

UTILITY DISCONNECTIONS IN THE REGION (DRAFT ANALYSIS)

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Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee
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National and State Profiles: 2024

- Nationwide
 - 15 million household disconnections
 - Electric: 13.4 million
 - Gas: 1.7 million
 - 17% never reconnected
- DC
 - Total Disconnections: 14,931
 - Electric: 11,976
 - Gas: 2,955
 - Total Reconnections: 7,850 (52%)
 - Electric: 6,444
 - Gas: 1,406

National and State Profiles: 2024

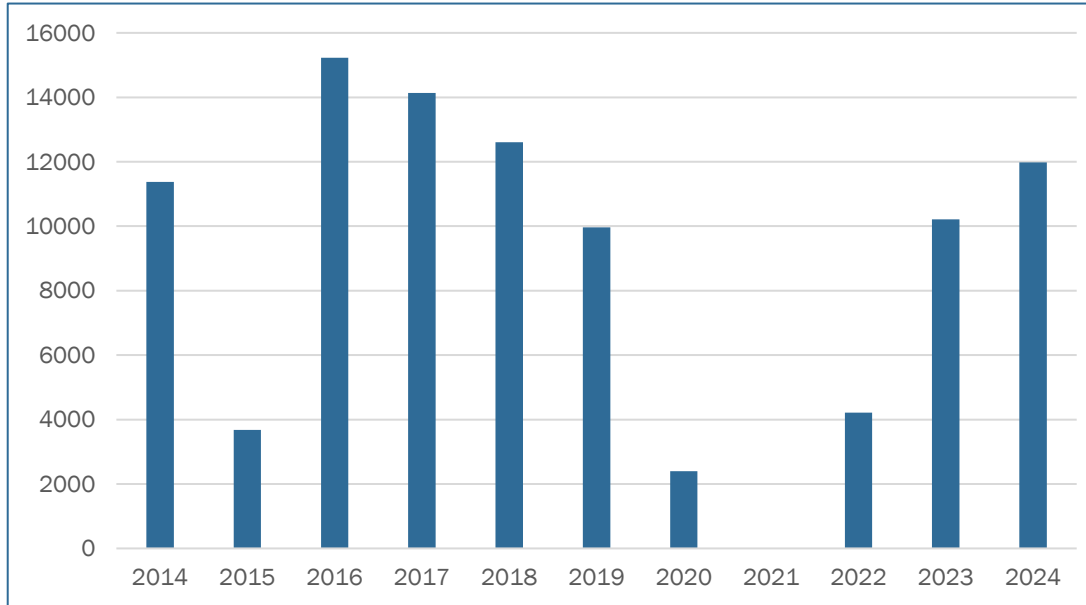
- MD
 - Total Disconnections: 50,012
 - Electric: 42,603
 - Gas: 7,409
 - Total Reconnections: 41,360 (83%)
 - Electric: 35,627
 - Gas: 5,733
- VA
 - Total Disconnections: 374,841
 - Electric: 368,427
 - Gas: 6,414

Data Source – Context

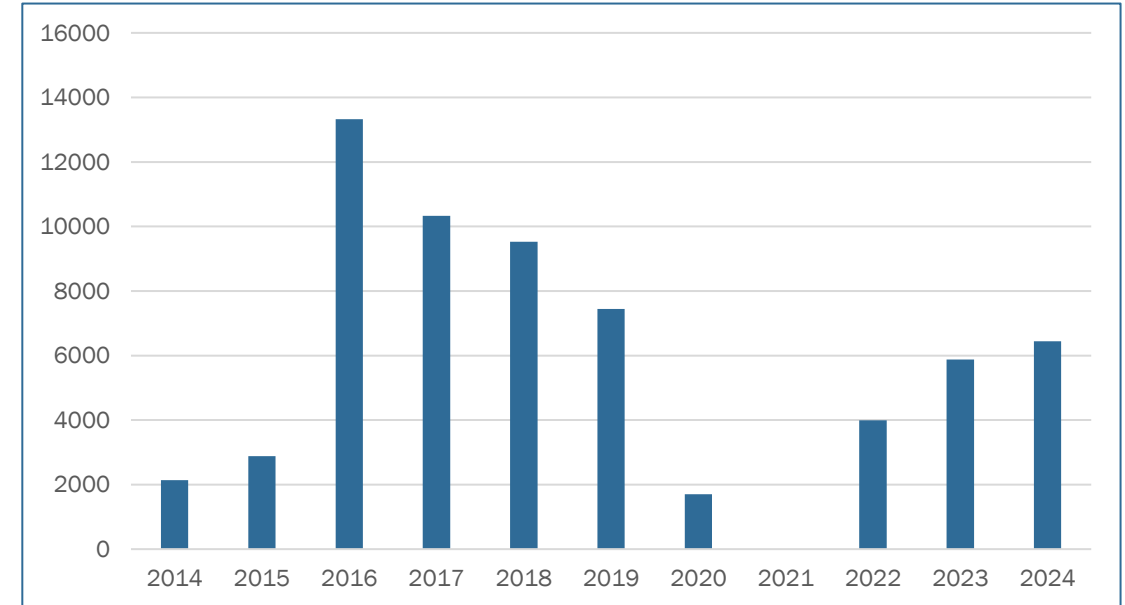
- Utility Disconnection: a deliberate interruption or limitation of a customer's utility service by the serving utility company, due to nonpayment.
- All data is from the [Utility Disconnection Dashboard](#), which gathers from utility reports, data received from open records requests from municipal utilities, or data shared from partners.
- This presentation only uses data from utility providers that operate in COG's region; however, this does not mean the data *only* includes COG jurisdictions.
- Additional slides with information regarding energy burden available at the end of this presentation.

Washington, D.C.

Electric Disconnections (Total)



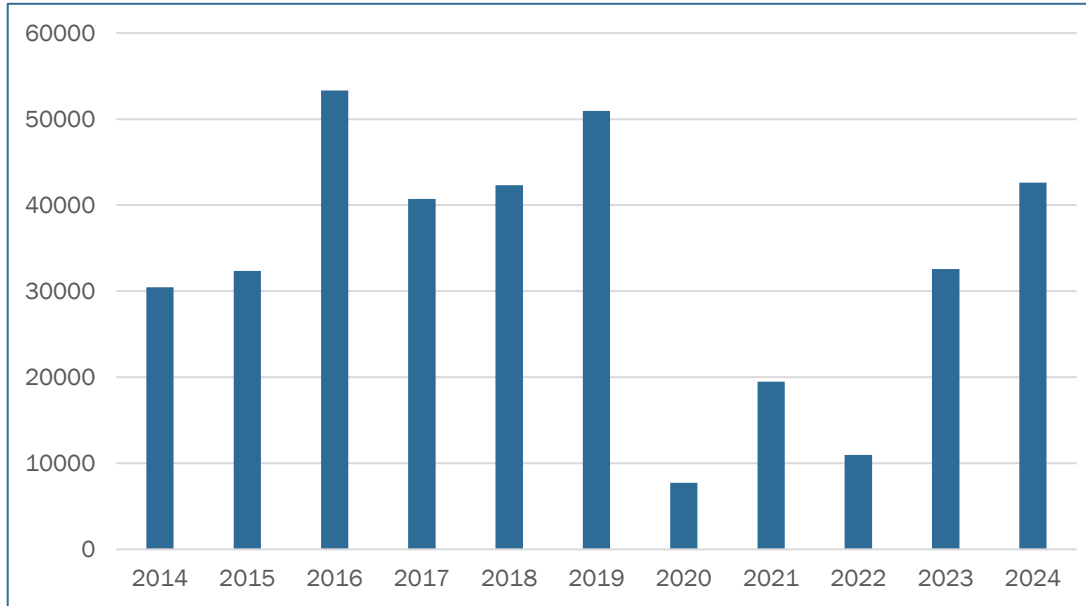
Electric Reconnections (Total)



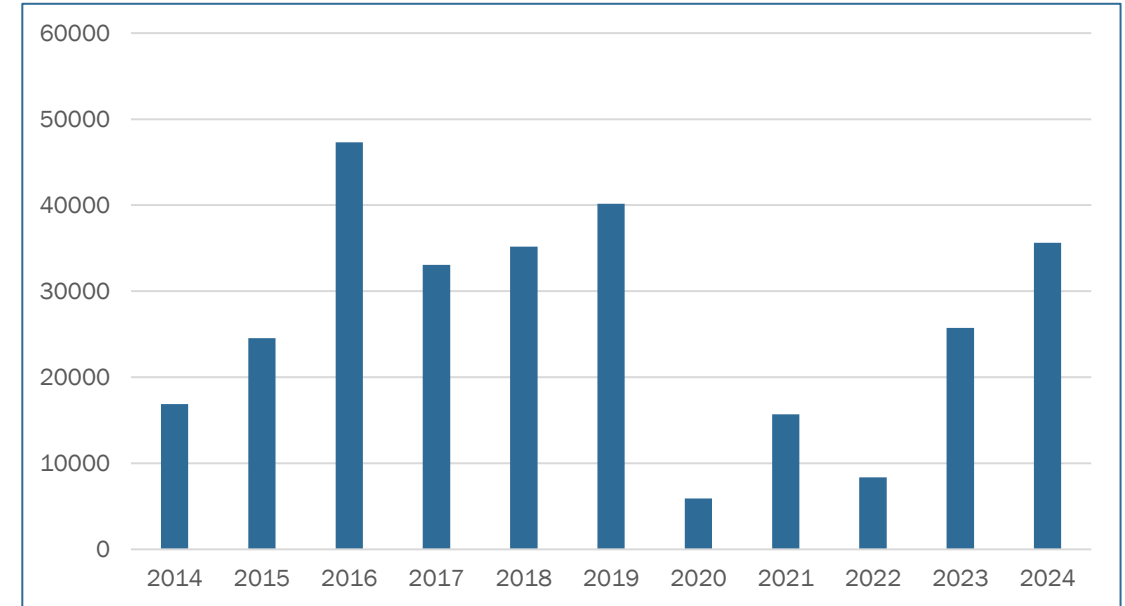
- The gap between disconnections and reconnections appears to be widening, with reconnection rate of 87.5% in 2016 lowering to 53.8% in 2024.

Maryland

Electric Disconnections (Total)



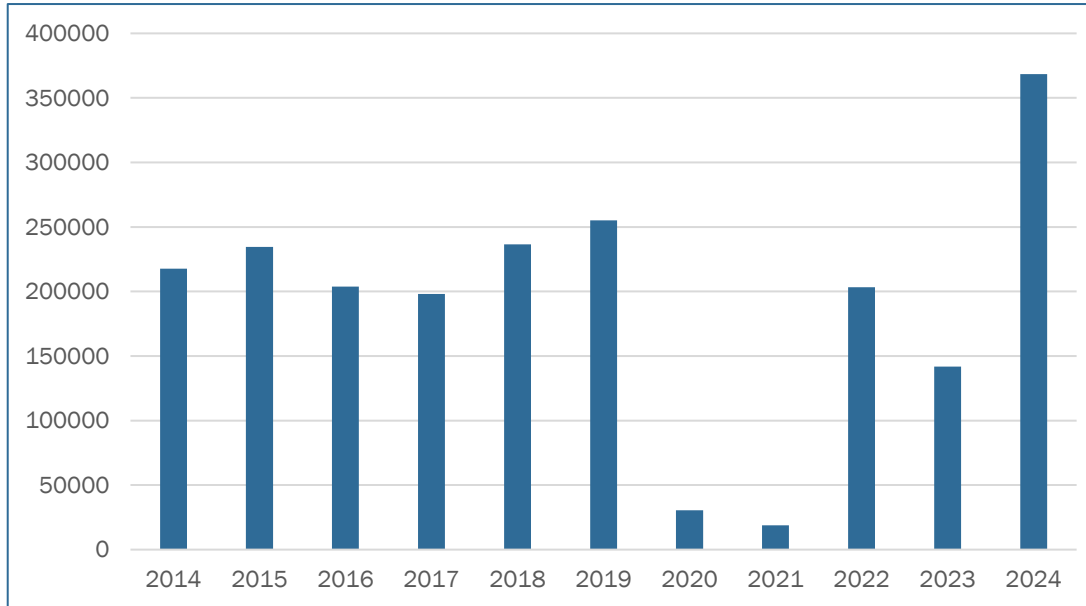
Electric Reconnections (Total)



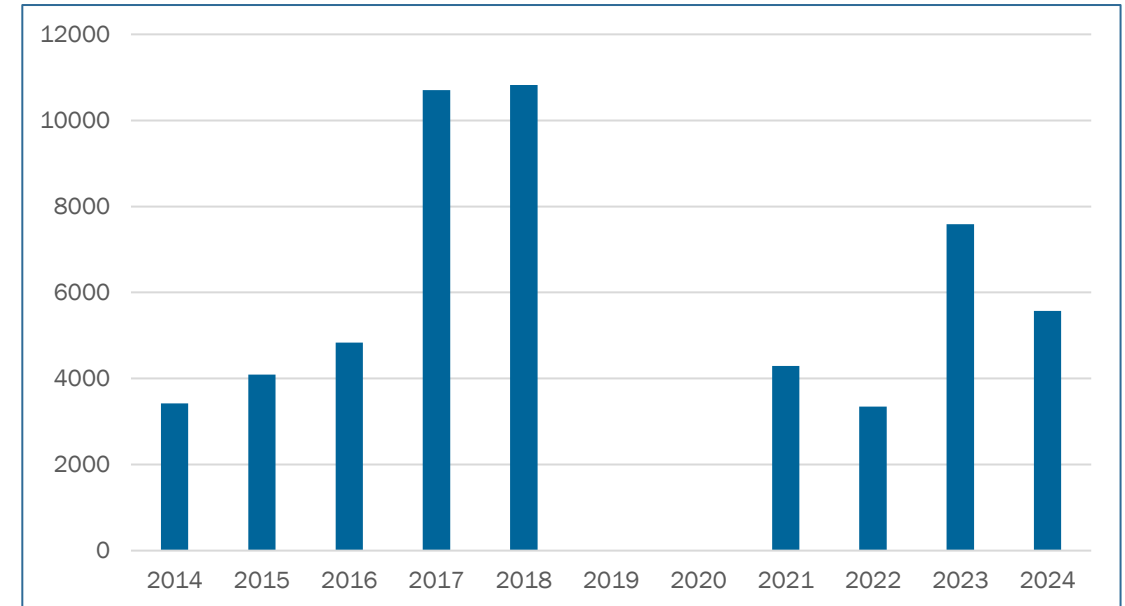
- Disconnections appear to be on a steady upward trend, with less of a disconnection gap, as there was a reconnection rate of 88.7% in 2016, and 83.6% in 2024.

Virginia

Electric Disconnections (Total)

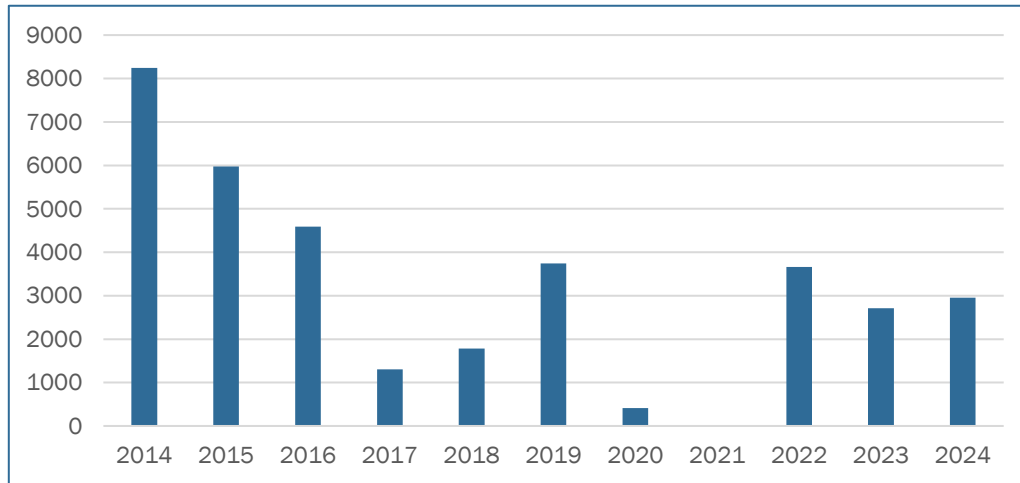


Electric Disconnections (Median)

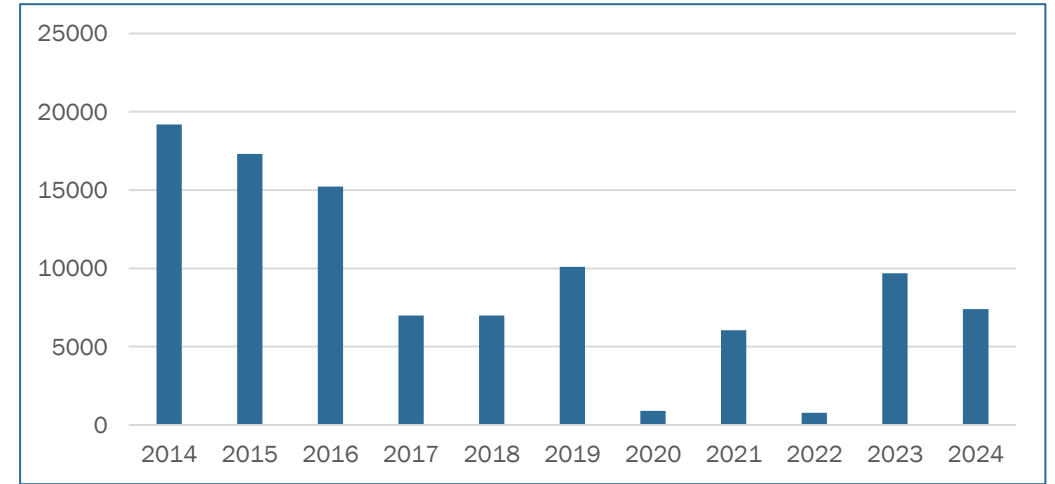


- Reconnection data is not available for Virginia.
- Disconnections have remained relatively stable, with a rise in 2024, yet the median monthly disconnection was much higher pre-Covid-19.

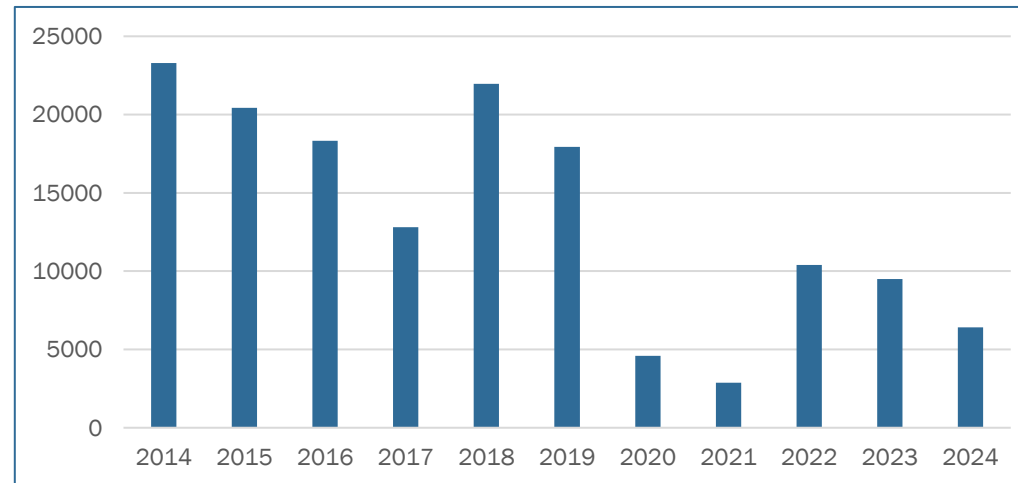
Gas Disconnections (Total)



Washington, D.C.



Maryland



Virginia



Data Trends of Interest

- There is a consistent gap between disconnections and reconnections.
- Utility disconnections are steadily rising since Covid-19 era moratoria came to an end, and we expect continued increases as utility prices increase.
- Virginia's pre-Covid-19 median is much higher than post-Covid-19.
- Gas disconnections appear to be on a downward trend in recent years.

Conclusion

- Questions to consider:
 - What are some policy strategies that support households transitioning from energy insecure to energy secure households?
[*Environmental Justice Toolkit 2.0: A Climate, Energy, and Air Quality EJ Community Engagement and Policy Guide for Local Governments*](#) (January 2026)
 1. Eliminate utility shut-off penalties and reconnection fees.
 2. Pass utility debt cancellation policy.
 3. Ban utility shut-offs for at-risk populations during extreme weather (at state, federal level).
 4. Stop utilities from selling debt to credit collection businesses.
 - Will household energy burden become a greater issue for higher income households?

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Additional Slides

Resources

- [The Energy Justice Lab](#): Utility Disconnection Dashboard
- [The Energy Equity Project](#): Tsunami of Shutoffs



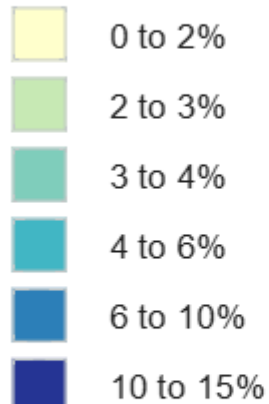
Energy Burdened Areas in the DMV

- <https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/lead-tool>



Legend

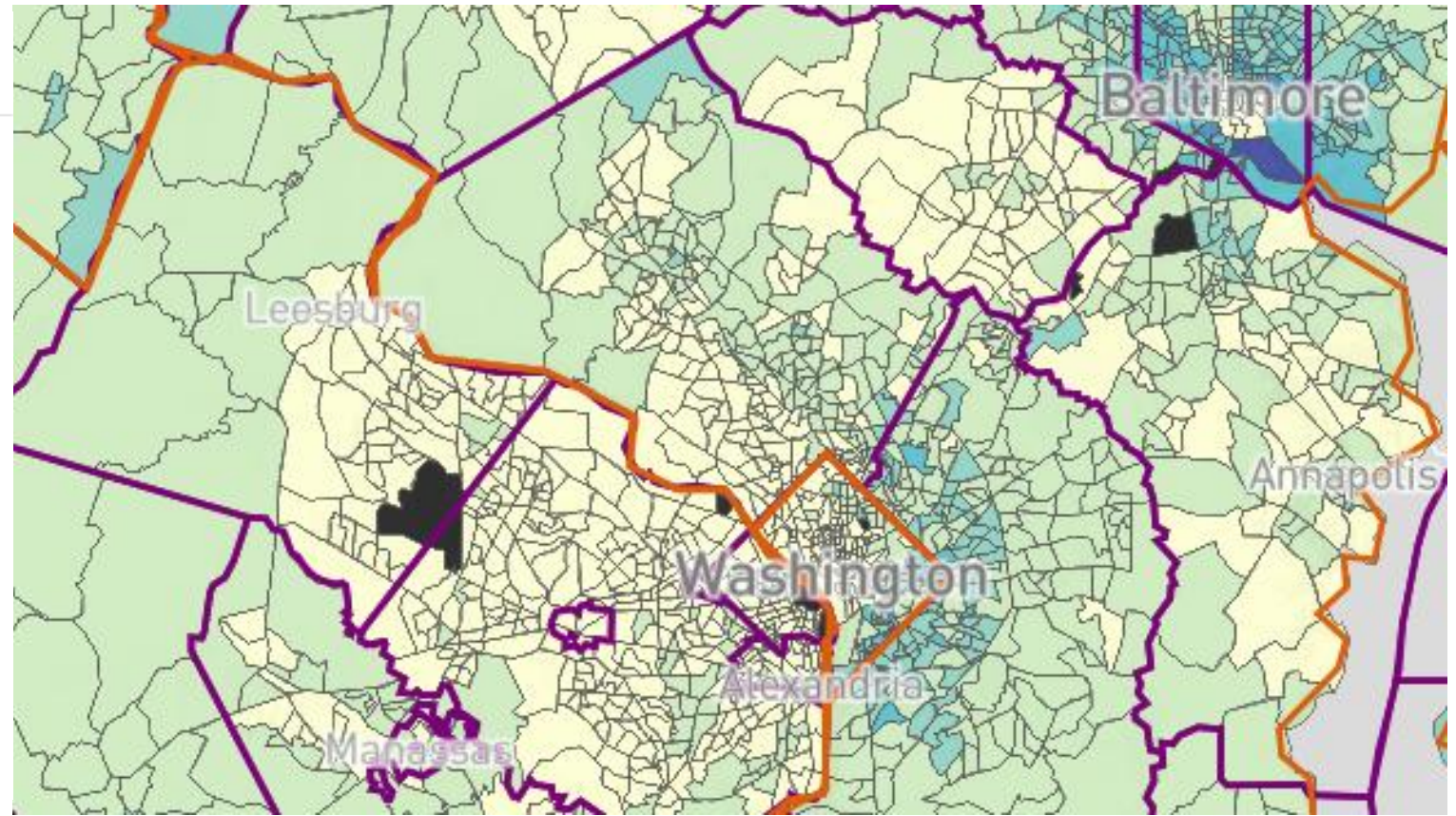
Energy Burden (% income)



State Boundaries

County Boundaries

Census Tract Boundaries



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

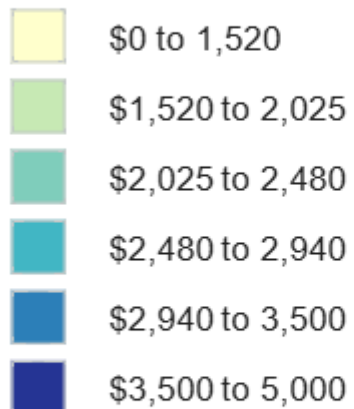
Energy Burdened Areas in the DMV

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Legend

Avg. Annual Energy Cost (\$)



- Orange line: State Boundaries
- Purple line: County Boundaries
- Grey line: Census Tract Boundaries



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments