



SIERRA CLUB  
VIRGINIA CHAPTER

# Virginia's Clean Transportation Future

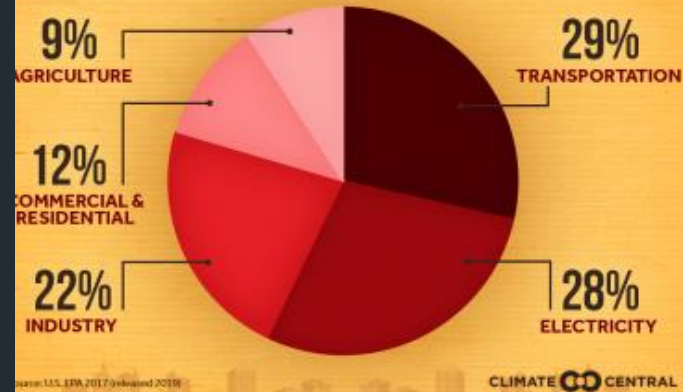
Kelsey Crane



# Why Clean Transportation?

- ▶ For our health
- ▶ For environmental justice
- ▶ For Climate Action

## GREENHOUSE GAS SOURCES UNITED STATES EMISSIONS BY SECTOR

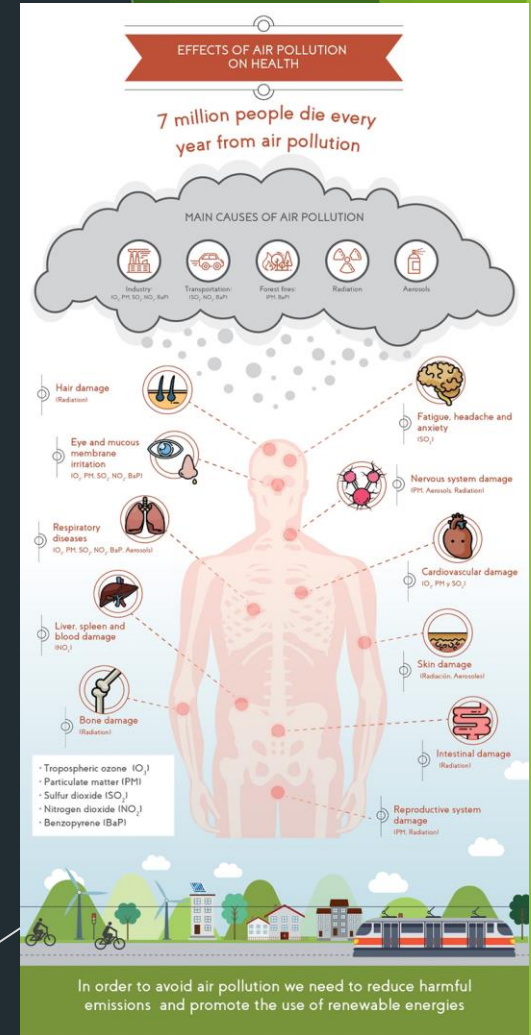
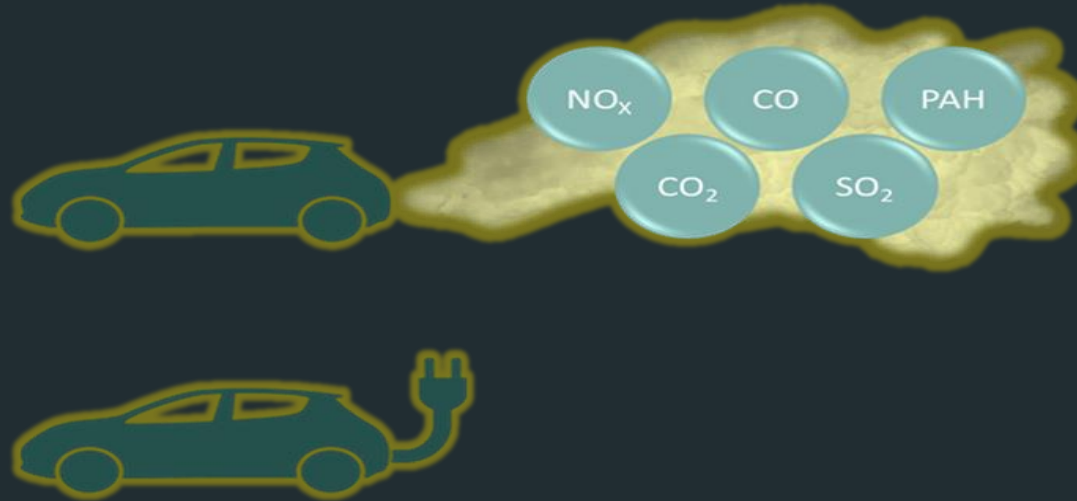


We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it.

BARACK OBAMA

# For Our Health

Transportation accounts for more than half of air pollution in the United States, and automobiles are the primary mobile source. Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) contains many pollutants: particulate matter, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and greenhouse gases.



# For Environmental Justice

Air pollution from transportation is causing disproportionately greater harm to people of color living in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

More people die each year from air pollution caused by transportation than in car accidents.

Union of Concerned Scientists  
FACT SHEET

## Inequitable Exposure to Air Pollution from Vehicles in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

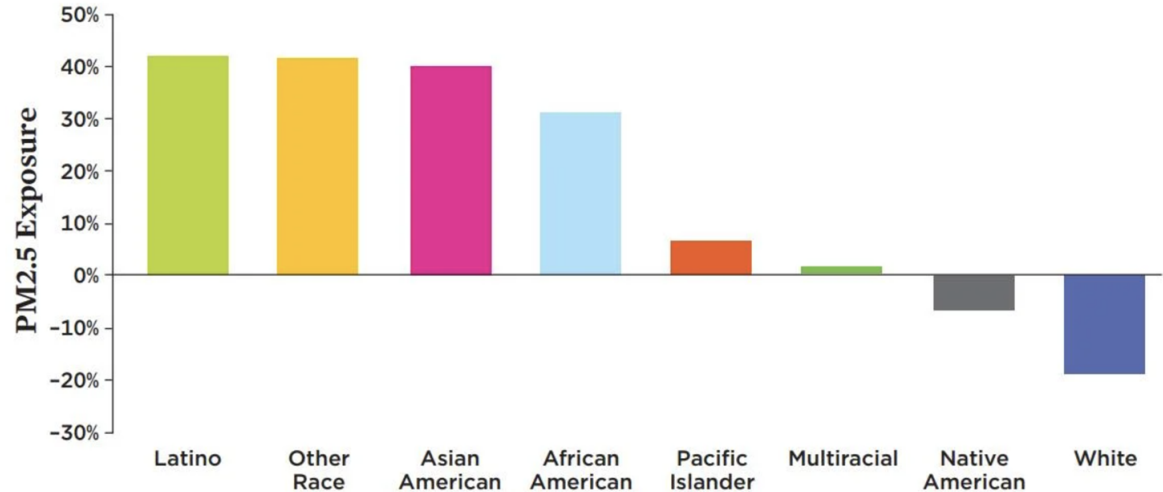
### Who Bears the Burden?

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
This analysis explores the significant contribution of cars, trucks, and buses to particulate matter air pollution in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic and its disproportionate impact on communities of color. Clean transportation policies—such as those that encourage vehicle electrification, carpooling, and reduced driving—will help lower these emissions. Additionally, policymakers should prioritize investments to clean transportation and offer clean transportation solutions for their ability to reduce inequities in exposure to vehicle air pollution. Quantitative evidence of such inequities in the region's air pollution helps to inform such evaluations.



Millions of residents in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic live near major highways and urban centers, and are disproportionately exposed to air pollution from vehicles. In certain areas, such as near the Washington, DC, area, traffic-related air pollution is even higher than the regional average. People of color are disproportionately exposed to more of this pollution.

## Disproportionately High Exposure for People of Color in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic



Source: <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/inequitable-exposure-air-pollution-vehicles>

# Climate Action - For Our Future

We are facing a climate crisis. We need bold action.

But climate change isn't just an environmental issue. It's a human issue.

Cars shouldn't give our kids asthma,

make wildfires worse

melt glaciers

or raise sea levels.

We already have the ability to make cars that don't harm our health.





**Virginia, the US and globally - we cannot not achieve the necessary reductions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change without significant changes to how communities and transportation systems are planned, funded, and built.**

# Paths to a Clean Transportation Future

- ↵ **Local Solutions** - Walkable, bikeable communities with mixed use area and strong public transit systems - people's needs are close by and there are many ways to get around (cuts VMT)
- ↵ **Stronger Air Pollution Standards** - To keep our air clean and our climate safe, we need to put stronger standards for cars and trucks fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions (reduces tailpipe emissions)
- ↵ **Electrifying Vehicles** - incentivizing a widespread shift to electric vehicles (EVs) from compact cars to transit buses (eliminates GHG and air pollution)

# Legislative Opportunities in 2021

1. Adopting Advanced Clean Car Standards in Virginia (Bagby/Sullivan)
2. Transit Modernization study to Identify needs in our public transit systems (McQuinn)
3. Electric Vehicle Rebates - a state tax rebate program for EV buyers, in addition to federal rebate (Reid)
4. Electrify school buses in Virginia





# Advanced Clean Car Standards

The Advanced Clean Cars combine control of smog-causing (criteria) pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into a single, effective coordinated package of regulations.

Adopting Advanced Clean Car standards would put Virginia on a progressive pathway to achieve a full transition to 100% clear transportation.

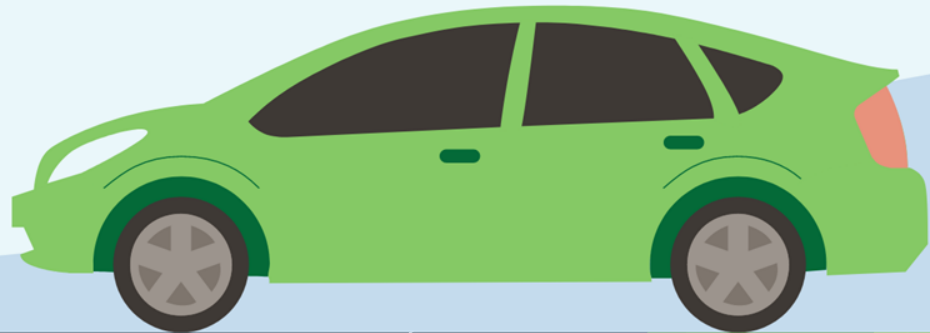


# State Incentives

In the US, if you buy an electric car then you are eligible to receive up to \$7,500 in federal tax credits.

Virginia can offer additional state-based electric vehicles and incentives like a rebate.

In states that have implemented state incentives like EV rebates, it has had a significant impact on adoption and persuades more manufacturers to make their cars available in those states.



# Transit Modernization Study



- ▶ Directs the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to “complete a needs assessment focusing on the equitable delivery of transportation services and modernization of transit in the Commonwealth.”
  - ▶ appropriate shelters and benches; real-time arrival signs;
  - ▶ GPS technology to live-track buses and rail cars
  - ▶ integrated payment systems;
  - ▶ dedicated bus lanes;
  - ▶ transit electrification infrastructure;
  - ▶ improved system maps;
  - ▶ workforce structure, including pay structure
  - ▶ accessibility of bus stops and routes
  - ▶ safety measures and pedestrian infrastructures
  - ▶ rider representation on governing boards and commissions.
- ▶ Study should be completed by November 30, 2021

# 2021 is the year we put VA on the path to a 100% clean transportation future





*Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action*

# How Clean Cars Save Lives

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# Poor air = Poor health



# Transportation Pollution in VA

**Transportation accounts for 45% of Virginia's CO<sub>2</sub> pollution.**

Decarbonization policies not only lowering greenhouse gas emissions which drive climate change, but also reduce air pollutants such as fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution is associated with increases in premature mortality and cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity.



# The American Commute

**27 minutes:** the average American commute one way

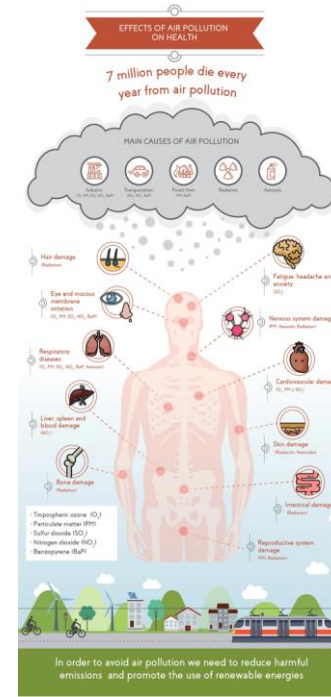
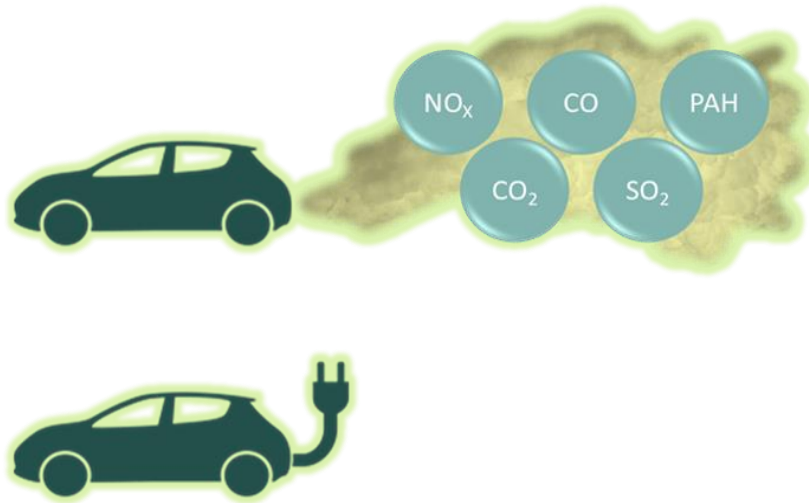
**4.3 million:** solo drivers commuting 90+ min one way in 2018, compared to 3.3 million in 2010





# The science behind emissions

Transportation accounts for more than half of air pollution in the United States, and automobiles are the primary mobile source. Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) contains many pollutants: particulate matter, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and greenhouse gases.



# VCCA Transportation Report



VCCA prepared an assessment of health burden based on VA PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels and an analysis of potential health benefits of clean car policies in 2035.

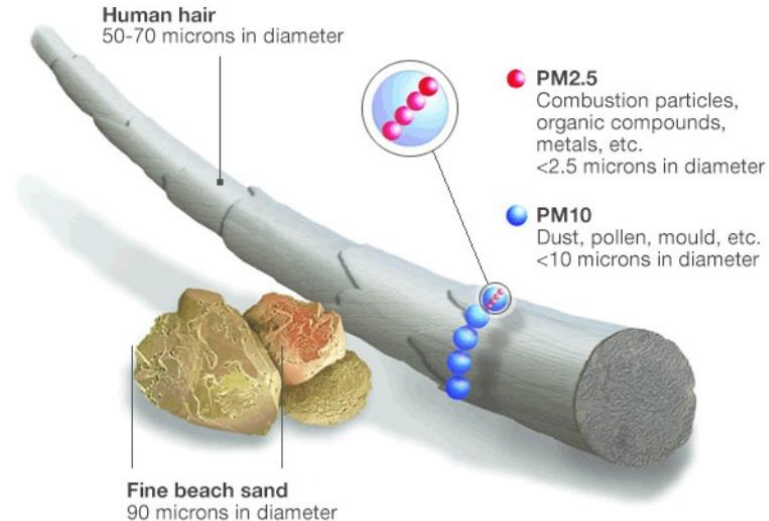
The public health burden includes the number of premature mortalities, hospital admissions, emergency department (ED) visits, and other morbidity impacts associated with PM levels, and how those effects may be distributed among vulnerable communities in the state.



# Key Findings- Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

- Annual observed mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in Virginia between 6 and 9  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . May be higher in “hot spots” near roadways or downwind of point sources.
- Health impacts of all PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in Virginia:

**3,000** premature deaths  
**230,000** child asthma attacks  
**110** strokes  
**360,000** lost work days



# How Patients are Affected



# Justice

- Socially vulnerable populations experience **61% higher death rates** in Virginia due to air pollution.
- The CDC defines **social vulnerability** as being impacted by factors including socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing type and transportation options.

EXHIBIT 3. 2018 SVI BY CENSUS TRACT

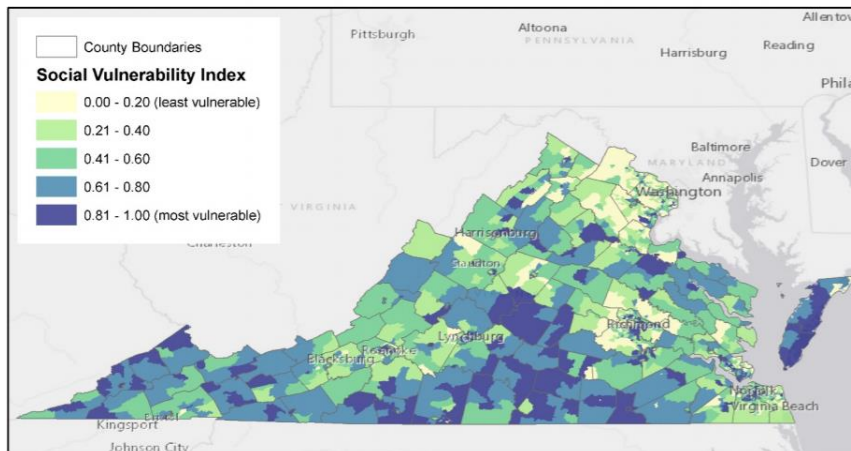
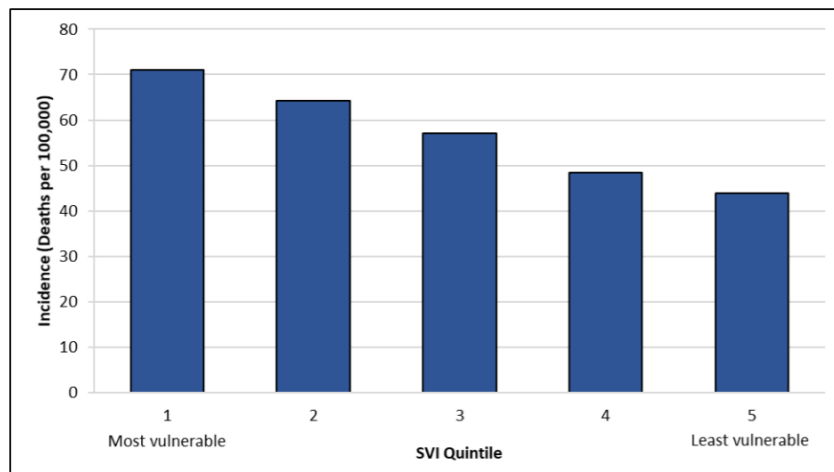


EXHIBIT 4. AIR POLLUTION RELATED DEATHS BY SVI QUINTILE



# Role of Clinicians



# Role of Clinicians in training



**VCU**

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

School of Medicine



**UNIVERSITY**  
*of* **VIRGINIA**

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action



# Virginia Emerging as Clean Energy Leader

Virginia made great strides to lower greenhouse gases and air pollution from electricity sector in 2020.

The enacted **Virginia Clean Economy Act** mandates the following:

**100% renewable energy generation in the state by 2050**

## **VA Join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

- Virginia now considering adopting Section 177 of the Clean Air Act to set stronger standards in Low Emission Vehicles (LEVs), greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs).
- These policies would be expected to generate health, economic, and climate benefits in terms of reduced GHG emissions and reduced concentrations of pollutants such as PM<sub>2.5</sub>.



# Learn More

Visit our Transportation Page:

<https://www.virginiaclinicians.org/tra>



Watch our "Transportation and Health in Virginia" Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCoaLNEKCga0B-NnbjGwdIIJ9kE5uPtSB>



Read our Transportation Report:





Questions?

# Overview of Clean Cars Bill

Lena Lewis

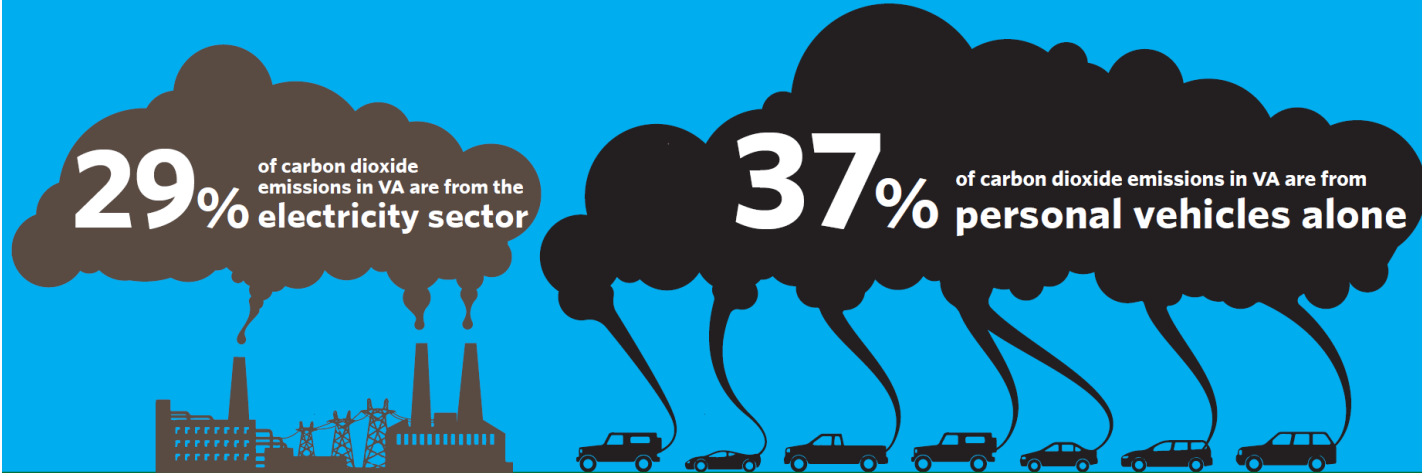
Energy and Climate Policy Manager

The Nature Conservancy

January 7, 2020

[Lena.lewis@tnc.org](mailto:Lena.lewis@tnc.org)

# Transportation Produces Half of the Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Virginia — More Than Any Other Sector



## Virginia needs policies to

### Reduce personal vehicle miles traveled

Investing in more convenient, reliable public transit and access to safer biking and walking options will lower emissions, create job opportunities, and improve public health.

### Transition quickly to electric vehicles

Powering an electric vehicle creates only 1/3 the carbon dioxide emissions of an average gas-powered one.

#### SOURCES

US Energy Information Administration 2017 Data  
US Environmental Protection Agency Air Emissions Inventory 2014 Data  
Union of Concerned Scientists "How Clean Is Your Electric Vehicle?"

**67%  
Reduction**

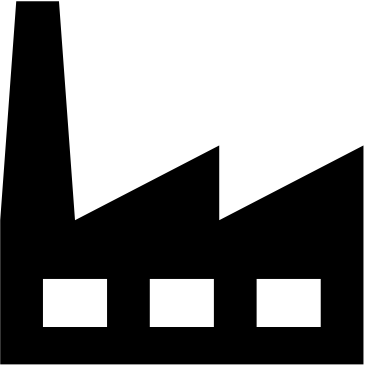
4.6 metric tons  
CO<sub>2</sub>/year



Average passenger car



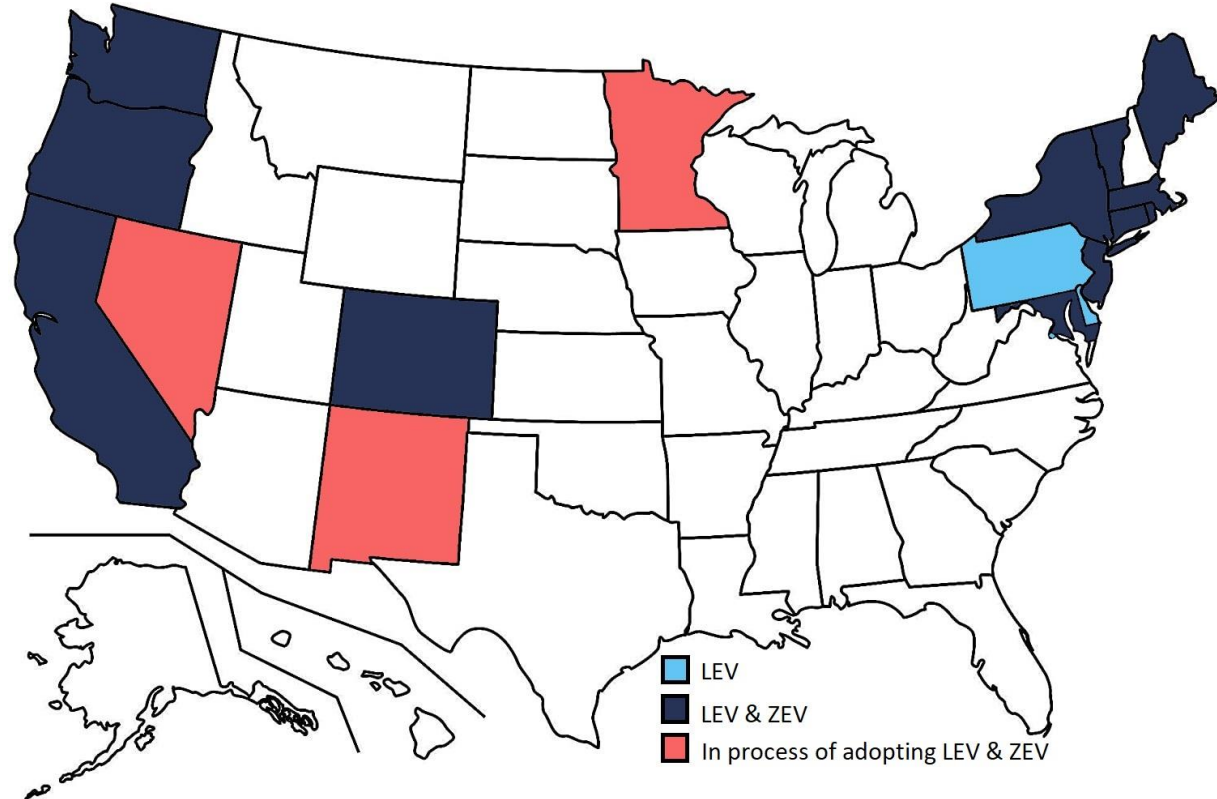
1.5 metric tons  
CO<sub>2</sub>/year



Virginia Power Plants

# ZEV State = Zero Emission Vehicle Standard

- A small percent of each manufacturer's sales in a ZEV state must be zero-emissions or hybrid plug-in electric. Percent increases over time.
- Customers still have choice of conventional vehicles
- Increases customer choice and accessibility to EVs
- Manufacturers prioritize sending EVs to ZEV states over other states



# Clean Cars Legislation in Virginia

Del. Bagby

& Del. Sullivan


- **ZEV = Zero Emission Vehicles**
  - Give customers choice and access to EVs
  - Increase diversity of EV models for sale
  - Send message to manufacturers:  
go all in on electric vehicles
- **LEV = Low Emissions Vehicle Standards**
  - Gas-powered cars & SUVs will have lower emissions on average than under federal standards
    - Climate benefits
    - Immediate health benefits
    - Saves money



# Why now?

- 2-year wait period before manufacturers have to comply
- 19 years for 90% of fleet on the road to be replaced
- does not require raising taxes





We need your  
help to get this  
bill passed!

- Ask your legislators to *lead* on supporting this bill
- Ask Gov. Northam to support
- Recruit others to join grassroots efforts
- Share your story of trying to buy an EV [here](#).

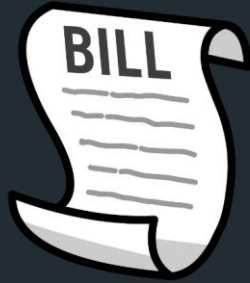


Questions?



*Legislative Advocacy for Grassroots  
Advocates: Clean Cars Standards*

# What to Expect



## Brief Education on General Assembly

- Bill to law process
- Nuances of lawmaking procedures

## Advocacy Best Practices

- Tracking Legislation
- Lobbying Do's and Don'ts
- Engaging Committees

## Action Opportunities

- Contact Representatives
- Sign up for Legislative Advocacy Updates

# Legislative Session Explained

- Legislative Session = time new laws introduced /passed
- Types of “session”:
  - Regular Session
  - Special Session
- **Regular Session**
  - Starts on second Wed. of January
  - Lasts 60 days in even years
  - 45 days in odd years (typically)
- **Important moments:**
  - Filing Deadline
  - Crossover
  - Budget Sunday



# Two Chambers: House And Senate

- **House = 100 Members**
  - 55 Dems/ 45 Reps
- **Senate = 40 members**
  - 21 Dems/ 19 Reps

## **Powers of ALL GA Members:**

- Write/Introduce Bills
- Vote on legislation
- Serve on committees

## Virginia General Assembly



# Why Grassroots Advocacy Matters

## Money in Politics

- Over half of GA members accept 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of campaign contributions from private special interests
  - Majority = Dem
    - 22 Dems take half or more
    - 10 Dems of Senate
- Dominion Listed as Top 10 Donor for BOTH parties

## Perspective Limits

- Majority of members' background represent business, legal, PR firms, financial backgrounds (76)
  - 14 are educators
  - 6 Medical Pros
  - 5 come from non-profit
  - 1 Transportation professional

# Why Grassroots Advocacy Matters (Part. 2)

## Demographics

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### Race

- Caucasian (110 members / 78.57%)
- African-American (21 members / 15.00%)
- Asian (4 members / 2.86%)
- Hispanic (4 members / 2.86%)
- Multiracial (1 members / 0.71%)

### Age

- Over 55+ = 73 members
- Under 45 = 32 members



# Lawmaking Process



## GA Member has an Idea for A law

- Gets idea from lobbyist, advocacy group, constituent
- Sends bill to DLS
- DLS drafts into legal language
- Legislator becomes “Chief Patron”

## Bill is Sent to Committee

- (House) Speaker sends, (Senate) Clerk Sends
- Committee holds PUBLIC hearing
- They listen to testimony
- Vote on Action for a Bill (more later)

## Bill Is Voted on (must Pass Both Chambers)

- Every member casts a vote
- Bill is sent to opposite chamber
- Committee Process starts all over again

## Governor offers changes or signs into law

- Can “Line-Item Veto” or fully reject
- Vetoes are reviewed in April
- Laws go into effect July 1 of that year (unless otherwise)

# Lawmaking Process: Advocacy Opportunities



## GA Member has an Idea for A law

- Give Idea
- Ask for a bill “by-request”
  - Written
  - include
- Track L



2017 SESSION

HB 1877 Tethering of dogs; local ordinances.  
Introduced by: Brenda L. Pogge (by request) all patrons ... notes | add to my profiles

**SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:**  
Tethering of dogs; local ordinances. Authorizes the governing body of any locality to adopt ordinances limiting the amount of time during which a dog may be tethered.

## Bill is Sent to Committee

- (House) Pressure Speaker
- Pressure Committee Chair & Members

tee

tee

# Lawmaking Process: Advocacy Opportunities



## Bill Is Voted on (must Pass Both Chambers)

- Call/ Email your representative
- Track legislation into next Chamber
- Repeat Committee Tactics



## Governor offers changes or signs into law

- Contact Governor's Constituent Service Office!
- Ask representatives to vote against veto (if applicable)

# Tracking Legislation

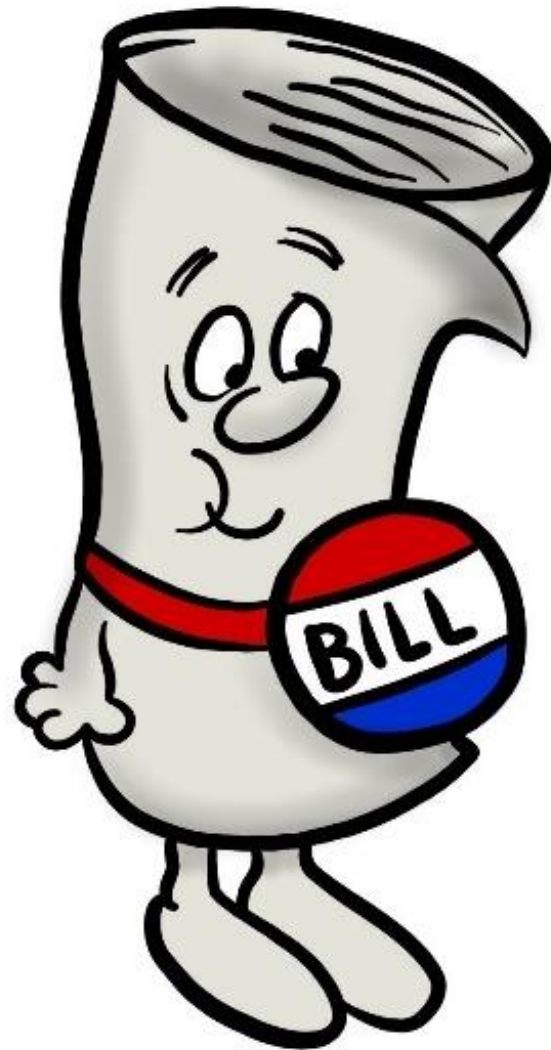
- Tools

- Virginia Legislative Information System (LIS)
- Virginia Public Access Project
  - Search bill by issue

- Method

- Check status of the bill
  - What committee it's in
  - When it's up for full vote

Let's look at some examples!



## 2019 SESSION

[another bill?](#) | [print version](#)

### HB 1641 Absentee voting; no-excuse absentee.

Introduced by: [Charniele L. Herring](#) | [all patrons](#) ... [notes](#) | [add to my profiles](#)

[print version](#)

#### SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

**Absentee voting; no-excuse absentee.** Permits any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he is qualified to vote. The bill removes the current list of statutory reasons under which a person may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot and removes references to those reasons from other sections of the Code.

qualified to  
and removes

#### FULL TEXT

11/26/18 House: [Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/09/19 19100922D pdf | impact statements](#)

#### HISTORY

11/26/18 House: [Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/09/19 19100922D](#)

11/26/18 House: [Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections](#)

01/12/19 House: [Assigned P & E sub: Subcommittee #1](#)

01/29/19 House: [Subcommittee recommends laying on the table \(4-Y 2-N\)](#)

02/05/19 House: [Left in Privileges and Elections](#)

# Understanding Committees



## Think of them as gatekeepers

- Designated by topic
- Most have subcommittees
  - House subs can kill a bill
  - Senate subs can only recommend action

## List of Senate Committees

- Agriculture

- General Laws

- Health, Welfare and  
Institutions

- Transportation

Which Committee is the  
Clean Cars Bill Likely Going?

# Understanding Committees

Bill Actions require one member to “move”, additional member to “second” for a committee vote on one of these options:

## Committee Actions

- *Report* = Bill Moves On (only success action)
- Pass-By-Indefinitely = Kills the Bill
- Pass-by-for-the-day = Bill considered next meeting
- Strike = Removes bill from consideration
- Refer = Sends bill to a different committee
- Table “Lay on the Table” = Effectively kills the bill
- Incorporate = the bill is absorbed into another one





# Lobbying.

Your chance to leave  
an Impression

## DO

- Explain why you care
- Use your constituent credentials
- Bring a handout
- Tell Personal Stories
- Give them a hard ask

## DON'T

- View them as celebrities
- Debate
- Stray from the point
- Only bring up facts, studies, etc.



# Engaging Committees



## Advantages

- Less members to convince
- Media is present
- ANYONE can speak!

## Testifying Tips

- Say where you are from, why you are there
- Speak about personal impact
- Keep Remarks Brief
- Thank Chair and Committee

## Future Actions

**Sign Up for  
Lobby Days!**

### **Legislative Advocacy Update Forums**

- Take Action Right Now!
  - Transportation
  - Environmental Justice
  - Pipelines

# Questions?

## Contact Information

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- Tim Cywinski - [Tim.cywinski@sierraclub.org](mailto:Tim.cywinski@sierraclub.org)