



# 2017 Program Agenda

*Each year Environment Virginia sets program priorities. In addition to helping us measure our progress, the program agenda lets decision makers know which high priority environmental items our members want us to tackle.*

## Global Warming Solutions

From recent severe storms to unhealthy air days and rising seas that put our coastal communities at risk, Virginia is already facing the impacts of global warming. These consequences, and others, will only grow worse unless we cut the carbon pollution fueling global warming and transition to clean, renewable energy. Environment Virginia:

- Opposes any efforts in the U.S. Congress and Virginia General Assembly that prevent or delay Virginia's ability to limit carbon pollution from power plants under the Clean Air Act or State Air Pollution Control Board.
- Supports a state plan to reduce carbon pollution from new and existing power plants in Virginia 30% by 2030 that is equitable and promotes clean energy like wind and solar power and energy efficiency.
- Supports legislation for Virginia to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) or other regional compact that caps Virginia's carbon emissions and creates a dedicated funding stream for coastal adaptation, workforce development and energy efficiency and clean energy development.

## 100% Renewable Energy

Imagine being able to power your life without harming the environment. Imagine our country producing and consuming energy while we enjoy healthy, livable communities. We have the power to live in that future. More and more Virginians are going solar, meeting our energy needs in a way that's clean and local. And Virginia can tap into the vast resource of offshore wind power. That's why Environment Virginia is calling for a commitment to 100% renewable energy and the policies that get us there. To do that, we support:

- Corporate and local and state government commitments to 100% renewable energy.

- Setting bold local and statewide goals for solar production and encouraging cities and counties taking action on solar by establishing solar goals, solarize programs, streamlined permitting and more.
- Legislation that opens up Virginia's true solar potential by removing barriers for residential and commercial solar procurement.
- Legislation and initiatives that encourage utility-scale and customer owned community renewable energy projects, usually solar, that allow Virginians who would like to but currently can't benefit from solar (due to structural constraints, shading from trees, etc.) to buy into a central "community" array and get credit for the solar their investment produces.
- Supporting a federal Investment Tax Credit for offshore wind power in the U.S. Congress, which will provide the financial certainty needed to unleash our offshore wind development.
- Supporting continued investments in offshore wind power including federal research, development and the deployment of pilot programs.
- Encouraging the McAuliffe administration to set a state target and advance policies that ensure a competitive market for offshore wind power.

## Environment Virginia's mission

*We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way. That's the idea behind Environment Virginia. We protect Virginia's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.*





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## Standing Up for Virginia's Rivers and Streams

The Potomac River, the James, the Chesapeake Bay, and the countless streams and rivers that criss-cross the commonwealth, are where Virginians go to boat, fish and swim; they also provide us with clean drinking water. We support protecting and restoring our waterways by:

- Supporting legislation requiring the evacuation and removal of solid waste from electric utility-owned coal ash impoundments to a synthetically lined landfill for the safest possible long-term coal ash storage that protects Virginia's waters.
- Keeping our beaches and other waterways safe from sewage overflows and runoff pollution with new stormwater standards and adequate funding to prevent this pollution with green infrastructure.
- Ensuring Virginia reaches its Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan goals by appropriating at least 2017 levels of funding for agricultural best management practices and the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund for fiscal year 2018.
- Protecting our waterways from industrial agriculture pollution through limits on pollution from large factory farms.
- Closing the loopholes that exempt fracking from our nation's bedrock environmental laws and leave our environment and public health at greater risk, including the loopholes in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and our nation's hazardous waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- Opposing legislation to exempt fracking chemicals from Freedom of Information Action (FOIA) requests

as trade secrets to protect the health and safety of land-owners and localities concerned about the chemicals used in fracking operations.

## Get the Lead Out

Lead is a potent neurotoxin that affects how our children develop, learn, and behave. Yet across the country thousands of tests are showing lead in the drinking water at homes, schools, pre-schools, and/or child care centers. Environment Virginia supports policies that **get the lead out of water** at school and early childhood programs by:

- **Removing lead service lines**, the largest single source of lead in water.
- **Installing NSF-certified filters** on faucets or fountains used for drinking or cooking at school.
- **Testing water fully and properly**, and public access to all data and remediation steps.
- Immediate shut-off of outlets where water contains more lead than **one part per billion**.

## No Bees, No Food

Millions of bees are dying off, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90% of most of the world's food. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows, and the list goes on. What happens if the bees disappear? It's simple: No bees, no food. Its urgent we protect our bees. To do that, **Environment Virginia is calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to declare a moratorium on bee-killing pesticides, including a class of bee-killing insecticides known as neonics.**

