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| VIRTUAL listening session, STATEWIDE  | Graphic illustration of team in a meeting |
| Virginia department of environmental quality |

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| Date:  |  | Time:  |  | Location:  |
| Feb. 24, 2025  |  | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM |  | Virtual, Webex  |

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| Meeting purpose |
| DEQ is hosting community listening sessions across the Commonwealth to gain local feedback on potential climate actions to be included in the development of Virginia’s Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). DEQ will gather and analyze all input received at these sessions to help identify community goals, challenges, and potential climate actions to reduce greenhouse (GHG) emissions statewide. This input will be considered holistically when developing the long-term plan.  |

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| agenda  |
| This meeting consisted of an introductory presentation by DEQ staff, followed by a facilitated community discussion.

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| **TOPICS** |
| **Introductions, Video, and Meeting Goals** |
| **Review of the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)** |
| **Overview of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)** |
| **Community Discussion and Group Activity*** Discussion questions on potential GHG emission reduction measures
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| **Wrap Up*** How to stay involved with DEQ throughout the CCAP planning process
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| meeting summary  |
| The Virtual 6pm CCAP Statewide Listening Session was facilitated by DEQ’s Air Division staff and began with an overview presentation of DEQ’s climate planning efforts in Virginia. The first topic covered was a summary of the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) published in February 2024. Topics covered in this section include: * DEQ’s public feedback during the PCAP planning process
* A summary of PCAP GHG emission reduction measures
* Overview of where Virginia’s GHG emissions come from

Following the PCAP overview, DEQ staff presented on its current phase in climate planning: the 2025 Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Topics covered in this section include: * What the CCAP is and what content will be included in the plan
* Who is providing input on the plan
* DEQ’s engagement process and CCAP development timeline

After the presentation, DEQ staff guided both in-person and virtual attendees through an open discussion on various climate pollution topics to gain localized feedback to be considered as part of the CCAP. **DEQ sought public input on the following questions:** 1. Which sectors (e.g., agriculture, transportation) are most important to you when reducing GHG emissions?
2. What specific actions are you already taking to reduce GHG emissions, or are already happening in your community?
3. What barriers are preventing you or your community from reducing GHG emissions?
4. What specific emission reduction measures do you wish were in place in your community, or for DEQ to consider in the CCAP?
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After the discussion period, DEQ provided avenues for community members to stay engaged throughout the CCAP planning process, including through the CCAP Community Survey; the listening session feedback form; and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) e-mail bulletin.

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| Key topics AND takeaways |
| These notes reflect public feedback gathered during the Virtual 6pm CCAP Statewide Listening Session. This session covered a wide range of topics in **transportation, power, buildings, waste, agriculture, community education**, and **policy**, while focusing on benefits, opportunities, barriers, and concerns in reducing GHG emissions across the Commonwealth.Within the **transportation** sector, attendees noted the importance of improving access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and expanding the electrification of mid- and lightweight vehicles. However, some barriers noted include a lack of public awareness on the benefits of electrifying fleets, limited financial incentives for consumers to purchase EVs, and limited EV charging infrastructure across the state. The **power** sector discussion underscored the importance of transitioning fossil fuel-dependent operations to clean energy sources. Attendees supported halting new fossil fuel investments and expanding wind, solar, and battery storage. Meanwhile, in land use and urban planning, concerns were raised on the limitations of tree planting as a sustainable solution in extreme heat and drought conditions.**Building** efficiency was another key topic, with homeowners expressing interest in implementing solar power and energy-efficient appliances. Similarly, for **waste** and **agriculture**, participants highlighted community opportunities for organic food production, rainwater collection, and the need for expanded composting programs. Finally, **community education** discussions reinforced a need for expanded public awareness and education at all levels on energy transitions. While ongoing efforts to support underrepresented communities was noted as a priority, the high cost of adopting clean energy practices was noted as a key barrier. Addressing these challenges through strategic funding, education, and policy changes was viewed as critical for advancing the state’s climate goals.\**Views and opinions expressed by public attendees during this meeting do not necessarily represent an official position or policy of DEQ. This summary is intended to provide a general overview of key discussion points provided by participants in the listening session. DEQ is capturing local feedback on potential strategies, opportunities, and challenges to reduce GHG emissions across the Commonwealth to inform the development of the CCAP.*

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| **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS** |

1. **With the change in federal administration, can we feel confident that our time and input will be realized and of value?**

*DEQ intends to develop the CCAP as a roadmap for potential actions that can be taken across sectors to reduce GHG emissions until 2050. Although it is a nonbinding plan, the goal is to use this roadmap to inform current and future decision-makers across sectors on how to develop actionable programs and policies in the future, including the costs, feasibility, and necessary implementation of each action. While funding opportunities or political landscapes may adjust over time, the plan can still be used as a reference point to better understand potential climate and energy strategies in Virginia.* 1. **Do you anticipate your award being affected by the recent activity at the federal level related to funds?**

*Currently, DEQ does not anticipate any interruption or delay in the climate planning process. DEQ is in communication with grant managers at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and have been able to access and draw down funds on this grant. DEQ is moving forward with the climate planning process as scheduled.* 1. **Is there any funding or efforts to not just plant trees but to also save trees that are being strangled by vines, especially English Ivy?**

*Tree planting and conservation efforts are primarily overseen by Virginia’s Department of Forestry and Department of Conservation and Recreation, alongside individual localities. To learn more about legislative and community efforts across to remove English Ivy across the Commonwealth, you may reference this* [*March 204 news article*](https://mvonthemove.com/local-efforts-continue-to-prevent-spread-of-invasive-vine/) *from Mount Vernon on the MoVe.[[1]](#footnote-1)*1. **Will localities be aware of, or assured that they may be eligible for any of the awarded grant funds?**

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has distributed all funding under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program to eligible state, regional, and Tribal entities for both climate planning and implementation projects. For DEQ’s implementation projects for methane reduction, funding will be awarded on a competitive application basis to entities that meet the specific project qualifications for methane reduction at landfills and coal mines, and for food recovery/composting.***Which barriers seem to be the hardest in reducing climate pollution throughout communities?***Based on input received thus far at both the community listening sessions and via the DEQ Community Survey, the high costs and limited accessibility of energy efficient alternatives has been noted as one of the most common barriers for both individuals and communities to reaching climate pollution reduction goals.* 1. **What is the percentage between utility scale solar and distributed solar that are needed to meet goals?**

*The Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) has two separate goals for small/distributed solar:*1. *Distributed solar (behind-the-meter):* [*§ 56-585.5.C*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/56-585.5/)*:*
	* *Size: Up to 1 MW*
	* *\*2025 legislation proposes increasing amount to 3 MW*
	* *Goal: Dominion Energy must reach 100% renewables by 2045. (In 2025, the goal is 26%). Each year, Dominion must have at least 1% of their renewable energy come from behind-the-meter distributed solar / wind.*

*\*2025 legislation proposes increasing annual distributed percentage to 5%*1. *Distributed solar (front-of-the-meter):* [*§ 56-585.5.D.2*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/56-585.5/)
	* *Size: Up to 3 MW*
	* *Goal: Dominion Energy must build 16,100 MW of solar/onshore wind by 2035. Out of the 16,100 MW, 1,100 MW must come from distributed sources of 3 MW or less.*

*Additionally, according to a* [*2016 National Renewable Energy Lab study,*](https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65298.pdf)*[[2]](#footnote-22985) If Virginia was able to deploy solar on every rooftop that is viable for solar, it could account for 32.4% of annual electricity needs based on 2016 demand. Given the recent growth in demand, that estimated amount would be closer to 25% today. For further reference, a* [*Net-Zero America report by Princeton*](https://netzeroamerica.princeton.edu/data-sheets)*[[3]](#footnote-4388) modeled 6 different scenarios for achieving net-zero by 2050 in all 50 states. They released data on potential generation sources, including rooftop and land-based solar.*1. **How can DEQ account for ghost methane emissions in future inventories?**

*DEQ supplements the greenhouse gas inventory with other governmental data sources, which includes PHMSA data regarding natural gas gathering, distribution, and transmission. These emissions are reflected in the 'Energy Production Activities' sector of the inventory. Please email our Greenhouse Gas Inventory Specialist, anna.lovain@deq.virginia.gov, if you would like to discuss this or any other part of the inventory in further detail.*1. **Is this work specific to greenhouse gases?**

*Yes, the CCAP is specifically addressing current and future inventories for greenhouse gas emissions. However, there are often co-benefits to reducing other air pollutants when reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and this analysis will be included as part of the plan.* 1. **When this plan is completed, will there be time to implement it before the next plan is started?**

*DEQ does not have a defined timeline to produce a second CCAP after this plan is completed. As part of this work, DEQ is required to submit a progress report to EPA on the CCAP in 2027 to provide updates on the progress of the plan.*  |
| MATERIALS SHARED  |
| 1. [Meeting Handouts:](https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=27885)
* Graphic of Virginia’s 2021 GHG emissions inventory
* CCAP content requirements
* Definitions of GHG emissions inventory sectors, with example emission reduction measures
* Discussion questions
* Glossary of commonly used terms and acronyms
* CCAP Public Participation Guide
1. [CCAP Community Survey](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qeUKYsFOoE-GQV2fOGxzCVC8Dk4UohFOlps-0n7WWaJUOFFUMDNDU1NCTTNFTzdEQlRVNExQUFJERC4u&route=shorturl)
2. [Meeting Presentation](https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn%3Aaaid%3Asc%3AVA6C2%3A751a6f2f-c600-40b5-8c35-5c908eca32bd)
3. [Post-Meeting Feedback Form](https://forms.office.com/g/1kuqTZtvSu)
4. [Meeting Recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcAzSDU71YI)
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1. https://mvonthemove.com/local-efforts-continue-to-prevent-spread-of-invasive-vine/. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65298.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-22985)
3. https://netzeroamerica.princeton.edu/data-sheets [↑](#footnote-ref-4388)