

2024 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

CEEPC Legislative Committee

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CEEPC
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CEEPC Legislative Committee Background

- CEEPC's Legislative Committee is a small group of CEEPC members who periodically meet with staff to review legislative initiatives in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia
- COG staff track various bills during the legislative session that fall within COG's Climate Resiliency & Air Quality Protection [legislative priorities](#)
- An updated tracker spreadsheet is sent to committee members at the end of each week, and a series of ad hoc calls are held to determine specific bills to send comment letters on
- The committee primarily runs from January – April

2024 COG Legislative Priorities

Climate Resiliency & Air Quality Protection

- Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals
- Support Multi-Sector Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gases
- Ensure Sustainable Secure Energy Access for All
- Support Aggressive State Renewable Portfolio Standards
- Expand Clean Energy Innovation, Technology and Finance
- Support Aggressive Energy Efficiency Goals
- Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Resilient Infrastructure
- Support Policies that Preserve and Protect Regional Air Quality and Public Health

Key Dates in VA/MD/DC

Virginia

- Session convened January 10
- Crossover is February 13
- Adjournment: March 9

Maryland

- Session convened January 10
- Crossover is March 18
- Adjournment: April 8

D.C.

- 2-year session 2023-24

Virginia Legislation

- HB 338 Data Centers
 - A bill that sought site assessments for water usage, carbon emissions, and agricultural impacts. Continued until 2025.
- SB 729 Virginia Climate Innovation Authority
 - A bill to create the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank to finance clean energy projects, greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects, and other qualified projects through the strategic deployment of public funds. Bill passed the House and Senate.
- HB 199 Virginia Brownfield and Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund and Program
 - A bill to remove the prohibition on allocating funds to the program unless there is a matching federal allocation. Passed both chambers and approved by the Governor.

Maryland Legislation

- SB 1023 Maryland Building Performance Standards
 - A bill requiring that new buildings meet all water and space heating demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels, energy conservation requirements, and an electric- and solar-ready standard for certain buildings. Did not pass the Senate.
- HB 864 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans
 - A bill requiring each electric company, gas company, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop a plan for achieving certain energy efficiency, conservation, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Passed House and awaiting update from Senate hearing (March 21).
- SB 960 MCEC Climate Technology Founder's Fund
 - A bill Establishing the Climate Technology Founder's Fund in the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC). Passed the Senate and awaiting a hearing in the House.

Maryland Legislation

- SB 169 – Establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program
 - A bill that establishes the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems. Passed the Senate and awaiting House hearing date to submit comment letter.
- HB 397 Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (WARMTH) Act
 - Requiring certain gas companies to develop a plan for a pilot thermal energy network system(s) on or before October 1, 2024. Passed the House and awaiting Senate hearing date to submit comment letter.

District Legislation

- B250106 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
 - Legislation would expand the District’s Electric Vehicle Charging Station Pilot Program to deploy EV charging stations in areas lacking EV infrastructure. It would also require DDOT to create an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment and Management Plan in 2024 to aid in assessing the electric grid’s readiness and resiliency for EV charging.
- B250564 Environmental Justice / Equity
 - Legislation would establish a “cumulative impact statement” process that must be completed to obtain District permits and other relief for environmentally harmful actions in overburdened communities. Public hearing held on March 18.

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