



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

VCCA General Assembly Preview:
Climate and Health Priorities

Bob Kitchen

January 30th, 2023

Objectives

- VCCA's Advocacy Role
 - Past Advocacy Days
- General Assembly and the Legislative Process
 - Legislation Past and Present
 - Details for Advocacy Day 2023

Our Work

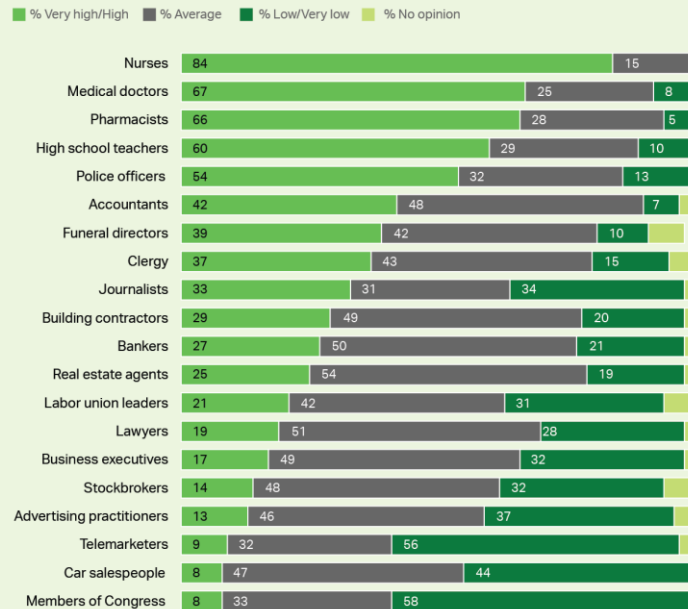
- Education/Research
- Community Outreach
 - Advocacy

Climate policy is health policy.

VCCA clinicians provide credible, health-based perspectives on climate policy solutions to ensure that policies are made with the health of our citizens and communities as a top priority.

Health Professionals Are Effective Messengers

Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields -- very high, high, average, low or very low?



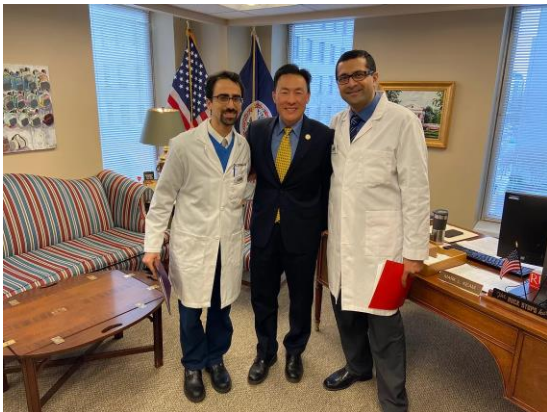
GALLUP, DEC. 3-12, 2018



VCCA Advocacy in Action



VCCA Annual Advocacy Days



VCCA Annual Advocacy Days

- **2018:** VCCA's clinician coalition educated lawmakers on the health and economic benefits of clean energy, clean water, and environmental justice policy.
- Additionally, clinician advocates testified before various legislative committees.
- *Never before had clinicians in their white coats walked the halls of the General Assembly to discuss climate change solutions.*



VCCA Annual Advocacy Days

- **2019:** More than 30 clinicians from across the Commonwealth attended meetings with state legislators calling for action that combats climate change and improves the health of Virginians.
- VCCA representatives also attended afternoon committee hearings to testify on the health benefits of bills related to ***coal ash storage solutions*** and investing in a clean energy economy by ***expanding access to solar power*** and ***joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative***.



VCCA Annual Advocacy Days

- **2020:** Twenty-five VCCA members met with their elected officials to discuss why climate change solutions are vital to protecting the health of Virginians:
 - *Increasing access to solar energy generation
 - *Protecting workers from extreme heat
 - *Joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
 - *Health benefits of **the Virginia Clean Economy Act**



VCCA Annual Advocacy Days

- **2021:** Forty-five clinicians met virtually their state legislators and their aides with this year's focus being transportation and environmental justice:

- * **Advanced clean car standards**

- * Electrification of the school bus fleet

- * Environmental justice

- * Improved air quality monitoring



VCCA Annual Advocacy Days

2022:

- **Defense of RGGI, VCEA, and ACC Standards**
- **New Legislation:**
 - Solar Ready Roofs & Net-zero Schools
 - Powers of local governments; energy efficiency of buildings
 - Virginia Electric Vehicle Grant Program



VCCA Annual Advocacy Days



VCCA 6th Annual Advocacy Day
February 9th, 2023

The Legislative Process

Legislative Session Explained

- Legislative Session = time new laws introduced / passed
- Types of “session”:
 - Regular Session
 - Special Session
- **Regular Session**
 - Starts on second Wed. of January
 - Lasts 60 days in even years
 - 45 days in odd years (typically)
- **Important moments:**
 - Filing Deadline
 - Crossover
 - Budget Sunday



2023 General Assembly Calendar

- 7/18/22** Prefiling begins
- 1/11/23** Session Convenes, Prefiling ends 10AM
- 2/07/23** Crossover (last day for each house to act on its own legislation)
- 2/25/23** Session adjourns
- 3/27/23** Last day for governor's action on bills
- 4/12/23** Reconvened session
- 7/01/23** Effective date of enacted legislation

The Legislative Process

Two Chambers: House And Senate

- **House = 100 Members**
 - 48 Dems / 52 Reps
- **Senate = 40 members**
 - 21 Dems/ 19 Reps

Powers of ALL GA Members:

- Write/Introduce Bills
- Vote on legislation
- Serve on committees

Virginia General Assembly



The Legislative Process

Lawmaking Process



GA Member has an Idea for A law

- Gets idea from lobbyist, advocacy group, constituent
- Sends bill to DLS
- DLS drafts into legal language
- Legislator becomes “Chief Patron”



Bill is Sent to Committee

- (House) Speaker sends, (Senate) Clerk Sends
- Committee holds PUBLIC hearing
- They listen to testimony
- Vote on Action for a Bill (more later)



Bill Is Voted on (must Pass Both Chambers)

- Every member casts a vote
- Bill is sent to opposite chamber
- Committee Process starts all over again



Governor offers changes or signs into law

- Can “Line-Item Veto” or fully reject
- Vetoes are reviewed in April
- Laws go into effect July 1 of that year (unless otherwise

The Legislative Process

Lawmaking Process: Advocacy Opportunities



GA Member has an Idea for A law

- Give Idea to Lawmaker!
- Ask for a bill “by-request”
 - Written out, short, include bullet points
- Track Legislation



Bill is Sent to Committee

- (House) Pressure Speaker
- Pressure Committee Chair & Members
- Attend Committee hearing
- Speak at Committee hearing

Committee Actions

- Recommends reporting
- Reported from (committee/subcommittee)
- Read third time and passed (Senate/House)
- Recommends reporting with amendments
- Lay on the table
- Failed to recommend reporting
- Tabled in (committee/subcommittee)
- Passed by indefinitely

The Legislative Process-LIS*

(SB 1322, Tran HB 2209)

<https://lis.virginia.gov/>

[Virginia General Assembly](#) [LIS Home](#) [LIS Help](#) [Privacy Statement](#) [Live Help](#) [LIS Classic](#) [Login](#)

LIS

VIRGINIA'S LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM

SEARCH SITE

enter keyword here

QUICK LINKS

OTHER SESSIONS

LOBBYIST in a BOX
Free bill tracking service

VIRGINIA LAW PORTAL

[Code of Virginia](#)

[Virginia Administrative Code](#)

[Constitution of Virginia](#)

[Charters](#)

[Authorities](#)

2023 SESSION

Convened January 11, 2023

Bills & Resolutions: *Status of individual bills and related information*

General Assembly Members: *Member sponsored legislation*

Standing Committees: *Legislation referred to committee*

State Budget: *Budget bills, committees and summaries*

Daily Floor Calendars: *Legislative agendas*

Communications: *Legislation communicated between houses*

House Minutes / Senate Minutes: *Record of floor sessions*

Meetings: *House and Senate committee meeting schedule*

Statistics: *Session statistics*

Lobbyist-in-a-Box: *Subscription-based bill tracking service*

Cumulative Index: *Subject index of bills and resolutions*

House Video: *House session video*

Senate Video: *Senate session video*

VCCA

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Advocacy Process



Lobbying.

Your chance to leave
an Impression

DO

- Explain why you care
- Use your constituent credentials
- Bring a handout
- Tell Personal Stories
- Give them a hard ask

DON'T

- View them as celebrities
- Debate
- Stray from the point
- Only bring up facts, studies, etc.

Important Previously Passed Legislation

Virginia Clean Economy Act

RGGI Participation

Clean Car Standards

Virginia Clean Economy Act

Passed by 2020 General Assembly

- Transition VA's electric grid to 100% clean energy by 2045
- Coal and oil-fired electric generating plants to close by the end of 2024
- Biomass-fired plants to close by end of 2028
- Will create more than 13,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.

Virginia Clean Economy Act

“Assuming a steady rate of declining air pollution between the time the law was enacted and 2045, such that the goal of 100% reduction is reached in 2045, by 2045 the Commonwealth will:

- Prevent between 280 and 640 premature deaths.
- Save between \$141 million and \$356 million per year in health costs, for a total savings of \$2.8 billion to \$7 billion over the next 20 years.
- Prevent thousands of work loss days per year, ultimately saving Virginia’s citizens and businesses \$387,000 annually or \$7.8 million by 2045.
- Avoid the greatest health costs in Chesterfield, Henrico, and Fairfax counties with total annual savings of \$40 million, \$35 million, and \$26 million respectively.”

(Virginia Climate Center, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA)

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative



***Who are the RGGI states?** The participating RGGI states include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,² Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.*

RGGI

- RGGI is a market-based effort among 12 NE and MA states to cap and reduce CO₂ emissions from the power sector.
- Fossil-fuel fired electric power generators are required to hold allowances equal to their CO₂ emissions over a three-year control period.
- Regulated sources can use a CO₂ allowance issued by any participating state by purchasing them at regional auctions, or through secondary markets.

Benefits to RGGI States

- Since RGGI was founded, emissions from power plants in RGGI states have dropped by 50%, double the amount that emissions have dropped in non-RGGI states.
- Electricity rates have declined compared to increases for other states.
- From 2009 to 2014 the decreased pollution in RGGI states led to the prevention of:
 - 420-510 cases acute bronchitis
 - 240-540 premature adult deaths
 - 8200 asthma exacerbations
 - >200 asthma ER visits
 - 537 cases of childhood asthma
 - 98 cases of autism spectrum disorder
 - 112 preterm births
- The avoided costs of health impacts on children are estimated at \$191-350 million.⁴⁴

RGGI Benefits for Virginia

- Virginia's pollution reduction program is helping drive down greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality and public health.
- After just under two years, Virginia's participation in RGGI has generated \$524 million that is being used to:
 - ✓ Create more energy efficient affordable housing units
 - ✓ Help low-income families reduce energy bills
 - ✓ Enhance community flood prevention and protection efforts

RGGI Benefits for Virginia

- Virginia's RGGI program slashed energy-sector air pollution by 14 percent in its first year alone.
- In-state SO₂ emissions fell by 204 tons (13%), and in-state NOx emissions fell by 1,608 tons (19%) between 2020 and 2021.
- To date, RGGI has provided \$203 million for Community Flood Preparedness and \$226 million for low-income energy efficiency programs.
- By continuing in RGGI, Virginia will be able to drive down overall emissions by an additional 30% from 2020 to 2030.

Advanced Clean Car Standards

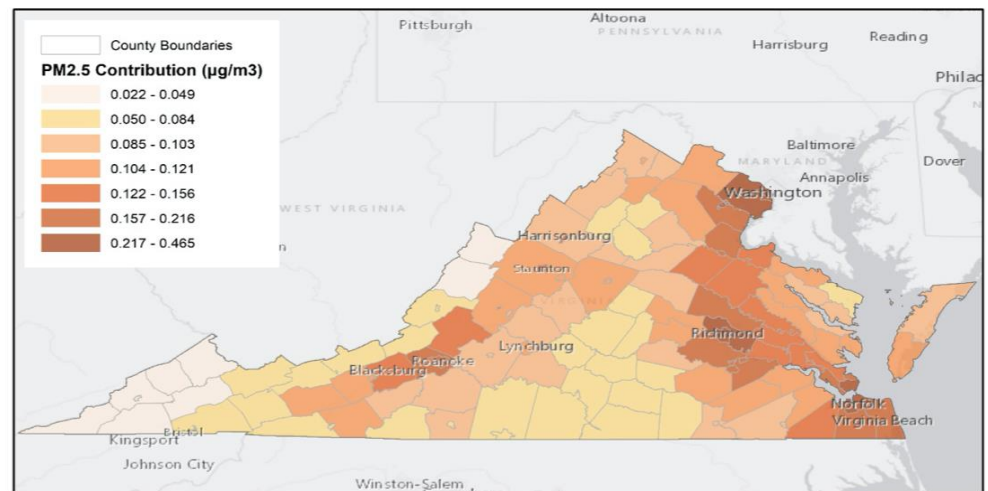
An Assessment of the Health
Burden of Ambient PM_{2.5}
Concentrations in Virginia

Final Report | October 20, 2020

**In Virginia, 48% of CO₂
emissions come from
transportation.**

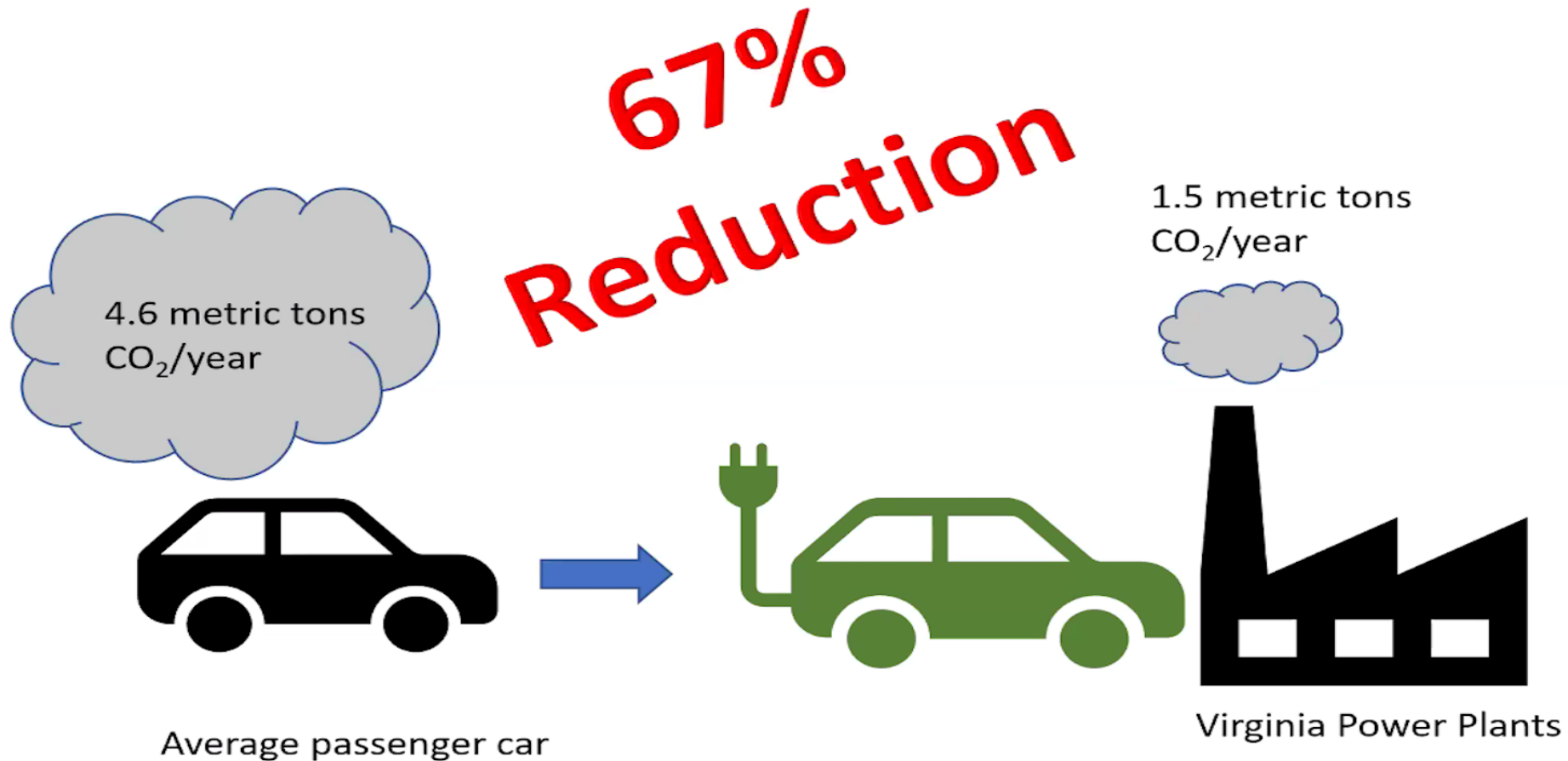
- PM_{2.5} from Virginia specific transportation only causes:
 - 92** deaths
 - 71** non-fatal heart attacks
 - 220** new cases asthma
 - 10,000** lost work days
- These health-associated **costs are valued at \$750 million dollars annually.**

EXHIBIT 8. PM_{2.5} CONCENTRATIONS ATTRIBUTABLE TO VIRGINIA HIGHWAY VEHICLE EMISSIONS



Advanced Clean Car Standards

ICE car vs EV



Advanced Clean Car Standards

Section 177

- California vehicle standards preceded and exceeded those of the 1970 Clean Air Act and therefore it was permitted to retain the authority to set its own emission standards (though a waiver).
- Other states can adopt these same standards but cannot develop their own emission standards in lieu of the Federal standards.
- 17 states and the District have exercised Section 177:
CO, CT, DC, DE, ME, MD, MA, NV, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, RI, VA, VT, and WA

Advanced Clean Car Standards

- Passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2021 and effective with model year 2025 cars.
- Adoption of ACC Standards will put Virginia on a progressive pathway to achieve a full transition to 100% clean transportation.
- Auto Manufacturers sell 8% Zero Emissions Vehicles.
- Manufacturers sell vehicles with more stringent emission standards.
- Have the potential of a net job growth of 29,000 by 2040 while avoiding 48 million tons of cumulative carbon emissions by the same year.

Challenges: Virginia Clean Economy Act

(17 bills)

- SB 1125/HB 2130: Electric utilities; renewable energy includes coal mine methane.
 - Defines coal mine methane as a renewable energy source.
(Status: Senate-C&L subcommittee, HOD-C&E Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute)
- SB 1125/HB 2130: Renewable energy portfolio standard requirements.
 - Utilities can petition for relief from fossil fuel generator requirements
 - Utilities submit annual reports of impact on grid reliability
(Status: Senate-C&L subcommittee, HOD-C&E recommends reporting)

Challenges: RGGI

SB 1001: Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act; repeals Act.

Repeals the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act and directs the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality to take all steps necessary to suspend the Commonwealth's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative market-based trading program.

Passed by indefinitely in Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (8-Y 6-N 1-A)

Administration's Withdrawal Plan:

- Air Pollution Control Board voted to repeal the regulations governing RGGI participation.
- Executive review involving Department of Planning and Budget, Voyles, the Office of Regulatory Management and the governor.
- Then published in the Virginia Register, which begins a 60-day comment period
- Then the board's final adoption in 2023.
- Becomes effective 30 days after publication in the Virginia Register again.
- **Differing opinions as to whether the APCB has this power or is GA responsible. Likely basis for litigation.**



Challenges: Advanced Clean Car Standards (7 bills)

Senate: *(incorporated all for single action)*

- **SB 778:** Repeals the State Air Pollution Control Board's authority to implement low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle standards for vehicles with a model year of 2025 and later.
- **SB 779:** as above with additional restrictions:
 - prohibits the Board from adopting or enforcing any model year standards related to control of emissions from new motor vehicles or new motor vehicle engines
 - prohibits the Commonwealth from requiring any new motor vehicle or new motor vehicle engine to be certified as compliant with model year standards related to the control of emissions adopted by California
- **SB 781:** as above
- **SB 782:** as above
- **SB 785:** as above

Passed by indefinitely in Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (8-Y 7-N)

House:

HB 1378: See **SB 779** above

Passed House (52-Y 48-N)

Sen: Referred to Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

[HB 1372: Stricken from docket Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Res

Yee-haw, roll coal!



VCVA
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

2023 Legislation

- **SB 848/HB 1852** Public school buildings and facilities; construction and renovation; renewable energy.
- **SB 936** Department of Emergency Management; comprehensive extreme heat emergency response plan.
- **SB 1322** Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy.

- **HB 2209** Pavement sealants containing a high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon; prohibition; civil penalty.
- **HB 1567** Perinatal health; VDH, et al., to evaluate strategies to reduce maternal & infant mortality rates.

SB 848/HB 1852

Public school buildings and facilities; construction and renovation; renewable energy.

Patrons: Sen. Barbara Favola, Del. Suhas Subramanyam

Directs the Commission on School Construction and Modernization, in consultation with the Department of Energy, **to develop and make recommendations on strategies to assist interested school divisions with incorporating renewable energy generation facilities in the construction or renovation of school buildings.** The bill requires the Commission to report the recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than November 1, 2023.

Status:

- Sen-**“Reported from”** Rules
- HOD-Subcommittee **“recommends laying on the table”**

SB 936

SB 936 Department of Emergency Management; comprehensive extreme heat emergency response plan.

Patron: Sen. Ghazala Hashmi

Directs the Department of Emergency Management to **develop a comprehensive extreme heat emergency response plan** by November 1, 2023.

Such plan shall include criteria for:

- (i) developing a **heat adaptation plan**,
- (ii) convening a heat emergency **coordination team** to facilitate coordination across state agencies,
- (iii) establishing **public cooling spaces**,
- (iv) developing extreme heat health **warning systems and protocols**,
- (v) establishing partnerships with community-based organizations to provide **services and support to all communities**, and
- (vi) examining **housing cooling needs**.

Status: “**Passed**” Senate (24-Y 15-N)

SB 1322/HB 1798

Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy.

Patrons: Sen. Jennifer McClellan, Del. Shelly Simonds

Authorizes certain sized cities and counties to consider adopting a healthy communities strategy.

The bill provides that the locality's strategy may include

- Identifying neighborhoods with **major sources of pollution or hazardous waste**
- Identifying objectives and policies to **reduce health risks** in such neighborhoods,
- To **promote civic engagement** by residents of such neighborhoods,
- To **prioritize improvements and programs** that address the needs of such neighborhoods.

Status:

“Passed” Senate (25-Y 15-N)

HOD-Subcommittee “ **recommends laying on the table**”

HB 2209

Pavement sealants containing a high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon; prohibition; civil penalty.

Introduced by: Del. Kathy Tran

- Permits a locality to prohibit the sale and distribution of any pavement sealant that contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon concentrations greater than one percent by weight on or after July 1, 2023.
- ("Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons" or "PAH" means a group of compounds that are byproducts of 53 incomplete combustion, that *include several carcinogens, and that are designated as hazardous 54 substances*)
- Violation leads to a civil penalty of \$250, to be paid into the Virginia Environmental Emergency Response Fund.

Status: [Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Sub-Committee: Chesapeake](#)

HB 1567

HB 1567 Perinatal health; VDH, et al., to evaluate strategies to reduce maternal & infant mortality rates.

Introduced by: Del. Sam Rasool

- Directs the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative, the Virginia Maternal Quality Care Alliance, and Urban Baby Beginnings, to convene a work group of stakeholders to evaluate ***strategies to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates***
- Make recommendations to enhance maternal health and public health support systems through expansion of the perinatal health hub model.

Status: App. Sub: Health & Human Resources

Advocacy Day Events Wed Feb 8th

Hilton Hotel at 501 E Broad
Richmond, VA

6:00-7:30pm:

Cocktail social and networking
opportunity

7:30-9:00pm:

Dinner and guest presentations



Advocacy Day Events Thur Feb 9th

7:30-9:00am:

Breakfast and Advocacy training

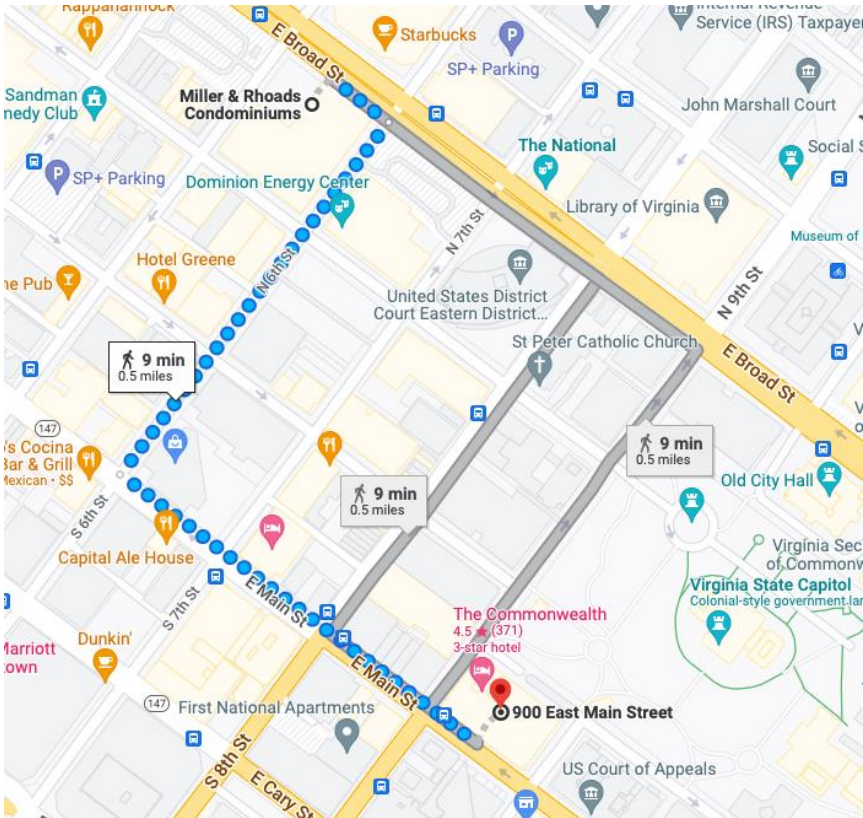
9:00-11:30am:

Legislative meetings in the Pocahontas Building (900 E. Main St.)

12:00-1:30pm:

Lunch, Debrief, Speaker, and Special Award presentations

General Assembly-Pocahontas Building



VCCA Advocacy Day 2022

Follow up contacts:

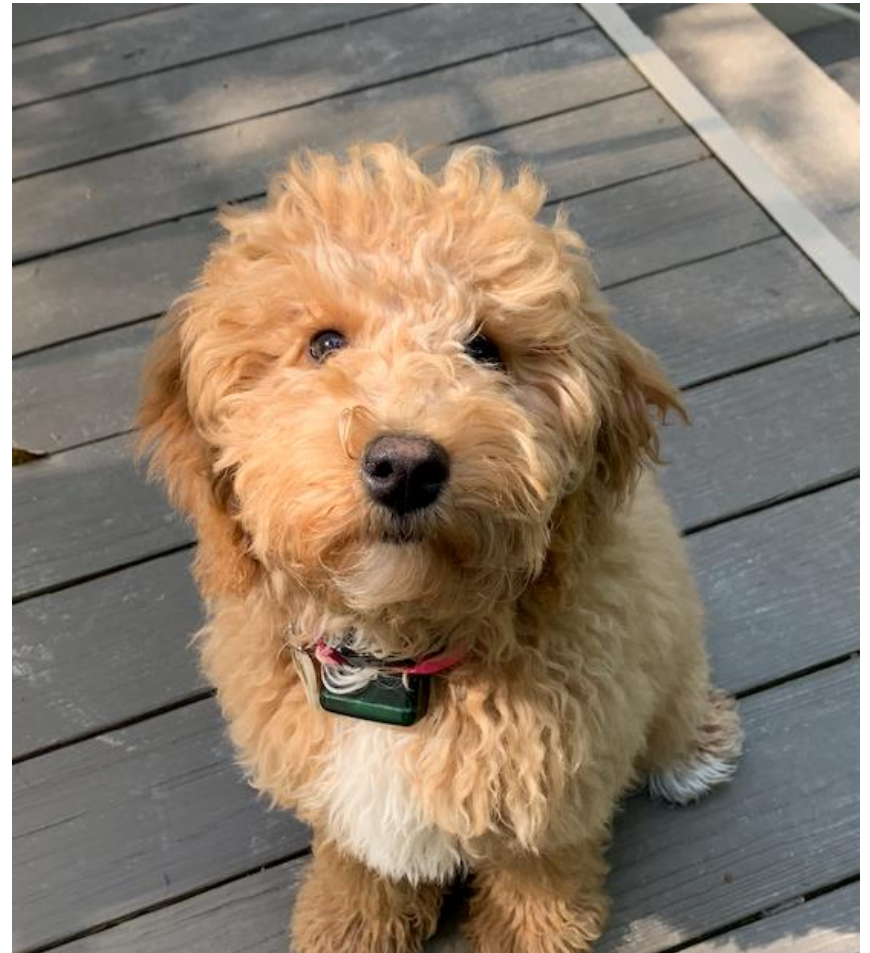
- Bob Kitchen: bobkitchen1@gmail.com
- John Bagwell: john@virginiaclinicians.org

Virginia Legislative Information System

- <https://lis.virginia.gov/>

VCCA Advocacy Day 2022

Thank you and any
questions?



The Legislative Process

What to Expect



Brief Education on General Assembly

- Bill to law process
- Nuances of lawmaking procedures

Advocacy Best Practices

- Tracking Legislation
- Lobbying Do's and Don'ts
- Engaging Committees

Action Opportunities

- Contact Representatives
- Sign up for Legislative Advocacy Updates

Virginia Clean Economy Act

- Energy Efficiency Programs=Targets for utilities for energy savings.
(Ex: 1.25% of Dominion's average annual energy retail sales in 2019 [base year] and increases each year to 5% in 2025.)
- RPS-% of electricity sold prior year that must be renewable the following year.
(Ex: For Dominion, in 2021, the RPS Program requirement starts at 14% and increases to **100% in 2045.**)
- Increases Net Metering limitations

VCEA Reasons to Celebrate *(from 2020)*

- If passed, has legislative authority (cannot be overturned by future executive authority)
- Eliminates CO2 pollution from electrical generation sector (which is America's second leading source of CO2 emissions)
- Mandatory goals with timed benchmarks
- Gives consideration to individual homeowners and lower income residents

Challenges to VCEA

- **HB 118** Electric Utilities; regulation, developing renewable energy facilities. *
- **HB 894** Generation of electricity and energy development in the Commonwealth.
- **HB 656** Coal refuse energy and reclamation tax credit. *
- **HB 657** Public Utilities; waste coal and certain coal-fired electricity generating units. *
- **HB 73** Electric Utilities; definitions, aggregate capacity requirements for renewable energy facilities. *
- **HB 74** Virginia Clean Economy Act; non-bypassable charges, energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) industries. *

RGGI Benefits

Low-income energy efficiency

Energy-efficient affordable housing

- Nearly 30 percent of Virginians are forced to spend 30% or more of their income on housing
- Virginia has a shortage of at least 200,000 affordable rental units
- Virginia's RGGI funds are being used to build even more energy efficient affordable housing units than would otherwise be feasible with existing funding
- Through the initial round the state has awarded 11 affordable housing grants representing 705 energy-efficient units.
- There are applications for 30 more projects

RGGI Benefits-Weatherization

- Weatherization can save Virginia families an estimated \$976 on electricity bills each year.
- 164,000 Virginia households living below the poverty level pay about 31% of their income on energy costs
- A home is “deferred” for weatherization if it needs repairs for items like leaky roofs or faulty wiring.
- These deferred clients often cannot pay for the repairs meaning the efficiency upgrades will never happen.
- Thru RGGI proceeds, \$15.2 million has been allocated for fiscal year 2021, which would cover repairs for 1,064 homes that have been deferred.

RGGI Benefits

Community Flood Preparedness Fund

- Flood damages in Virginia's coastal region, for example, will increase from \$400 million to \$5.1 billion a year over the next 60 years
- RGGI proceeds represent the first dedicated stream of state funding to help localities prevent and protect against the significant damage it causes.
- In the initial round of grants announced in October 2021, 19 projects were awarded funding at a total of \$7.8 million

Challenges to RGGI

- Governor's Executive Order #9 signed 1/15/22
- HB 5, Flood Relief Fund established *
- HB 892/SB 398 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; preexisting contracts
- SB 532 Clean Energy & Community Flood Preparedness Act. *

Challenges to ACCS

SB 81 Air Pollution Control Board; consideration of certain facts and circumstances.

SB 657 Air Pollution Control Board and State Water Control Board; transfer of authority.

Solar Ready Roofs & Net-zero Schools

- SB290, Sen. Favola,
- HB471, Del. Subramanyam
 - Requires new public buildings (state agencies/institutions and localities) to have solar-ready roofs, EV charging infrastructure, and ability to track energy efficiency and carbon emissions.
 - Requires new schools to be built, maintained, and operated to generate more electricity than consumed.

SB 452 Powers of local governments; additional powers; energy efficiency of buildings

- Introduced by Sen. Jennifer Boysko
- Objectives:
 - Increase energy conservation c.f. current standards of VA building code
 - Reduce energy use by 15% c.f. current use under IECC code.
- Authorizes local jurisdictions to...
 - Set higher building standards than required by the State.
 - Require that building's energy use intensity be disclosed at point of real estate sale.
 - Require large commercial buildings report energy intensity.
 - Create incentives for owners to improve energy efficiencies.

SB160 Electric utilities; clarifies definition of energy efficiency programs.

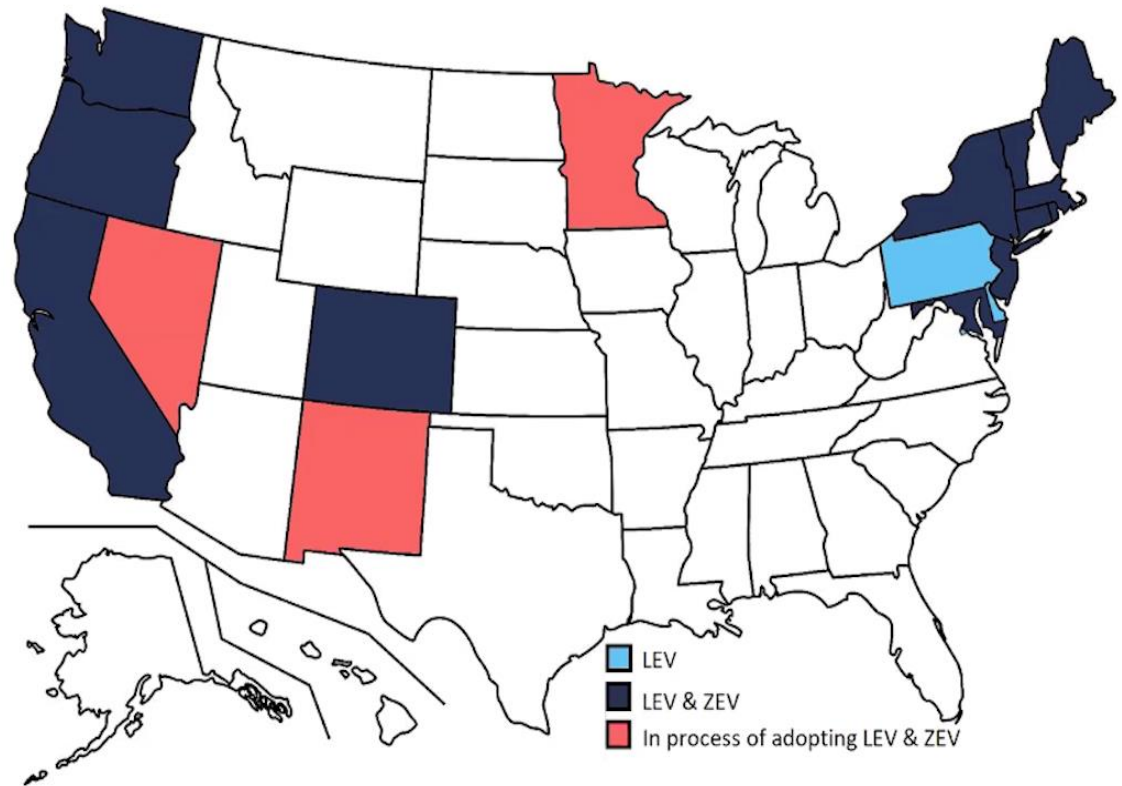
Introduced by Sens. Hashmi & Boysko

- Low-income energy efficiency programs may switch from fossil fuel to electric heat, etc. provided that the electrification measures reduce total on-site energy consumption.
- Would help take dirty tanks, etc. out of peoples yards and help with indoor air quality

Advanced Clean Car Standards

ZEV State = Zero Emission Vehicle Standard

- A small percent of each manufacturer's sales in a ZEV state must be zero-emissions or hybrid plug-in electric. Percent increases over time.
- Customers still have choice of conventional vehicles
- Increases customer choice and accessibility to EVs
- Manufacturers prioritize sending EVs to ZEV states over other states



Best Practices of Effective Advocacy

- Identify the goal beyond education: Have 1-2 Clear Asks
- Know your target audience: Do Research Beforehand
- Identify yourself and your sphere of influence
- Don't assume knowledge of the issue
- No need to feel intimidated – They work for you!
- Tell stories – not just statistics

Best Practices of Effective Advocacy

- Be prepared with necessary materials and information
- Don't be afraid to say you don't know – it's a great chance for follow up!
- Keep it short and to the point
- Ask for a firm commitment
- Follow up / build the relationship

