



## News and Resources

[Is home energy efficiency financing about to eclipse the solar financing market?](#) (Greentech Media)

[Why 50 million smart meters haven't fixed America's energy habits](#) (Washington Post)

[Community solar, bulk purchasing coops signal new economic engine for Virginia](#) (The Energy Fix)

[Investing in energy efficiency pays off](#) (New York Times)

[US government energy consumption lowest since 1975](#) (Greentech Media)

[The greenest US buildings are where?](#) (Energy Efficiency Markets)

## Featured Member of the Month

**D+R**  
International

[D+R International](#) is an energy efficiency market expert company. The firm leverages its relationships, built over its 30-year history, with

VAEEC.ORG | February 26, 2015

## Update from the General Assembly

The General Assembly is getting ready to wrap up its short 2015 session, currently scheduled to adjourn at the end of this week. It looks promising that we'll have good news to announce for energy efficiency in the Commonwealth in the very near future. Here's the latest update:

### • PACE Legislation

The top VAEEC priority this session -- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing (HB 1446 and SB 801) -- has now passed both houses and will soon be sent to Gov. McAuliffe for his signature. PACE is a loan program that can be implemented by localities, allowing commercial property owners to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy measures for their properties. This has the potential to greatly expand EE in Virginia, and we'll let you know as soon as it's finalized.

### • Natural Gas Utility EE Programs

Another priority is also nearing a successful conclusion. SB 1331 would update the Conservation and Ratemaking Efficiency (CARE) Act, which regulates the state's natural gas utilities. The bill clarifies how EE programs proposed by the gas utilities are evaluated by the State Corporation Commission, and it should result in more robust program offerings for customers. As with PACE, both houses have passed the legislation, and it will be heading to the Governor.

### • Clean Energy Lobby Day

Thank you to the 100+ individuals who were part of this year's Clean Energy Lobby Day. The VAEEC was proud to be a partner for this event on February 3. It was a highly successful day, featuring dozens of meetings with legislators and a visit with Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones. Many VAEEC members and supporters participated as lobbyists for the day or sponsors of the event, ensuring that the case for EE was heard at the General Assembly.

**ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE**  
*Advancing Business With Leadership In Sustainability*  
April 14, 2015  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
Hosted by  
**VIRGINIA CHAMBER**  
THE VOICE of BUSINESS  
Join us for the largest energy and sustainability conference in Virginia!

energy efficiency advocates, utilities, product manufacturers and retailers to identify and design practical, cost-effective, high-impact solutions that address our nation's energy problems and deliver environmental benefits.

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## Energy & Sustainability Conference Now Scheduled for April 14

The third annual Virginia Energy & Sustainability Conference, which will include a focus on the new Virginia Energy Plan and an address by Gov. McAuliffe, will take place April 14 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. [Learn more and register.](#)

## Virginia Energy Efficiency Success

A new study by Virginia Tech's Center for Housing Research (released by Housing Virginia) shows that, on average, people living in an energy-efficient apartment save \$54 a month on electricity bills. That adds up to \$648 every year.

[Read more in the Richmond Times Dispatch](#) or the [press release](#).

## Upcoming DOE Webinars

Often the best way to learn about what's going on at the federal government level is to follow the annual budget process. The Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will present a series of webinars on the Fiscal Year 2016 budget request. [You can register online.](#)



- **Tuesday, March 3**, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time: **Sustainable Transportation**, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary Reuben Sarkar.
- **Wednesday, March 4**, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time: **Energy Efficiency**, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary Kathleen Hogan.
- **Thursday, March 5**, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time: **Renewable Power**, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary Doug Hollett.

The VAEEC is a broad coalition whose mission is to assess and support programs, innovation, best practices and policies that grow Virginia's energy efficiency industry and to provide a forum for stakeholder interaction.