

SUPPORT HB 1253

Net energy meeting by municipalities

Delegate Tran

Reasons to Support HB 1253

HB1253 would allow a local government to install solar panels or other renewable energy facilities to serve the needs of its nearby buildings, removing a current restriction that a facility can serve only a single electric meter on the same property as the facility.

- Municipal net metering offers an important tool for localities that want to lower energy costs, increase resiliency, reduce their carbon footprint and support local renewable energy installers.
- Municipal net metering would let local governments install renewable energy facilities at the most optimal sites, further lowering costs to taxpayers.

Overview

HB1253 amends Virginia's net metering law, which allows an electric utility customer with a grid-tied renewable energy facility to feed surplus energy onto the grid, offsetting electricity drawn from the grid at other times. The law requires, however, that the electricity be used onsite. There is no provision for a customer who wants to install a renewable energy facility on one site for use at another site, regardless of how much sense that makes from an economic and technical standpoint.

For example, Fairfax County owns a closed landfill with the potential to host a 3-megawatt solar array. This is not large enough for a utility-scale project that would sell electricity into the wholesale market, but it is an excellent size to supply electricity to nearby government-owned facilities and schools. However, the landfill is on property separate from the nearby county-owned buildings, so the County is unable to take advantage of the opportunity.

HB1253 would resolve this issue and free up local governments to install more solar and other renewable energy efficiently and cost-effectively.



Sierra Club
Virginia Chapter
Corrina Beall
Corrina.beall@sierraclub.org
(804)687-8108
www.sierraclub.org/virginia



Virginia Conservation Network
www.VCNVA.org