ENERGY THAT WORKS FOR VIRGINIA:
Statewide Priorities and Local Opportunities

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COGS)
CLIMATE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)

November 18, 2026

PRESENTED BY:

Vince Maiden

Director, Virginia Department of Energy

VIRGINIA Energy

WHO WE ARE

Advancing Virginia's energy, mining, and mineral policies and initiatives

1985

Created as the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

2021

Renamed Department of Energy (Virginia Energy)

THREE OFFICES

Richmond (HQ)
Charlottesville
Big Stone Gap

SIX DIVISIONS

Mining
Mined Lands
Geology & Mineral Resources
Gas & Oil
Mineral Mining
State Energy Office

OUR OBJECTIVES

Energy Strategy & Innovation

Secure funding and implement the Virginia Energy Plan

Boost innovation and efficiency

Ensure reliable, affordable energy

Safety & Stewardship

Safely manage mineral and energy resources

Prevent accidents, injuries, and fatalities at regulated sites

Reduce environmental and public-safety risks

Improve extraction-worker skills

Economic Development

Drive growth through responsible resource use

Align resources with economic opportunity

Expand opportunity through stakeholder collaboration

2026 Virginia Energy Plan

VIRGINIA Energy

ENERGY PLAN OVERVIEW

The Virginia Energy Plan is required every four years at the beginning of every Governor's term, governed by § 45.2-1710, to lay out the next decade and beyond of the state's energy strategy to achieve its net-zero ambitions

The 2026 Virginia Energy Plan has been informed by:

- Extensive stakeholder input
- Power sector modeling
- Research and analysis

Stakeholder input

3,000+
responses to the public survey

200+
participants in 6 in-person regional listening sessions

400+
participants in 20 virtual listening sessions and consultations

70+
participants in the public town hall

OUR VISION FOR VIRGINIA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Delivering affordable, reliable, and local clean energy that works for every community in Virginia and powers a thriving economy—today and for generations to come.

Strategic Pillars

PILLAR 1

Affordable Energy for Every Virginian

PILLAR 2

Clean Firm Resources to Enable Virginia's Growth

PILLAR 3

Local and Sustainable Energy that Benefits Every Community

SEVEN STRATEGIES FOR VIRGINIA'S ENERGY FUTURE

1

Deploy the lowest cost, fastest, and cleanest energy solutions

- Utility-scale storage and solar
- Efficiency and affordability
- Strategic DER adoption and market integration
- Better use of the existing grid

2 **Ensure data center growth advances Virginia's energy goals**

3 **Align utility incentives with affordable energy outcomes**

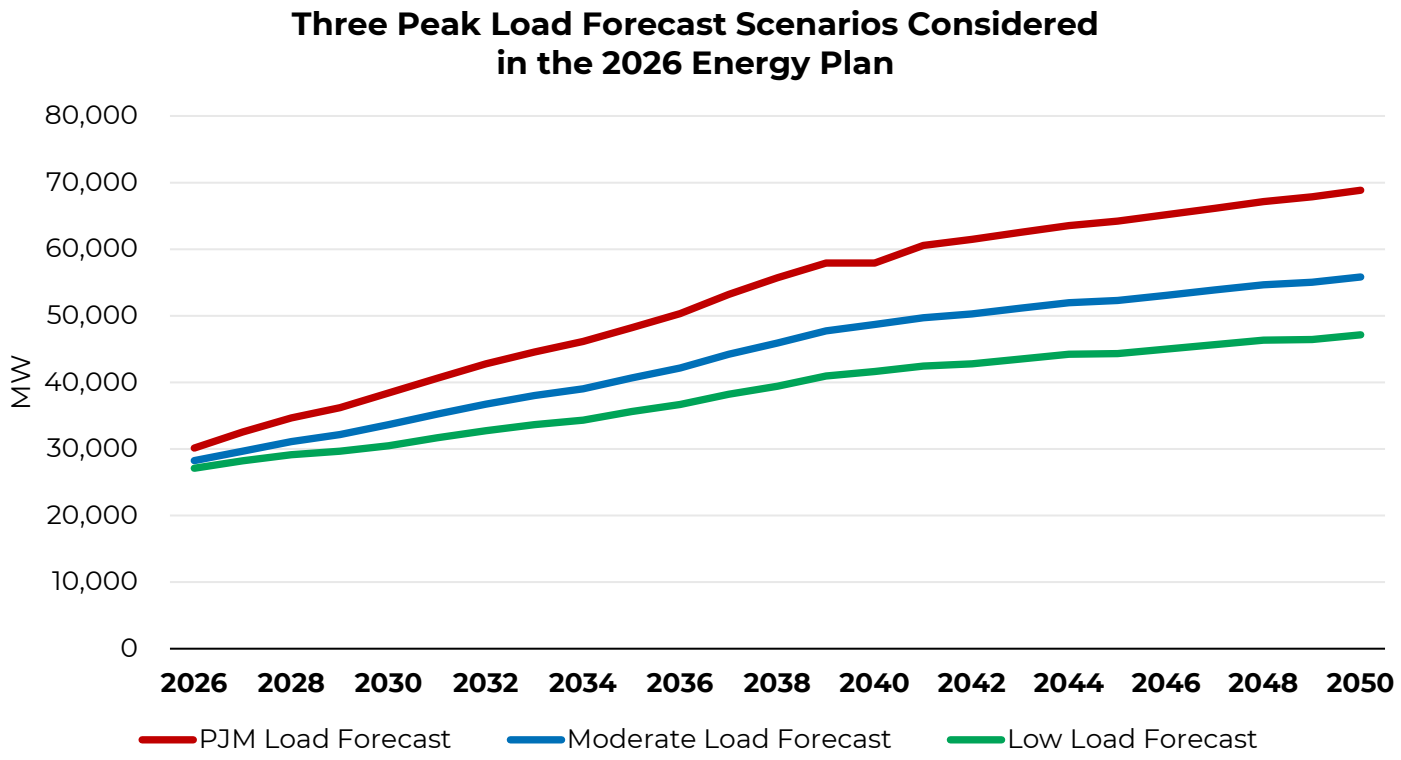
4 **Advance clean firm resources in Virginia**

5 **Reduce emissions and better leverage gas infrastructure**

6 **Drive affordable, clean transportation**

7 **Build a homegrown workforce and supply chain**

THREE LOAD GROWTH SCENARIOS CONSIDERED



PJM Load Forecast

3.50%
Annual growth rate

129%
Total increase from 2026 peak demand

Moderate Load Forecast

2.88%
Annual growth rate

98%
Total increase from 2026 peak demand

Low Load Forecast

2.33%
Annual growth rate

74%
Total increase from 2026 peak demand

FIVE POLICY CASES CONSIDERED

No Policy Goals	Removes VCEA and RGGI requirements
Current Policies (as of October 2026)	Reflects Virginia's current VCEA and RGGI policies
Distributed Flexibility Scenario	Current policies and three new variables: • 10 GW of DERs by 2045 • 10% demand flexibility from data centers • 5 GW of non-combustion gas bridge resources—e.g., fuel cells or linear generators that have lower localized air emissions and shorter lifespans
Distributed Flexibility with Moderate Solar/In-State Priority	Applies the Distributed Flexibility policies but reduces solar build limits and out of state capacity purchases
Distributed Flexibility Scenario with No New Gas	Applies the Distributed Flexibility policies but does not allow new natural gas generation—neither combustion nor non-combustion—to be built in Virginia

Virginia Energy Programs

VIRGINIA Energy

STATE ENERGY OFFICE

Building Virginia's energy future

Plan & policy

Develop and implement the Virginia Energy Plan

Guide reliability, affordability, and clean energy deployment

Programs & capital

Manage statewide clean energy programs and incentives

Administer VCEIB and the Virginia Power Innovation Program

Innovation & partnerships

Support renewables, nuclear, fusion, hydrogen, grid resilience, and energy equity

Coordinate federal funding and strategic partnerships

STATE ENERGY OFFICE BY THE NUMBERS

$471M

Federal funds

$815M managed in 2025 agency-wide.

>$1M

Fusion investment

Directed funding for the world's first commercial fusion power plant

190,000+

Energy-sector jobs

Jobs supported across Virginia's energy sector

KEY PROGRAMS

Capital & deployment

Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank (VCEIB)

Virginia Power Innovation Fund and Program

Virginia Energy Connect (VE Connect)

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

Solar Interconnection Grant Program

Grid & community resilience

Virginia Grid Reliability Improvement Program (VGRIP)

Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships Program (GRIP)

Demand Response

Community-Oriented Resilient Energy (CORE)

Efficiency & economic opportunity

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

Home Energy Rebates Programs

Clean Energy Workforce Programs

Sustainable Transportation Programs

VCEIB MOBILIZES CAPITAL FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank (VCEIB)

Public + private capital

Mobilize investment

Critical financing gaps

Reduce financial barriers

Clean power + infrastructure

Accelerate deployment across the Commonwealth

Housed in the State Energy Office

Expands reliable, affordable, local clean energy access
Creates well-paying jobs and supports domestic supply chains

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

PUBLIC FLEET CONVERSIONS

$1M

annually

Alternative Fuels Program Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

Public fleets in urbanized Virginia
Up to $10k reimbursement per vehicle
for eligible localities

EV CHARGING ACCESS

$1.1M

for charging infrastructure

Electric Vehicle Charging Assistance Program (EVCAP)

Install equipment in “charging deserts”
Reduce traveler range anxiety and
expand local charging access

VIRGINIA ENERGY CONNECT

Helping residents navigate the funding landscape

START WITH THE NEED

“I need to lower my energy costs.”

“My HVAC needs replacement.”

“My home needs weatherization or repairs.”

1. Discover

Virginia Energy Connect

Centralized, simplified incentive information:
WAP / WDR
Home Energy Rebates (HOMES/HEAR)
Utility Programs
Local / Other Programs

2. Navigate

Energy Ambassadors

Trained community partners help Virginians understand resources and find the appropriate pathway.

Community-based guidance, not a program administrator.

3. Connect

Program / provider

WAP / WDR:
DHCD + provider network

HOMES / HEAR:
Virginia Energy + InClime

Utility + Local/Other Programs

Eligibility, applications, project approvals, and funding follow each program’s requirements and implementer.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program (HEEHR)

$14,000

up to, per household

High-efficiency appliances
100% of costs for low-income households
50% for moderate-income households
$94 million in anticipated funding

Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES)

$8,000

up to, per household

Comprehensive efficiency upgrades
Single-family and multi-family buildings
At least 20% reduction in energy usage
$94 million in anticipated funding

ENERGY SECURITY & RELIABILITY

Research & security

Energy Modeling and Data Analytics

Transmission and Distribution System Research

Energy Security Planning

Virginia Energy Management Program

Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC)

Demand Response

Grants

Virginia Grid Reliability Improvement Program (VGRIP)

Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships Program (GRIP)

Defense Production Act (DPA) funding for grid infrastructure, equipment, and supply chain capacity

GRIP AND VGRIP

Federal funds support grid utilization and resilience

GRID UTILIZATION · GRIP

$84.8M

Federal award + $106M from partners
Two-state project led by Virginia Energy

Virginia site: battery storage at an Iron Mountain data center in NOVEC territory, earning PJM demand response, capacity, and ancillary revenue

RESILIENCE · VGRIP

Up to $17.4M

In contracted awards since 2022 to strengthen grid resilience

100% standard match; one-third match for qualifying small utilities, plus state match share

FY25/26 Federal application period closes February 2027

AMLER SUPPORTS COALFIELD ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program (AMLER)

Economic development opportunities for coal-distressed Appalachian communities

2017

AML Pilot Program began

$10–$11.8M

per year since 2017

50

projects selected since 2017

WHO CAN APPLY

Located in a designated distressed coalfield county of Southwest Virginia

Must create jobs, bring in revenue, or qualify as community improvement

Solar Permitting Platform Update

VIRGINIA Energy

SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM

Virginia passed legislation in 2026 (**House Bill 590 / Senate Bill 382**) requiring the Department of Energy to establish, launch, and administer a statewide **Smart Solar Permitting Platform** by **July 1, 2027**.

Virginia Energy has hired a Solar Permitting Platform coordinator to lead this work.

A tool for two audiences

Contractors

Obtain permits for the construction of streamline-eligible residential solar energy systems

Localities

Process applications for streamline-eligible residential solar permits

Eligible permit types

TYPE 1

Residential rooftop solar

TYPE 2

Energy storage

TYPE 3

Main panel upgrades

KEY MILESTONES

1

2026

Legislation passed

HB 590 / SB 382 signed into law

2

2026

Coordinator hired

Virginia Energy hires a Solar Permitting Platform coordinator to lead the work

3

July 1, 2027

Statewide launch

Virginia Energy launches the statewide Smart Solar Permitting Platform

4

July 1, 2028

Locality deadline

Localities must implement their own platform or adopt the statewide platform

5

After July 1, 2028

Compliance list

Virginia Energy maintains a public list of non-compliant localities on its webpage

Milestones 3–5 are upcoming statutory deadlines.

LOCALITIES HAVE TWO PLATFORM OPTIONS

One option must be in place by July 1, 2028

Adopt the statewide platform

Use Virginia Energy's Smart Solar Permitting Platform for residential solar, storage, and main panel upgrade permits

Implement your own platform

Stand up a locality smart solar permitting platform that meets HB 590 / SB 382 requirements

ACCOUNTABILITY After the deadline, Virginia Energy maintains a public list of non-compliant localities on its webpage

EO-22 Community Engagement and Benefits

VIRGINIA Energy

RESPONSIBLE SITING & REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY STUDY

Virginia Energy lead

Identify and publish opportunities for data center development that spread economic benefits across the Commonwealth and minimize energy, water, land-use, infrastructure, and community impacts.

180 days

to evaluate and solicit stakeholder input

Study focus areas

Previously developed sites

Brownfield, adaptive-reuse, and previously developed sites

Edge & distributed

Edge and other smaller or distributed models

Regional diversification

Development where infrastructure capacity exists

Co-location

Uses for data center waste heat or reclaimed water

Scenic & historic landscapes

Reducing impacts, including transmission lines

Input from: local governments, communities, tribes, utilities, consumer advocates, environmental organizations, workforce representatives, land-use and grid experts, developers, and others

ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Chief Energy Officer publishes; Virginia Energy is consulted

Initial Data Center Planning and Community Engagement Toolkit
for local governments and communities

Model documents	Questions, information requests, and disclosure templates
Impact evaluation	Demand, water, wastewater, backup generation, air emissions, noise, traffic, public-service needs, and other impacts
Community benefits	Model community-benefit agreement approaches
Engagement	Community engagement best practices
Site planning & design	Planning, design, landscaping, buffering, and mitigation

VA -LEAD DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Chief Energy Officer develops; Virginia Energy supports

Responsible Development Designation criteria, implementation plan, and long-term strategy

DESIGN APPROACH

Tiered scoring modeled on LEED and ENERGY STAR

Reflects Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy recommendations

Once established, a baseline for aligning agency incentives and administrative services

SCORING CATEGORIES

- **Energy & infrastructure impacts**
- **Water & land use**
- **Noise**
- **Workforce development**
- **Clean-energy & resilience investments**
- **Local sustainable construction materials**
- **Local community benefits**

FIVE PILLARS OF DATA CENTER ACCOUNTABILITY

Data Center Accountability Framework & Executive Order 22

1 Engage Transparently with Communities

Meaningful information and a genuine role in decisions; early, open engagement and benefits tied to local priorities

2 Protect Our Environment

Clean air and water; land conservation, noise controls, and attention to cumulative community impacts

3 Improve Affordability for Virginians

Pay a fair share of generation, grid, and public investments; growth should lower, not raise, customer energy costs

4 Advance Clean Energy and Grid Reliability

Support clean generation, efficiency, and flexible demand while strengthening grid optimization and resilience

5 Deliver a Better Deal for Our Workforce

Quality jobs, training, local procurement, infrastructure improvements, and durable community growth

RESPONSIBLE SITING CONNECTS STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS

Virginia Energy supported directive

Virginia Energy + Secretary of Commerce and Trade + Office of the Chief Energy Officer + stakeholders

Identify and publish opportunities that diversify economic benefits while minimizing energy, water, land-use, infrastructure, and community impacts

OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Brownfield + adaptive reuse	**Edge + distributed models**	**Regional infrastructure**	**Waste heat + reclaimed water**	**Scenic + historic landscapes**

VIRGINIA ENERGY SUPPORTS FIVE EO -22 DIRECTIVES

Data Center Accountability Framework & Executive Order 22

Planning & engagement	Develop the Data Center Planning and Community Engagement Toolkit for local governments and communities
VA-LEAD designation	Develop criteria and an implementation plan to distinguish responsible data center developments
Grid reliability	Evaluate operational-state best practices, including ride-through and voltage protections
Methane emissions	Recommend ways to support data center investment in methane reductions associated with natural gas infrastructure
Local & sustainable procurement	Develop best practices for development and operations; incorporate into the toolkit and VA-LEAD as applicable