DEFENDING OUR ZERO-CARBON ENERGY GOALS

The key to rebuilding Virginia’s economy is not to go backwards; it lies in moving forward and expanding upon the success from the 2020 session. The legislature must oppose any attempts to unwind the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act, the Virginia Clean Economy Act, or other legislation that advances the clean energy economy.

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INVESTING IN VIRGINIA’S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Virginia should enact robust policies that increase energy efficiency across all sectors in the Commonwealth. Reducing energy burdens is especially important for low-income and overburdened households. Virginia should allow local governments to impose stronger efficiency measures within their jurisdictions. Failing to improve energy efficiency will burden Virginians, our health, environment and economy for decades.

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ENSURING OFFSHORE WIND BENEFITS ALL VIRGINIANS

To capture the job-creating and economic benefits of offshore wind development, a robust and diverse workforce in Virginia must be readied. To help ensure that offshore wind is brought online as affordably as possible, we must also ensure that offshore wind is composed of American made parts.

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PROTECTING VIRGINIA FROM NEW FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE
Expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure runs counter to the equitable treatment of Virginians, and to the necessary steps to mitigate the climate crisis. State agencies and legislators must hold polluters accountable, ensure protective measures for Virginia’s waterways, authentically engage and include resident stakeholders in transparent decision-making, and critically examine the need for new, extractive fossil fuel infrastructure that promises to harm Virginians.

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BUILDING AN EQUITABLE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY FOR COMMUNITIES AND WORK
Virginia has made great strides in addressing the challenge of climate change, but the Commonwealth must prioritize the needs of people and communities in the clean energy transition to ensure it is just, reaches our full clean energy potential, and addresses the harms of the extractive and destructive fossil-fuel industry, consistent with the principles of environmental justice. We must optimize this moment in order to connect low-income and frontline communities to healthier environments, new jobs, and economic opportunities in the clean energy economy.

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A WIND TURBINE PROVIDES POWER TO THE LEARNING BARGE WHILE EVACUATED TUBES ABSORB SOLAR ENERGY THAT HEATS WATER ON THE BARGE, DOCKED AT GRANDY VILLAGE LEARNING CENTER IN NORFOLK, VA.
Image credit: Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program