

Resolution:
September 16, 2026

RE: SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATE LEGISLATION RELATED TO CESMP GOALS

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) has set sustainability and resilience related goals in the Community Energy & Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP); and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Sustainability Commission advises the BOCS on achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, accomplishing the goals through local policies and authorities could be significantly facilitated by legislation at the state level setting policy frameworks and specifically authorizing local action; and

WHEREAS, the BOCS formulates a legislative agenda to support bills on topics of interest to the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Prince William County Sustainability Commission recommends that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

Data Center/ High Energy Use Facility Resource Management

- Allow local government site assessments to include GHG and energy impacts prior to siting new facilities (i.e., expand the scope of the site assessments authorized in HB153/SB94)
- Authorize counties to tax energy-intensive facilities based on their use of clean power or carbon footprint (more clean power = lower tax)
- Give local governments authority to ban on-site, non-emergency, fossil fuel-powered emergency generation.
- Allow localities to place moratoriums on the acceptance of land use applications for high-energy and high-water use facilities.

Clean Energy

- Municipal aggregation (aka Community Choice Aggregation): direct VA DOE to study barriers to communities procuring low-cost clean energy, and recommend how to lower the barriers
- Reduce interconnection cost barriers for small- and mid-scale solar, and increase the renewable portfolio standard target for these projects

Water Resource Management

- Allow PWC to be part of the groundwater management area study for the Culpeper basin, and examine the need for a study on the Piedmont Saprolite aquifer.

Utility Policies

- Demand-response (D-R) programs: implement grid standards and environmental protections identified by VA DOE/SCC in their ongoing D-R study (study was required by SB43)
- Fair cost allocation: continue improving SCC policies for allocating costs for grid expansion fairly across ratepayer classes so that costs of accommodating large load customers are not borne by other ratepayers

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

ATTEST:

Clerk of Sustainability Commission