## **VIRGINIA'S ENERGY LANDSCAPE**

## TRANSITIONING TO AN ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE STRATEGY

**PRESENTED BY:** 

Daniel Kestner Office Economic Development

Virginia Department of Energy



**July 2025** 

## VIRGINIA'S CURRENT ENERGY LANDSCAPE

# LEADING THE COMMONWEALTH TO A RELIABLE & RESPONSIBLE ENERGY FUTURE

## **Strengthening Virginia's Energy Future**

Programs supporting an affordable, reliable, & increasingly clean energy grid.

## **Promoting Economic Growth**

Initiatives that attract investment, create jobs, & expand energy infrastructure.

## **Advancing Innovation**

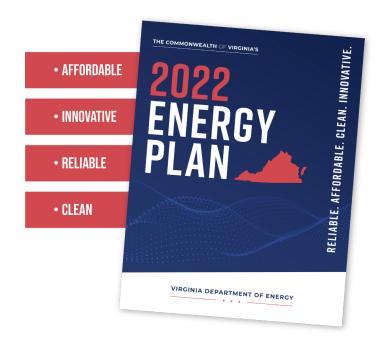
Funding clean technologies like nuclear, carbon capture, and energy storage.

## **Managing Natural Resources**

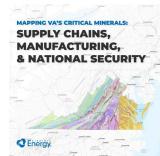
Oversight of mining, reclamation, & geology to ensure environmental protection.

## **Providing Public Resources**

Grants, data, & technical assistance supporting workforce development and community-oriented projects.







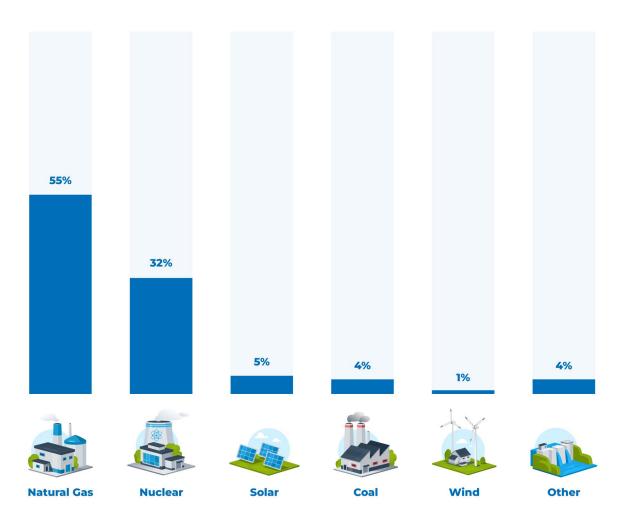




## VIRGINIA'S ENERGY MIX: RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, INCREASINGLY CLEAN

Virginia's energy mix is diverse, with natural gas, nuclear, and renewables powering homes and businesses across the Commonwealth.

As energy demand grows, maintaining a reliable, affordable, and sustainable grid requires a balanced approach that leverages all available resources.



# VIRGINIA IS EXPERIENCING THE LARGEST GROWTH IN POWER DEMAND SINCE WWII

Current projections show **6.5%** annual increase in demand—up from 1.4% projected in 2020.

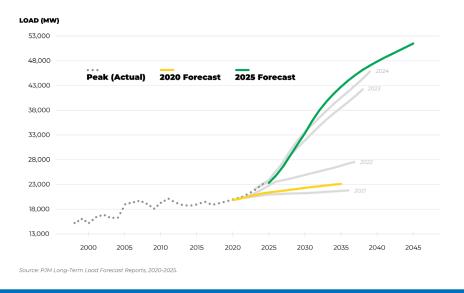
Power **capacity must double** in next 10 years to meet growing demand.

**Electricity imports have increased** significantly in the last three years, from 18% in 2020 to 36% in 2023.

It is reasonable that the law should adapt as the world around it changes.

## **PJM Load Growth Forecasts**

2020-2025, Dominion Zone, Summer Peak (MW)



**VIRGINIA ENERGY** 

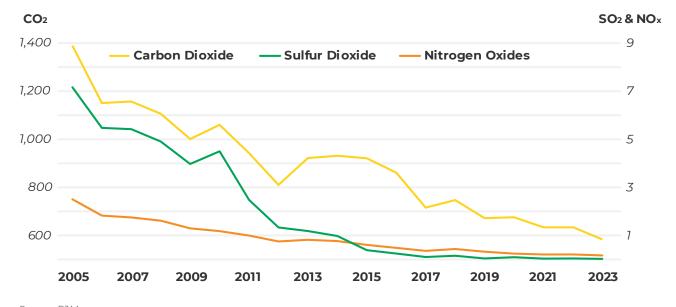
**ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV** 



# VIRGINIA'S POWER SECTOR CARBON EMISSIONS HAVE DECREASED BY OVER 50% IN THE LAST DECADE

**Faster than the national level** of approximately 37% decrease.

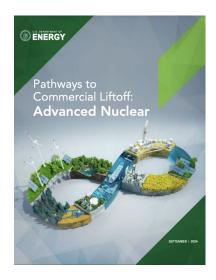
Annual Power Sector CO2 Emissions Decreased from 39,700 to 24,600 lbs/year or ~23% during the same period.



Source: PJM



# DOMINION, JLARC, PJM, US DOE, & VIRGINIA ENERGY AGREE: WE NEED MORE POWER THAT WE CAN RELIABLY DEPEND UPON





Commonwealth of Virgini December 9, 202

Renewables alone cannot meet demand.

**Natural gas and nuclear are needed** to ensure 24/7 reliable service now and in the future.

Utilities and power providers need **regulatory and economic certainty** to make the necessary investments in technologies such as natural gas and nuclear to advance Virginia's economic development.





**COMMISSION DRAFT** 

JLARC JAINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMISSION



# VIRGINIA'S ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY STRATEGY

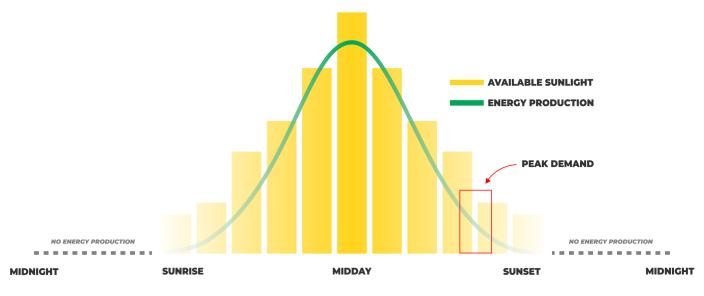
## WHEN THE SUN'S NOT SHINING & THE WIND'S NOT BLOWING...

Renewables play a supporting role in our strategy for an increasingly clean future.

They are not powerful or reliable enough to provide us with the necessary baseload generation on their own.

6% of Virginia's power comes from solar and wind.

Solar is least effective during peak demand hours, when energy is needed most.



Note: Graph is meant to be illustrative of general trends and does not indicate precise energy quantities.

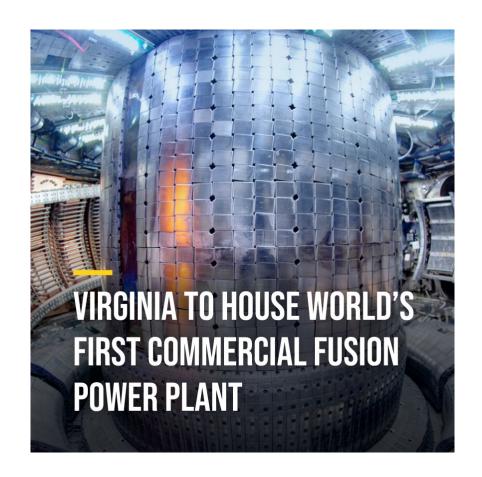


# VIRGINIA'S LEGACY & FUTURE OF NUCLEAR INNOVATION

Over 30% of Virginia's power comes from nuclear, and for good reason: it's reliable, efficient, and virtually limitless.

## **Recent Announcements:**

- CFS will build the world's first commercially viable fusion power plant in Chesterfield, VA.
- Amazon struck a deal with Dominion Energy to develop an SMR to power its data centers.
- The NAVY is exploring options to power naval bases with SMRs in Virginia.
- AEP began early site permitting process for an SMR on its Joshua Falls site in Campbell, VA.





## SMRs & THE FUTURE OF **NUCLEAR INNOVATION**

### **BENEFITS**

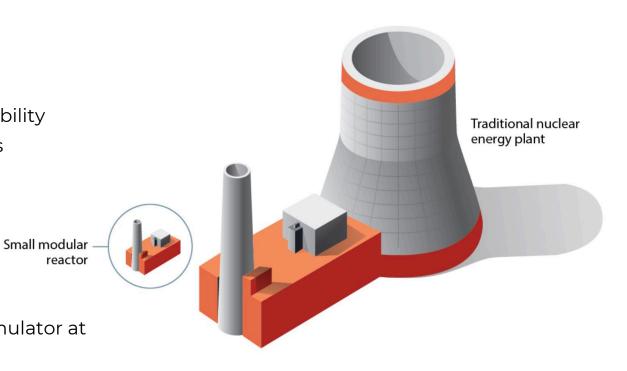
- **Reliable & Flexible**: 24/7 power, on-demand scalability
- **Compact:** Fits industrial, military, data center sites
- **Inherently Safe:** Passive safety systems
- **Modular:** Factory-built, faster & lower-cost
- **Grid Resilient:** Reduces imports

## **SMRs IN VIRGINIA**

Workforce Development: SMR Control Room Simulator at George Mason University

reactor

- First-Mover Advantage: Amazon, US Navy, AEP, Dominion all working on SMR deployment
- Public-Private Partnerships: Funding for innovative projects through the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank





## NATURAL GAS: THE FOUNDATION OF VIRGINIA'S RELIABLE ENERGY GRID

Over 50% of Virginia's power comes from Natural Gas.

- Affordability
   Cost-effective energy with significant savings.
- **Reliability** 24/7 power, flexible backup for renewables.
- Environmental Benefits
  Lower emissions with potential for cleaner tech.
- Grid Resilience
   Ensures stability when renewables fluctuate.
- **Economic Impact**Supports jobs, investment, and tax revenue.
- Energy Security
   Domestic supply reduces reliance on imports.



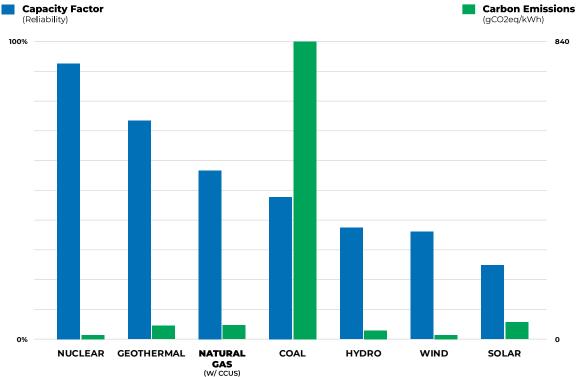
# ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE STRENGTHENS OUR GRID & BOLSTERS ENERGY SECURITY Capacity Factor (Reliability) 100%

No two energy sources are created equal, and no single source has all of the answers.

Energy diversity means leveraging only the best parts of each source.

Energy diversity creates a more robust grid that can respond to or recover from extreme weather, cyber attacks, and other threats.

## **RELIABILITY VS. EMISSIONS**





# REGULATORY CHALLENGES & INTERCONNECTION BOTTLENECKS

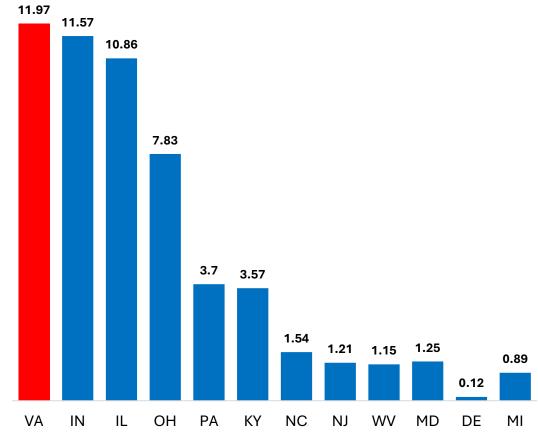
## PROBLEMS IN THE PJM

Virginia has 53,492 MW in the Queue

Historic completion rate of **5%** 

Average interconnection time is roughly **Five to Seven Years** 

Capacity to Clear PJM Interconnection Process 2024-2025





## REGION 13 FUNDING INTERESTS

## FEDERAL FUNDING STATUS

Majority of funding will continue for existing Programs

**New Funding Opportunities** 

- Metallurgical Coal
- Critical Minerals
- Energy Supply Chain (Nuclear)





## **Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program**

Virginia Energy is one of nine states and tribal programs chosen by Congress to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2025 to develop and repurpose Abandoned Mine Lands with economic and community development end uses. The 2025 Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program (AMLER) funding is made available as a direct payment by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42). First authorized in 2016, Virginia received between \$10 million and \$11.7 million per year. Virginia's payment in FY2025 is \$11 million. Learn more here.

## **Coal Mine Methane Capture & Utilization Program**

Virginia Energy, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is administering \$79.5 million in competitive grants to support projects that capture and reuse methane from active and abandoned coal mines in Southwest Virginia. Funded through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, this initiative aims to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and create new economic opportunities in coalfield communities. Learn more here.



## **Southwest Virginia Hydrogen Hub**

Up to \$1 million in funding is available for programs supporting potential hydrogen production industry development in Southwest Virginia. Four subawards of up to \$250,000 each will fund projects exploring blue and green hydrogen production with a focus on repurposing previously mined lands and energy-ready industrial sites. **Learn more here.** 

## **Carbon Storage Feasibility Study**

Up to \$500,000 in funding is available for carbon storage feasibility studies focused on storing carbon in underground gas zones in Southwest Virginia, particularly in relation to industrial CO2 production. Two subawards of up to \$250,000 each will support research on this innovative technology. **Learn more here.** 



#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

## **COAL MINE METHANE CAPTURE & UTILIZATION PROGRAM**

Virginia Energy, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is launching a major initiative to reduce methane emissions from active and abandoned coal mines in Southwest Virginia.

Supported by \$80.7 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, the Coal Mine Methane (CMM) Capture & Utilization Program will fund innovative projects that detect, capture, and reuse fugitive methane as a valuable energy resource.

#### **SEEKING INPUT ON**

- · Methane detection & capture technologies
- · Site readiness & prioritization
- · Infrastructure or permitting barriers
- Opportunities for public-private partnerships
- Community, environmental, & economic co-benefits

### WHO SHOULD RESPOND

- · Methane detection & reuse professionals
- · Project developers & site operators
- · Landowners with legacy coal properties
- · Local gov. & economic development leaders
- · Academic & research institutions

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Your input will help shape the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) and guide funding priorities.

Responses Due: July 16, 2025

Contact: cmm@energy.virginia.gov

RFI Link: Virginia Business Opportunities

#### **PROGRAM GOALS**



#### REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS

Up to 1 million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> annually, equivalent to removing 230,000+ cars from the road



#### **REVITALIZE MINED LANDS**

Targeting economically distressed areas in Southwest Virginia



#### **BOOST ENERGY SECURITY**

Reuse captured methane for on-site power, RNG, or manufacturing



#### **CREATE JOBS**

Support skilled workforce development in coal-impacted communities





## VIRGINIA CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION BANK

Powered by Virginia Energy 🔾

Accelerating the Deployment of Clean Energy Infrastructure Statewide

The Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank (VCEIB) is tasked with accelerating the deployment of clean power generation and energy infrastructure across the commonwealth. VCEIB will mobilize public and private capital to address critical financing gaps in the clean power generation and infrastructure sectors, supporting the goals outlined in Virginia's All-American, All-of-the-Above Energy Plan.







## Virginia Energy Grants & Programs

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT SUBGRANT

Virginia Energy is thrilled to announce the sub-granting of \$1.6 million in **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant** (EECBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to eligible local governments. This is a big boost to help enhance state-level EECBG initiatives and support local energy improvement efforts.

More information on other grants and programs, as well as links to individual grant pages available at the website above (QR code): https://energy.virginia.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-programs.shtml

#### DEMAND RESPONSE

Demand response (DR) pays Commonwealth of Virginia buildings and facilities to conserve or shift electricity use in response to grid signals. These signals can be triggered by high electricity demand, inadequate energy supply, high electricity prices and high emissions. DR serves as a lifeline for Virginia's grid operator and utilities to prevent blackouts or electricity service interruptions which can be extremely disruptive, even deadly, to businesses and residents.

#### VIRGINIA GRID RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (VGRIP)

Virginia Grid Reliability Improvement Program (VGRIP) VGRIP supports a wide range of projects that improve grid reliability. Eligible initiatives include reducing outage duration and frequency, enhancing grid modeling for strategic investments, modernizing infrastructure, addressing outdated components, and supporting workforce development in the energy sector

#### SOLAR FOR ALL

On April 22, 2024, Virginia Energy received \$156 million for the Solar for All program through EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The federal funding will result in more affordable energy through residential solar installations over a five-year period.



## THANK YOU.



