

CLIMATE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

CEEPC's Legislative Committee consists of a small group of CEEPC members who periodically meet with COG staff to review legislative initiatives with a focus on COG's Climate And Energy Innovation and Air Quality Protection [legislative priorities](#). The committee has been tracking legislation in the Council of the District of Columbia, Maryland's General Assembly, and Virginia's General Assembly. The committee has also commented on a number of bills in Maryland and Virginia.

District of Columbia

The Council of the District of Columbia convened their two-year session at the beginning of the 2023 calendar year. COG staff continue to track a few key pieces of legislation for potential comment:

- B250032 – Electric Bicycle Incentive Kickstarting the Environment (“E-BIKE”) Act of 2023
- B250115 – Electric Bicycle Rebate Program Amendment Act of 2023
- B250119 – Healthy Homes and Residential Electrification Amendment Act of 2023
- B250106 – Comprehensive Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Access, Readiness, and Sustainability Amendment Act of 2023
- B250191 – Green New Deal For Housing Amendment Act of 2023

Maryland

The Maryland General Assembly convened on January 11, 2023. Crossover was on March 20 and the session was adjourned on April 10. Governor Moore has until May 30 to sign or veto legislation passed by the General Assembly. All items that passed have been signed into law, except for HB 908. A few items that the CEEPC Legislative Committee provided comment in support of include:

- HB 7 (failed) – Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program – Renewal
- HB 550 (passed) / SB 548 (failed) – Clean Transportation and Energy Act
- HB 230 (passed) / SB 224 (passed) – Clean Truck Act of 2023
- HB 830 (passed) / SB 477 (failed) – Residential Construction – Electric Vehicle Charging
- HB 459 (failed) – County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act
- HB 904 (failed) / SB 689 (failed) – Energy Savings Acts
- HB 908 (passed) / SB 613 (failed) – Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program and Property Taxes
- HB 910 (passed) / SB 697 (failed) – Energy Storage – Targets and Maryland Energy Storage Program – Establishment
- HB 1008 (failed) – Maryland Energy Administration – Electric Bicycle Rebate Program – Establishment

Virginia



The Virginia General Assembly convened on January 11, 2023. Crossover was on February 7 and the session was adjourned on February 25. A reconvened session was held on April 12. Two pieces of legislation that the CEEPC Legislative Committee opposed have passed and were signed by Governor Youngkin (HB 1643 / SB 1121 and HB 2026 / SB 1231). The items that the CEEPC Legislative Committee provided comment in opposition to include:

- Bills aimed at weakening the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA):
 - HB 1430 (failed) – Exempting “energy-intensive trade-exposed industries” from paying for the transition to a clean energy economy.
 - HB 1643 (passed) / SB 1121 (passed) – Encouraging the capture and beneficial use of coal mine methane. The CEEPC Legislative Committee opposed the original bill, which sought to classify coal mine methane as a renewable energy source. The signed bill no longer includes this language.
 - HB 1783 (failed) / SB 1485 (failed) – Preventing public entities from moving away from natural gas.
 - HB 2026 (passed) / SB 1231 (passed) – Removing the requirement for Phase I and Phase II Utilities to retire biomass-fired facilities by December 31, 2028.
- Bills aimed at repealing Virginia’s Clean Car Standards:
 - HB 1378 (failed) – Repealing the requirement that the State Air Pollution Control Board implement a low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicle program for motor vehicles with a model year of 2025 and later.

A few items that the CEEPC Legislative Committee provided comment in support of include:

- SB 1312 (failed) – Providing that localities may by ordinance require EV charging stations as part of subdivision or site plan approval for a development containing commercial, industrial, or multifamily residential uses with a specific density.
- SB 848 (failed) – Directing 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 Legislative Committee continues to track legislation in the District of Columbia for comment. Please contact [Tim Masters](#) with any questions.