






2014-2015 | ANNUAL REPORT

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Virginia Energy Efficiency Council 

FROM THE CHAIR

The 2014 – 2015 membership year saw the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council make great strides towards its goal of growing the energy efficiency industry in the Commonwealth. Not only did we initiate and facilitate successful conversations on policy and regulation, we were also very pleased to see some of our long-held recommendations implemented by Virginia's new Governor in the updated Virginia Energy Plan.

One recommendation was for the formation of a stakeholder group to identify where we stood with respect to: our state's voluntary energy efficiency goal, how it was going to be tracked, and what the plan was to achieve it. The appointed Governor's Executive Committee on Energy Efficiency is just the kind of stakeholder group needed, and we welcome its mandate to assist the state in meeting the voluntary goal through an actionable plan. Four of the VAEEC's Governance Board Directors participate on the Committee, and other Directors participate in subcommittees to support the GEC's work.

The VAEEC is also proud to have been part the state energy office's winning proposal team on a Dept. of Energy State Energy Program grant. As a subrecipient on this award, we will support the GEC's efforts as a convener, technical assistance provider, and sounding board for policies and implementation strategies.

Lastly, the VAEEC thanks its primary funder, the Energy Foundation for its continued support and guidance. We have leveraged its grant many times over through our partnerships, proposals, and programs – and are very grateful for the capacity it gives us.

Warm regards to our members and fellow energy efficiency supporters,

Cynthia Adams, VAEEC Governance Board Chair
CEO, Pearl National Home Certification





YEAR IN REVIEW

Energy efficiency took center stage in Virginia throughout 2014-2015, and the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council was in the middle of the action every step of the way. VAEEC representatives and members engaged in policy listening sessions, lobby days, bill signing ceremonies, Governor-appointed bodies, and in the pages of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Our message? Energy efficiency: is the lowest-cost resource option to meet Virginia's energy supply needs; is the cleanest option as it represents energy that's not consumed; improves our energy system by reducing risk and increasing reliability through demand

reduction; and promotes local economic development and job creation. VAEEC hosted or co-hosted a variety of events such as our bi-annual meetings, conferences, webinars and work sessions.

Our goal? Bring together visionaries, leaders and implementers in Virginia's energy efficiency industry in spaces that allow them to network, exchange ideas, collaborate, and stay on the leading edge.

PROVIDE FORUMS FOR STAKEHOLDER **INTERACTION**

- Hosted our two most well-attended meetings (October 2014, May 2015) with high profile speakers and trending topics:

October 2014:

- Virginia Energy Plan and Energy Efficiency — Cynthia Adams, VAEEC Chair and Local Energy Alliance Program Executive Director.
- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing — Bill Greenleaf, VAEEC Governance Board and Richmond Regional Energy Alliance Executive Director.
- EM&V: Real-Time Quantification of Energy Efficiency – Jeff Soplop, EnergySavvy.

May 2015:

- PACE Update: Where Do We Go from Here? — Abigail Johnson, President, Abacus Property Solutions.
- Natural Gas CARE Act Modifications — Gina Slaunwhite, Manager of Government Policy & Customer Efficiency Programs, Columbia Gas of Virginia.
- Energy Efficiency in the Clean Power Plan: Opportunities for Virginia – Mary Shoemaker, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).
- The Effects of Energy Efficient Design and Construction on LIHTC Housing in Virginia – Bob Adams, Housing Virginia.





- Served as a partner for the Virginia Energy and Sustainability Conference (April 2015) where we participated in a working group to frame the conference topics and speakers.
- Established a LinkedIn platform for the exchange of information and ideas and published a series of blog posts providing analysis and commentary.
- The VAEEC was awarded a grant from the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) to look at how our state's utility cost effectiveness testing aligned with the Resource Value Framework. Outcomes of the white paper written on the VAEEC's behalf included two work sessions (October/ December 2014) attended by utilities and state government officials on how cost effectiveness testing is applied in the Commonwealth for screening new program and a a webinar (January 20015)on the Clean Power Planning Tool.
- Teamed up with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) to host the Clean Energy Roadmap meeting, a special session on the future of clean energy in the Commonwealth that was part of a project for the U.S. Department of Energy (April 2015).
- Helped the DMME secure a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to implement the Governor's energy efficiency goals. VAEEC will work closely with DMME, the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance and Clean Energy Solutions to put this funding work for Virginia, specifically by convening stakeholders to identify opportunities and barriers to growing our industry.



SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF **PROGRAMS** AND **POLICIES** THAT ADVANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Helped advance Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing legislation that Governor McAuliffe signed into law – a campaign spearheaded by a member of VAEEC's Governance Board. Participated in listening and work sessions on implementing PACE in Virginia localities.
- Supported the passage of the Conservation and Ratemaking Efficiency (CARE) Act which promises to increase energy efficiency program offerings from the state's natural gas utilities.
- Joined Advanced Energy Industries, MDV-SEIA (Maryland DC Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association) and Virginia Clean Cities as a partner in the annual Clean Energy Lobby Day which brought more than 100 advocates to Richmond for dozens of meetings with legislators (February 2015).
- Hosted together with the Virginia Advanced Energy Industries Coalition a legislative briefing for businesses about a bill to increase energy diversity prior to the 2015 session (January 2015).
- VAEEC's Chair also participated in a private meeting with the Dept. of Environmental Quality on the Clean Power Plan with other VAEEC and VAEIC member businesses. The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways businesses could assist the state in meeting its CPP compliance goals.



- Four Governance Board members were appointed to the Governor's Executive Committee on Energy Efficiency. The Committee, created by the Governor as part of the Virginia Energy Plan and chaired by the state's Chief Energy Efficiency Officer, is tasked with developing strategies to meet the state's voluntary energy efficiency goal.
- Several Governance Board members provided remarks at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Power Plan listening sessions (Fall 2015)
- Provided public testimony to the State Corporation Commission at utility regulatory hearings, specifically around Appalachian Power's and Dominion Virginia Power's energy efficiency programs.
- Four Governance Board members participated in Dominion Virginia Power's Integrated Resource Planning stakeholder meeting, an opportunity to provide feedback on Dominion's energy efficiency program planning and implementation.
- Joined an informal coalition and work sessions under the "Energy Efficiency for All" umbrella to better connect multifamily housing and energy efficiency.



AMPLIFY THE **VOICE** OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEADERS AND INNOVATORS IN VIRGINIA

- Richmond Times-Dispatch readers were treated to an opinion editorial by the VAEEC's Executive Director outlining the importance of energy efficiency to the Commonwealth's economy and environment.
- The VAEEC Chair gave a presentation at the Energy Foundation's Energy Advocates conference held in Chicago on the successful passing of Commercial PACE legislation through coalition building with industry.
- We completed the second statewide census of the energy efficiency industry which revealed a \$2.2 billion energy efficiency industry in Virginia supporting at least 13,000 jobs at more than 500 firms.
- Shared success stories and member spotlights in monthly e-newsletters to a distribution list of 4,000+.



VAEEC **GOVERNANCE BOARD**

Cynthia Adams, Pearl National Home Certification (Chair)

Bill Beachy, Community Housing Partners

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energy efficiency
in the Commonwealth.

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National Housing Trust
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