

A large, dark teal silhouette of a leaf or branch is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the text.

USGBC Virginia: 2020 Virginia Legislative Recap

2020 Legislative Update

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Connecting Leaders.
Amplifying Voices.



Energy Efficiency Legislation:

- Virginia Clean Economy Act
- Governor's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Legislation
- Electric Cooperative On-Bill tariff



Connecting Leaders.
Amplifying Voices.

The Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA)

The VCEA (SB 851) will transform Virginia's clean energy industry. With benchmarks for offshore wind, solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency, this new law has the potential to create an additional 13,000 jobs in Virginia.

The efficiency gains in the VCEA include:

- Mandated savings targets for the investor-owned utilities set through 2025 with the SCC setting new goals every three years thereafter.
- Enhanced stakeholder discussions to ensure long-term planning and VCEA goal setting are part of those conversations.
- High-energy users above 1MW must pay for EE programs unless they prove savings from their own programs.

Governor's RGGI Legislation

Fifty percent of revenue from carbon allowance auctions will fund low-income energy efficiency programs administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

- Energy efficient upgrades to public housing facilities both new and existing
- Incentivize energy-efficient construction of affordable housing via the Virginia Housing Trust Fund.
- DHCD plans to engage with stakeholders as they develop the process for allocating these funds.

On-Bill Tariff (SB 754)

SB 754 enables electric cooperatives in Virginia to establish on-bill tariff programs for their member-customers. An on-bill tariff program allows customers to greatly enhance the efficiency of their homes with no upfront costs. The costs of the energy-saving measures are paid back through an energy savings charge on their monthly electric bill.

- Before launching such program, a coop must establish a stakeholder process to engage with customers and stakeholders in program design with a focus on consumer safeguards.
- These programs cannot be established before January 1, 2021.



USGBC-VA & Resilient Virginia Legislative Recap

June 1, 2020

Elizabeth Beardsley

Senior Policy Counsel

**SAFE
HEALTHY
INCLUSIVE
SMART
PRODUCTIVE
EFFICIENT
EQUITABLE
SUSTAINABLE
RESPONSIVE
RESILIENT**



Our 2030 Vision

Leverage our tools in policy to drive
sustainable, healthy, and resilient buildings
and communities to enable a high quality of
life for all

ADVOCACY GOALS



Ensure that taxpayer dollars being spent on federal, state and municipal buildings are going towards buildings that cost less to build and operate and are healthier for people.



Ensure that citizens' disaster recovery funds are spent on high quality, resilient buildings that mitigate climate related risks and promote social equity and health.



Ensure that lawmakers and elected officials have access to current information on green building and resilient communities so they can make the best decisions.



Ensure that those who are using LEED are being rewarded through incentives and other benefits.

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- Support policies aligned with mission
- LEED policies – or will lead to LEED included in policy
- Energy efficiency advocacy work as a building block to LEED
- Programs or recommendations that promote or encourage third party certification and LEED

www.usgbc.org/resources/advocacy-usgbc-2020-priorities

SB 963 State benchmarking

- Context: VA Energy Plan; Energy Data Warehouse; EO 43; Green Building Act
- Goal: support DMME and state agencies in path to resource efficiency, saving money, and cutting emissions



SB 963 – legislative process

- Senator Surovell patron
- Passage by Senate:
 - State agency benchmarking
 - Resilient and efficient buildings board
- Amendment in House
 - Reverted to introduced version for benchmarking
 - Eliminated board
- Final bill enacted and approved by Governor

SB 963 – what's next

- Implementation
 - Agency designation of energy manager
 - Training – ENERGY STAR
 - Over next 5 years, benchmarking
 - Priority list for EE and RE investment
 - Integration with Energy Data Warehouse
- Long-term outcomes:
 - Reduced energy and water use by state, reduced energy-related GHG
 - Data to support improvement decisions

HB 518/SB 628

- Adds **residential energy analysis** to existing required disclosure to homebuyers
- Goal is to expand participation on energy analyses at time of sale
- Long-term, could help energy savings in residential sector, and could look to integrate with mortgage options



Residential Energy Analysis

According to § 54.1-1144, "Residential building energy analysis" means (i) an inspection, investigation, or survey of a dwelling or other structure to evaluate, measure, or quantify its energy consumption and efficiency, including lighting, HVAC, electronics, appliances, water heaters, insulation, and water conservation, and (ii) recommendations to reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency of a dwelling or other structure, including lighting, HVAC, electronics, appliances, water heaters, insulation, and water conservation for compensation conducted or made by a licensed residential building energy analyst.

HB 981/SB1027 – provisions

- *Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act Auction Proceeds:*
- 50% to Department of Housing and Community Development for “low-income efficiency programs, including programs for eligible housing developments.”
 - DMME review & approval
 - Low income areas = <80% MHI or opportunity zone

HB 981/SB1027 – provisions cont'd

- 45% to Department of Conservation and Recreation to fund flood preparedness and climate change planning and mitigation through the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Priority to nature-based solutions, low income area set-aside





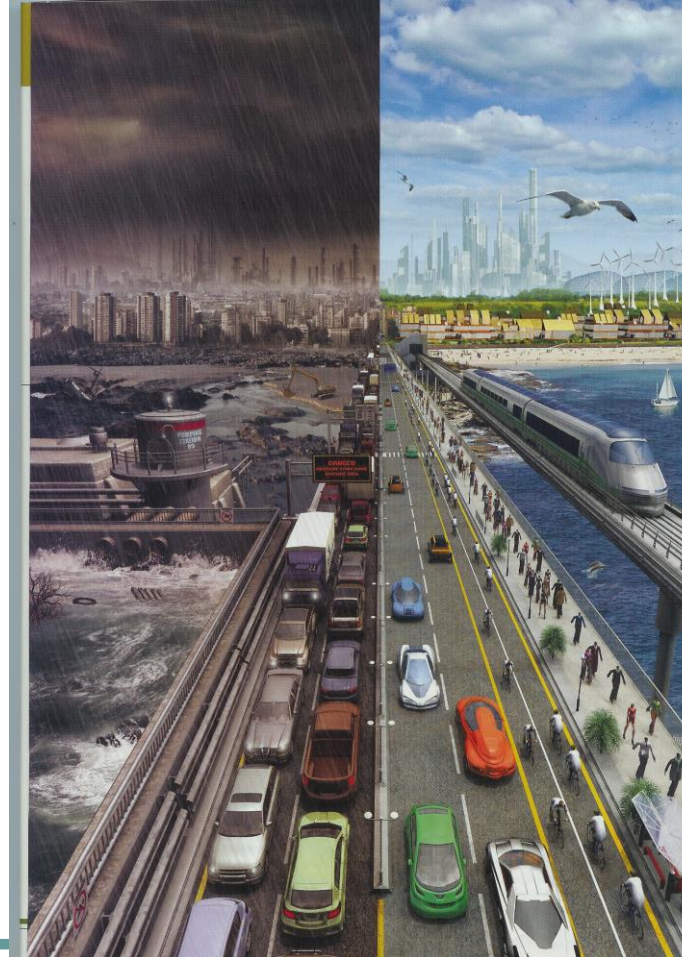
**Mission – accelerate resiliency
planning in communities
across the Commonwealth.
www.resilientvirginia.org**

What is Resiliency?

Resiliency - Having the ability to reduce risk, while building the capacity to regain functionality and vitality in the face of chronic stressors or severe disturbances.

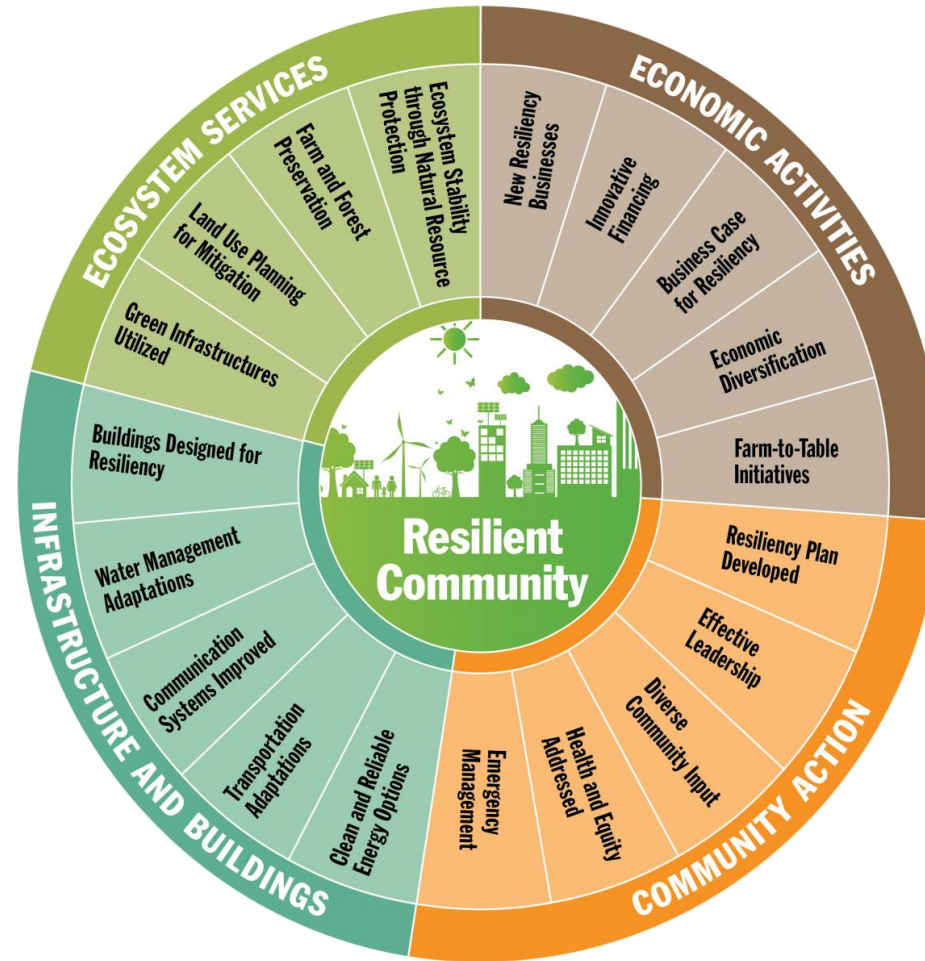
Short term – Address extreme weather or other high impact events.

Long term - Successfully adapt to changing climate, social, and economic conditions.



Community Resiliency Components

- Community Actions
- Infrastructure & Buildings
- Ecosystem Services
- Economic Activities



2019 Resilient Virginia Conference

2019 RESILIENT VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

JULY 18-19, 2019



DARDEN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA | CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA



Looking Ahead 2020-2021



Under Development

Resiliency Academy – Workshops on high priority topics:
Resiliency Planning, Resilient Building Design, Flood Readiness
and Flood Insurance, Small Business Preparedness, and the Role
of Working Lands for Mitigation

Consulting - with local governments on resiliency
initiatives

State policy - provide examples of statewide resiliency plans that
could guide Virginia's programs, funding, and development
initiatives

Statewide C-PACE Program

C-PACE – Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy In Brief

- Offers 100% private financing to building owners for qualifying measures
- Repayments are made through property tax bills or utility bills
- Loan conveys with the building if sold
- Eligible building types are commercial, industrial, multifamily, agricultural, and nonprofit
- Eligible measures initially were HVAC upgrades, building controls, building envelope improvements, solar energy and energy storage equipment, vehicle charging stations, water efficiency upgrades

Statewide CPACE Program

2020 General Assembly

- **HB 654** – Established a statewide program for financing clean energy, resiliency, stormwater and flood management
- Builds on 2015 legislation which allowed local governments to set up the financing program
- 2019 legislation added resilience, flood prevention, and stormwater management as eligible measures
- DMME will hire a third-party administrator to oversee the program's operations
- Program activities will begin as of July 1, 2020.

Statewide CPACE Program

Advantages of a Statewide C-PACE Program

- Expedites access to financing for building owners across the state, especially in smaller jurisdictions
- Can work along side existing local programs - Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun Counties, Petersburg and Fredericksburg
- Helps achieve objectives of VA Clean Economy Act, Executive Order 43, and 2018 VA Energy Plan
- Resiliency features expand scope and include flood mitigation measures as needed across the state

Virginia Chief Resilience Officer 2020 General Assembly

HB 1313 – Governor shall designate a Chief Resilience Officer and a Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection

Codifies provisions of **Executive Order 24**: Increasing Virginia's Resilience to Sea Level Rise and Natural Hazards

Chief Resilience Officer


- Serves as primary coordinator of resilience and adaptation initiatives and recurrent flooding in Virginia
- Equally responsible for all urban, suburban and rural areas of the Commonwealth

Special Assistant

- Addresses coastal adaptation and flooding mitigation
- References the Coastal Resilience Master Plan
- Provides for coordination of DCR and other agency programs connected to flood control, dam safety, building codes, land use planning

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Moderated Discussion

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Q & A

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**Thank you for
attending!**