

2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CEEPC Legislative Committee

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

2025 COG Legislative Priorities

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

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

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

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

HB 1616: Offshore Wind Industry Workforce Program and Fund

HB 1616 has progressed significantly and is currently enrolled. The bill was communicated to the Governor on March 11, 2025, and the Governor's action deadline is March 24, 2025

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 Governor's action deadline is March 24, 2025

HB 1883: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program Requirements

HB 1883 is enrolled and was communicated to the Governor on March 11, 2025. The Governor's action deadline is March 24, 2025

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's action deadline is March 24, 2025

Maryland Letters

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

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

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 is currently awaiting further action in the committee.

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 is currently awaiting further action in the committee.

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 is currently awaiting further action in the committee.

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