable energy portfolio standard program requirements for Dominion Energy Virginia. Similar to HB 1883, this bill removes the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third-party power purchase agreement under a pilot program. This bill supports solar deployment and aggressive state renewable portfolio standards in metropolitan Washington.

# Virginia Bills Status

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## **HB 1616: Offshore Wind Industry Workforce Program and Fund**

HB 1616 has progressed significantly and is currently enrolled. The bill was vetoed by the Governor and the House sustained the veto.

## **HB 1819: Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)**

HB 1819 has also made substantial progress. It was passed by both the House and Senate and is currently awaiting the Governor's action. The bill was approved by the Governor.

## **HB 1883: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program Requirements**

HB 1883 is enrolled and was communicated to the Governor on March 11, 2025. The Governor vetoed the bill.

## **SB 1040: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program Requirements**

SB 1040, which is identical to HB 1883, has also been enrolled and was communicated to the Governor on March 11, 2025. The Governor vetoed the bill.



# Virginia Session Summary

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## **Governor Youngkin's Actions**

- Signed 53 bills in the 2025 session, including key energy-related legislation; vetoed 38 others.
- One notable inclusion: a bill (HB 1491) defining fusion energy as a clean energy source, aligning with Virginia's broader clean energy agenda.
- Vetoed bills (HB 106, HB 108, SB 120) that would have expanded small-scale solar and energy storage (legislation supported by environmental groups and Dominion Energy). Also vetoed bills related to local solar procurement (HB 638, SB 271).
- Vetoed bills (HB 1601, SB 1449) that would have required developers to conduct impact assessments (noise, water, farmland, historic sites, forests, schools) for data centers over 100 MW.

# Maryland Letters

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## **HB 232: Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans - Requirement**

Aims to establish the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program. This program is designed to increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers and reduce litter, pollution, and associated costs. The bill prohibits producers from selling, offering for sale, or distributing redeemable beverage containers unless they are registered with the Department of the Environment, pay a certain fee, and are part of a stewardship organization. This initiative aligns with COG's legislative priorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the region's climate goals

## **HB 407: Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans - Requirement**

Requires the largest municipal corporation in each county to adopt or update recycling plans every five years, starting on or before January 1, 2026. These plans must provide for a reduction through recycling of a certain percentage of the municipal corporation's solid waste stream by weight. The Department of Planning is tasked with identifying certain municipal corporations as part of population projections. This bill supports COG's legislative priorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in metropolitan Washington

# Maryland Letters

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## **SB 149: Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**

Establishes the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program in the Department of the Environment. This program secures payments from businesses that extract fossil fuels or refine petroleum products to provide revenue for state efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and address health impacts on vulnerable populations. The bill also establishes the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Fund to support these efforts. This initiative aligns with COG's legislative priorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect public health, and enhance climate resiliency in metropolitan Washington

# Maryland Bills Status

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## **HB 232: Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans - Requirement**

The hearing for HB 232 was held on February 14, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Environment and Transportation Committee. The bill did not make it out of committee and to the Governor.

## **HB 407: Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans - Requirement**

The hearing for HB 407 was held on February 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Environment and Transportation Committee. The bill did not make it out of committee and to the Governor.

## **SB 149: Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025**

The hearing for SB 149 was held on February 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. The bill passed the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor.

# Maryland Session Summary

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## Governor Moore's Actions

Signed 2 major energy packages.

- **Next Generation Energy Act (HB 1035/SB 937)**
  - Expands in-state power generation and battery storage
  - Limits utility use of ratepayer funds (e.g. bans spending on utility lobbying and trade association dues)
- **Renewable Energy Certainty Act (HB 1036/SB 931)**
  - Establishes clear siting and decommissioning standards for commercial solar (+ battery) projects
  - Preempts restrictive local zoning for 1–2 MW solar installations.

## Vetoed Legislation

- The **Energy Resources Adequacy and Planning Act (HB 1037/SB 909)**, which would have created a strategic planning office on energy reliability, was vetoed, citing overlap with existing agencies

# Federal Actions

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## Reversal of California Low Emissions Vehicle Waiver

•**Senate Action:** The U.S. Senate has voted to **reverse California's Clean Air Act waivers**, which allowed the state to enforce stricter vehicle emissions standards (LEV program).

•**Implications:**

- Undermines California's long-standing authority to lead on vehicle emissions.
- Potential to weaken national climate targets and delay EV adoption.
- Ongoing legal challenges expected from environmental groups and affected states.

## ITC Tax Credit Repeal Proposal

•**Inclusion in Federal Tax Bill:**

- Proposal to **repeal the Investment Tax Credit (ITC)** for solar and other renewable energy projects.

•**Potential Impacts:**

- Could significantly slow down renewable energy deployment.
- Increases uncertainty for clean energy investors and developers.
- Strong opposition from industry stakeholders and climate advocacy groups.

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