

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & THE VIRGINIA ENERGY PLAN

How Energy Efficiency Can Help the Commonwealth Meet Its Energy Goals

WHY ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

The cheapest, most impactful unit of energy is the one that isn't used. Unlike the austere conservation practices of the past, today, energy efficiency means reducing energy use while still maintaining **function**, **safety**, and **comfort**.

Common measures include switching to LED light bulbs and ENERGY STAR appliances, weather-sealing windows and doors, adding insulation, and installing smart devices and automation systems to manage energy usage.

Furthermore, improving energy efficiency **provides real, tangible benefits** to residents, workers, and communities alike, by **increasing jobs and economic growth**, **reducing absenteeism** due to illness and asthma, **lowering energy bills** for consumers, and **boosting cognition**.



COMPETITIVE RATES FOR ALL CONSUMERS

Energy efficiency upgrades can save residents up to 20% on their energy bills. Reducing energy use improves affordability for residents and businesses and insulates ratepayers from rising fuel costs.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Existing EE programs like the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative provide opportunities and funds to improve living conditions and expand the workforce in every county in Virginia. These jobs are local, cannot be outsourced, and transfer well from fossil fuel and military careers.



RELIABLE & RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DELIVERY

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that power outages cost businesses **\$150 billion annually**. Since energy efficiency reduces the amount of electricity being used, these programs can lessen the strain on the grid, thereby preventing both outages and the need for utilities to build costly generation infrastructure.

Visit VAEEC.org or contact the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council at info@vaeec.org to learn more.