

## 2015 Legislative Session – probable climate & energy actions

### Virginia

#### Green Community Program

- Created 12/10 by Executive Order 36
- Instructs DMME to create a Green Community Program to provide private & public sector entities opportunity to use QECBs for energy conservation projects.
- Reallocates the locality portion of the QECBs to qualifying localities (population at least 100,000 based on 2008 population data).
- Creates a mechanism for QECBs not used by qualifying localities within one year to revert to the state for issuance to any other locality in VA interested in/with a need for additional allocation.

#### Solar Energy Development Authority

- Proposed by 2014 Virginia Energy Plan, to “Facilitate partnerships between VA’s electric utilities, government and private generation developers to install 15MW of solar at state and local government facilities, and another 15 MW at private facilities by June 30, 2017.”
- Governor called for establishment by legislature as part of his economic development legislative agenda in the “New Virginia Economy Strategic Plan” (released 12/5)
- A current draft bill proposes structure and composition, sets goals to facilitate public-private partnerships, leverage state funds, and ensure near-term deployment.
- MDV-SEIA and VAEIC proposing that State purchase SZECs for a percentage of state electricity usage, and that Authority manage an independent fund, backed by State loan loss reserve/other

#### Energy Diversity and Economic Development Plan

- Current draft bill to create a zero emission electricity portfolio standard (generation + efficiency)
- Requires LSEs to purchase a min. percentage of the standard from demand-side resources (behind the meter generation + efficiency)
- LSEs would demonstrate compliance through the acquisition of VA Zero Emission Credits (ZECs)

#### Renewable Energy Grant Program

- Program was passed last year but not funded
- Needs to be reintroduced, and funding identified (MDV-SEIA proposing > \$10 million for 2015)

#### Net Energy Metering

- MDV-SEIA plans to address the following as separate issues / pieces of legislation:
  - NEM Project Cap Expansion – from 500 kW to 2 MW for all customers
  - Allow/enable community solar projects for all customer classes
- VML 2015 platform supports:
  - Enabling virtual net metering for municipalities
  - Raising the project cap from 500 kW to 2 MW for non-residential customers

- NVRC 2015 platform supports:
  - Net metering for localities for large renewable energy projects (4-5 MW) including biomass, local waste, wind and solar
  - Broader allowances for community net metering

### **Strengthen RPS**

- Options under consideration: make the RPS mandatory, add an incentive for achieving it, include co-ops and municipal utilities, require RECs be produced & sold in-state, increase the goal percentages, add carve-outs for solar, wind and/or other sources
- NVRC 2015 platform supports revising RPS to encourage development of renewables inside VA

### **PACE**

- NVRC 2015 platform supports revising Code to allow localities to implement commercial PACE, e.g. by creating a special property assessment

## **Maryland:**

### **RPS Legislation**

- Thermal RECs - MD DNR Forest Service working to include wood as Tier 1 fuel
  - MCEC committee may support, but some reservations that it might not be a real game changer/catalyst
- “Forward with Forty”
  - Bill proposed by Chesapeake Climate Action Network with coalition of green groups
  - Would increase RPS to 40% by 2025
  - CCAN estimates that would add less than a \$2/month per rate payer
  - Seen as having low chance of passage, especially given other competing priorities
- Removing black liquor from RPS
  - Was unsuccessful last year, may be reintroduced

### **Net metering**

- MD working group working with MEA to revise net metering rules, especially to expand virtual net metering to all customer classes

### **Solar Farms**

- Exempts solar farms over 25 MW that sell electricity on wholesale market from certain permit requirements if they meet various environmental requirements

### **Solar Permit Streamlining (MDV-SEIA)**

- MDV-SEIA considering bill to expand and expedite MEA’s portal process
- Goals: launch statewide portal by end of 2015 & require/incentivize use by localities

## District of Columbia:

### Renewable Portfolio Standard

- B20-0418 introduced in 2013, amends RPS to remove black liquor and wood from construction/demolition from Tier 1 fuels
- Committee approval on December 2, Council vote December 17

### Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Clean Energy

- City Potentially revising the role and/or structure of the SEU

### Zoning Issues

- Pop-ups - impacts on rooftop solar rights and access
- Height act changes -BZA reviewing new regulations for penthouses and impacts on rooftop solar rights & access

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