



COMMUNITY CLIMATE
COLLABORATIVE

CLIMATE ACTION INCENTIVES

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Public and private entities offer several monetary incentives for climate action through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation measures. With this report, C3 seeks to inform Charlottesville and Albemarle County residents of their options to save money and take action against climate change. There are 49 incentives available to support local climate action, which are outlined in this report.

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Table of Contents

Introduction	2	Commercial	12
Glossary	3	Energy Efficiency	12
Residential	4	Multipurpose	12
Energy Efficiency	4	Lighting	12
Multipurpose	4	Appliances	13
Lighting	5	Whole Building and/or Weatherization	13
Appliances	6	Water-related (non-heating)	13
Whole Building and/or Weatherization	6	Temperature Controls	14
Water-related (non-heating)	7	Green Roof	14
Temperature Controls and HVAC Equipment	8	Renewable Energy	15
Green Roof	9	Solar	15
Renewable Energy	10	Transportation	16
Solar	10	Electric Vehicle Acquisition	16
Transportation	11	Electric Vehicle Charging Station	16
Electric Vehicle Acquisition	11	Expected Incentives: VA 2020 General Assembly	17
Non-Motorized or non-SOV Vehicles	Error! Bookmark not defined.		



Introduction

Public and private entities offer several monetary incentives for climate action through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation measures. With this report, C3 seeks to inform Charlottesville and Albemarle County residents of their options to save money and take action against climate change. According to the report, as of January 2020, there are [49 incentives](#) available that support local climate action.

Climate action incentives can focus on specific types of actions or have a broader scope, enabling the program beneficiary to choose from a variety of possible initiatives. Overall, 78% of the incentives cover energy efficiency upgrades, 20% cover renewable energy investments, and 8% offer incentives to low carbon transportation.

Similarly, some incentives are targeted exclusively for the residential sector, some exclusively for the commercial sector, and some are available for both sectors simultaneously.

Of all the incentives listed in this report, 29 are available for the commercial sector, with 69% of them fostering energy efficiency investments, 28% aiding renewable energy projects, and 10% promoting cleaner forms of transportation. 32 incentives are currently available to support residential climate action, 81% of them promote energy efficiency upgrades, 25% promote renewable energy investment, while only one directly promotes cleaner transportation.

Nearly two-thirds of the existing residential incentives provide monetary rebates, but are limited in scope, with 57% of rebates offered being lower than \$100 and 76% of them lower than \$500. Finally, 88% of residential incentives have at least one eligibility/qualifying criteria, with 47% of them requiring property ownership and 13% of them requiring good credit history. Surprisingly, only 16% of all residential incentives require income- or age-qualifying status.

Each incentive listed in this report includes a description of what the program offers, lists any known qualifications or criteria, and is linked to the program website to learn more or apply for the incentive. To report any issues accessing these incentives, or to notify C3 of an incentive that is not listed in this report, please email policy@theclimatecollaborative.org.



Glossary

A/C cycling switch

A/C cycling or "smart" switch cycles air conditioner or heat pump compressor systems on/off for short periods of time

Climate action

Initiatives that help alleviate climate change.

Climate incentive:

Monetary or social reward offered to those taking climate action(s).

EarthCraft

Green building certification program with given standards.

FHA

Federal Housing Administration

GBI

Green Building Initiative

HVAC

Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning devices and/or systems.

IRS

Internal Revenue Service

MACRS

Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System

LEAP

Local Energy Alliance Program

LED

Light-emitting diode

LEED

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; green building certification program with given standards.

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)

SHGC is the fraction of incident solar radiation admitted through a window, and subsequently released inward.

Solar PV system

Solar photovoltaic (PV) system; a system composed of one or more solar PV panels combined with an inverter and other electrical and mechanical hardware that use radiant energy from the Sun to generate electricity.

Wind system

A system composed of one or more wind turbines powering electric generators, potentially combined with an inverter and other electrical and mechanical hardware to use wind kinetic energy to generate electricity.

U.S. HHS

United States Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. HUD

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

U.S. DOE

United States Department of Energy

VA DHCD

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development



Residential

Energy Efficiency

Multipurpose

[City of Charlottesville & Albemarle County - LEAP Energy Smart Rebates](#)

LEAP offers up to \$500 for Charlottesville City and Albemarle County homeowners who have completed LEAP's \$45 Home Energy Check-Up and installed select energy efficiency retrofits, including insulation, air sealing, duct sealing, HVAC upgrades, and water heater replacements. Residents participating in LEAP's income-qualifying program do not qualify to apply.

[City of Charlottesville - Special Tax Rate for Energy Efficient Buildings](#)

"Energy efficient" buildings are eligible for a 50% reduction on the building real estate's tax rate (0.95% of the building value in 2019) for one tax year. All city residents qualify given that the building exceeds VA Building Code efficiency standards by 30% and meets or exceeds performance standards set by the GBI, EarthCraft House Program, and LEED rating systems, or is Energy Star qualified home.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Income and Age Qualifying Home Improvement Program](#)

The utility provides home energy assessments and installation of selected energy saving products at no cost to income and age-qualifying families in Virginia. Installation by pre-approved [local weatherization service providers](#) may include Energy Star certified LED light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and aerators, and insulation.

[Fannie Mae - Green Financing Loans](#)

Fannie Mae's Green Rewards Program increases loan proceeds for energy efficiency and conservation measures up to 5%. To qualify, multifamily property owners must commit to reducing the property's annual energy and/or water consumption by at least 30%. Improvements may include lighting and Energy Star appliances upgrades.

[U.S. HUD - Title I Property Improvement Loans](#)

The U.S. HUD insures Title I loans for improvements that substantially increase the basic livability of the property.



Title I loans range between \$7,500 and \$60,000 and can be used to finance energy efficiency improvements such as lighting and appliance upgrades. Participation is universal.

[U.S. HUD - Energy Efficient Mortgage Program](#)

Property owners with FHA-insured mortgages may qualify for a higher mortgage to finance energy efficiency improvements. Homeowners need only to qualify for the original loan amount, and a home energy assessment must be conducted to ensure improvements will be cost-effective.

[U.S. HUD - Section 203k Rehabilitation Mortgage](#)

Section 203(k) insurance enables homeowners to finance the repair or modernization of their existing property through a single mortgage, which may include energy efficiency upgrades that improve the home's function and appearance. The investment must be of at least \$5,000 to be covered by the loan. All homeowners qualify.

[VA DHCD - Weatherization Assistance Program](#)

Virginia's DHCD installs energy efficiency measures at no cost for qualifying state residents based on family unit size and income level. Measures may include air sealing, insulation, and HVAC repair.

Lighting

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Home Energy Assessment](#)

The utility provides home energy assessments and offers rebates for selected energy saving products. Rebates range from \$7.16 to \$16.90 per selected LED light bulb installed by a pre-approved contractor for Dominion residential customers.

[Virginia Dpt. of Taxation - Energy Star and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday](#)

For three days in August, Energy Star and WaterSense appliances priced at \$2,500 or less are sales tax exempt. All Virginia residents may benefit from this 4.3% sales tax incentive to purchase select products, which can include Energy Star light bulbs.



Appliances

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Appliance Rebates \(Efficient Products Marketplace\)](#)

The utility's residential customers who purchase eligible Energy Star appliances can enter the information in Dominion's rebate portal and receive a rebate between \$25 and \$100 per appliance. Eligible products include dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, and room air purifiers.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Appliance Recycling](#)

The utility's residential customers can receive \$20 for recycling old, inefficient refrigerators or freezers with

Reclaim. Appliances must be at least 10 years old and in working condition to qualify.

[Virginia Dpt. of Taxation - Energy Star and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday](#)

For three days in August, Energy Star and WaterSense appliances priced at \$2,500 or less are sales tax exempt. All Virginia residents may participate in the 4.3% sales tax holiday to purchase these specified products, which can include Energy Star dishwashers, washing machines, and refrigerators.

Whole Building and/or Weatherization

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Home Energy Assessment](#)

The utility's provides home energy assessments and offers rebates for select energy saving products installed. Rebates range from \$0.35 to \$6.07 per linear foot of duct/pipe insulation installed by pre-approved local weatherization service providers.

[Charlottesville Gas and LEAP - Energy Efficiency Program](#)

Both organizations have partnered to offer energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to homeowners and renters who meet income-qualifying requirements and are Charlottesville Gas customers living in either the City or Albemarle County. Improvements may include attic insulation, hot water pipe insulation, and air sealing.



[U.S. HHS – Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)

Virginia's LIHEAP, using funds granted by the federal government, provides low-income households with weatherization improvements and heating/cooling costs. All Virginia residents meeting household size and income limits qualify for upgrades at no cost.

[VA DHCD - Emergency Home and Accessibility Repairs Program](#)

Virginia's DHCD installs emergency repairs at no cost for qualifying state residents with gross household income below 80% of area median income (AMI), adjusted by family unit size. Maximum assistance is \$4000, and potential repairs may include roof/ceiling/wall replacement or upgrade.

Water-related (non-heating)

[City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County - Free Water Conservation Kits](#)

The [City](#) and the [County](#) both offer free water conservation kits to all residents of their respective areas who request them. In both programs, the kits include WaterSense showerheads, faucet aerators, and water saving tips.

[City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County - Toilet Rebate Program](#)

The [City](#) and the [County](#) both offer \$100 rebates to homeowners who replace old, inefficient toilets with new WaterSense certified toilets. To qualify for the City's program, participants must be the property owner and remain in good standing with the City. To qualify for Albemarle's program, participants must simply be pre-approved County Service Authority's customers. In both programs, residents may replace up to 3 toilets.

[City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County - Rain Barrel Rebate Program](#)

The [City](#) and the [County](#) both offer \$30 rebates per rain barrel purchased and installed. The City's program requires participants to be the property owner and remain in good standing with the City. Albemarle's program only requires participants to be County Service Authority's customers. Participants may replace up to 2 rain barrels.

[Charlottesville Gas and LEAP - Energy Efficiency Program](#)

Both organizations have partnered to offer energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to homeowners and renters who meet income-qualifying requirements and are Charlottesville Gas customers living in either the City or Albemarle County. Improvements may include water-saving upgrades.



[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Home Energy Assessment](#)

The utility provides home energy assessments and offers rebates for select energy saving products. Rebates are \$22.87 per showerhead and between \$1.69 and \$2.30 per aerator installed by a Virginia homeowner.

[U.S. HHS - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)

Virginia's LIHEAP, using funds granted by the federal government, provides low-income households with weatherization improvements and heating/cooling costs. All Virginia residents meeting household size and income limits qualify for upgrades at no cost. Products may include high-efficiency faucet aerators and energy-saving showerheads.

[VA DHCD - Emergency Home and Accessibility Repairs Program](#)

Virginia's DHCD installs emergency repairs at no cost for qualifying low-income residents. Maximum assistance is \$4000, and potential repairs may include plumbing and water source upgrades.

[VA Department of Taxation - Energy Star and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday](#)

For three days in August, Energy Star and WaterSense appliances priced at \$2,500 or less are sales tax exempt. All Virginia residents may participate in the 4.3% sales tax holiday to purchase these specified products, which can include WaterSense sink faucets, aerators, shower heads, and toilets.

Temperature Controls and HVAC Equipment

[Charlottesville Gas - Programmable Thermostat Rebate Program](#)

The local gas utility offers a rebate of up to \$100 to City residents who purchase and install a programmable

thermostat. To qualify, participants must be the property owner and in good standing with the City of Charlottesville.

[Charlottesville Gas - Tankless Water Heater Rebate Program](#)

The local gas utility offers a \$200 rebate to City residents who switch from an electric, propane or natural gas tank water heater to an energy saving tankless natural gas water heater. Participants must be the property-owners and in good standing with the City.

[Charlottesville Gas and LEAP - Energy Efficiency Program](#)

Both organizations have partnered to offer energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to homeowners and renters who meet income-qualifying requirements and

8



are Charlottesville Gas customers living in either the City or Albemarle County. Improvements may include programmable thermostats.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Home Energy Assessment](#)

The utility provides home energy assessments and offers rebates for select energy saving products. Rebates range from \$156 to \$273 per select heat pump upgrade installed by a Virginia homeowner.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Smart Cooling Rewards](#)

The utility installs an A/C cycling switch to regulate homeowners' cooling systems during periods of high energy demand in this program. Dominion offers a \$40 credit each year of participation.

[U.S. HHS - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)

Green Roof

[City of Charlottesville - Green Roof Building Permit Fee Reduction](#)

The City offers a 50% reduction to the building permit fee, based on project cost and type, for the construction of a green roof, which may entail a vegetative roof or a solar roofing system. All Charlottesville residents who install a green roof can participate.

Virginia's LIHEAP, using funds granted by the federal government, assists low-income households with weatherization improvements and heating/cooling costs. Virginia offers between \$50 and \$561 per qualifying household for heating and cooling costs.

[VA DHCD - Emergency Home and Accessibility Repairs Program](#)

Virginia's DHCD installs emergency repairs at no cost for qualifying low-income residents. Maximum assistance is \$4000, and potential repairs may include the replacement of heating/air conditioning systems.

[Virginia Dpt. of Taxation - Energy Star and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday](#)

For three days in August, Energy Star and WaterSense appliances priced at \$2,500 or less are sales tax exempt. All Virginia residents may participate in this 4.3% sales tax holiday.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Home Energy Assessment](#)

The utility provides home energy assessments and offers rebates for select energy saving products. Rebates are \$0.20 per square foot of "Cool Roof".



Renewable Energy

Solar

[City of Charlottesville - Tax Exemption and Tax Credit for Solar Equipment, Facilities, and Devices](#)

The City offers a tax exemption and a tax credit equal to the property tax rate (0.95% of the building value in 2019) applied to the full cost of installation of the solar system. The tax exemption and credit both apply for 5 years. To qualify, participants must be property owners residing in the City who install solar energy equipment.

[City of Charlottesville - Green Roof Building Permit Fee Reduction](#)

The City offers a 50% reduction to the building permit fee, based on project cost and type, for the construction of a green roof, which may entail a vegetative roof or a solar roofing system. All Charlottesville residents installing a solar roof qualify.

[Energy Star - Renewable Energy Tax Credits](#)

Federal renewable energy tax credits apply to solar energy systems, fuel cells, small wind turbines, and geothermal heat pumps installed by property owners for 1 tax year. The credit is worth 30% of annual income tax liability for systems serviced by the end of 2019, 26% by the end of 2020, and 22% by the end of 2021. For residential solar energy systems, the tax credit expires December 31, 2021.

[Fannie Mae - Green Financing Loans](#)

Fannie Mae's Green Rewards Program increases loan proceeds for energy efficiency and conservation measures up to 5%. To qualify, property owners must commit to reducing the property's annual energy and/or water consumption by at least 30%. Property improvements may include installing solar systems.

[LEAP - Solarize Campaign](#)

The energy service provider offers free solar suitability property assessments, consultation, and connection to qualified solar installers through their annual Solarize campaign. All commercial property owners in Charlottesville and Albemarle qualify.

[U.S. HUD - FHA's Solar and Wind Technologies Program](#)

In this program, homeowners can add the full cost of a new solar PV or wind system to a regular FHA-insured mortgage. The maximum amount financed will be 20% of the property's appraised value, and payment will be spread out over the existing mortgage term. All property owners qualify for participation.



Transportation

Electric Vehicle Acquisition

[U.S. DOE - Qualified Plug-In Electric Vehicle Tax Credit](#)

The IRS offers a tax credit between \$2,500 and \$7,500 for new electric vehicles purchased for use in the United States for 1 tax year. The size of the tax credit depends on the size of the vehicle, its battery capacity, and whether the manufacturer of the vehicle has reached its 200,000 quota.

Alternative Transportation Options

[Albemarle/Charlottesville RideShare – Guaranteed Ride Home \(GRH\)](#)

Employees needing to leave work early due to an emergency can activate RideShare to have access to up to 5 free commuting trips per calendar year. Participants must be employed full-time or permanent part-time, registered with RideShare, and commute to work via carpool, vanpool, public transit, biking, or walking at least twice a week.



Commercial

Energy Efficiency

Multipurpose

[City of Charlottesville - Special Tax Rate for Energy Efficient Buildings](#)

The City offers a 50% reduced tax rate on buildings that meet specified energy efficiency standards for one tax year. All Charlottesville commercial properties qualify, as long as the building meets or exceeds performance standards such as the EarthCraft House Program or the GBI and/or LEED rating systems.

[City of Charlottesville - Clean Energy Commercial Loan Program \(CELP\)](#)

Local businesses in the City can apply for loans up to \$60,000 at rates as low as 0% for energy efficiency

Lighting

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Lighting Systems and Controls](#)

The utility offers rebates to every commercial customer that upgrade to new energy-efficient lighting and controls, such as T8s, T5s, LEDs, and occupancy sensors.

improvements and renewable energy technologies. The program was launched by LEAP, the City of Charlottesville, and UVA Community Credit Union.

[U.S. HUD - Title I Property Improvement Loans](#)

The U.S. HUD insures Title I loans for improvements that substantially increase the basic functioning of the property. Title I loans range between \$7,500 and \$60,000 depending on the size of the property, and can be used to finance energy efficiency improvements such as lighting and appliance upgrades. Participation is universal.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Small Business Improvement](#)

The utility conducts an on-site energy assessment, provides a report of potential energy-saving measures, and offers rebates for installing those measures. Rebates for lighting upgrades range from \$2.75 to \$400 per item, depending on fixture type.



Appliances

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Non-Residential Prescriptive](#)

The utility offers rebates for energy efficiency improvements.

These rebates include upgrades to commercial kitchen appliances. All commercial customers qualify.

Whole Building and/or Weatherization

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Window Film](#)

The utility offers rebates to businesses that install window film using pre-approved contractors on or after October 1, 2019. The rebate amount is based on the improvement in Solar Heat Gain Coefficient. All commercial customers qualify.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Non-Residential Prescriptive](#)

The utility offers rebates to businesses that install energy efficiency improvements using pre-approved contractors on or after August 1, 2017. Rebates range from \$0.50 to \$300 per item, depending on improvement type. All commercial customers qualify.

Water-related (non-heating)

[City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County - Toilet Rebate Program](#)

The [City](#) and the [County](#) both offer \$100 rebates to commercial property owners who replace old, inefficient toilets with new WaterSense certified toilets. The City's program requires participants to be in good standing with the City and the building constructed before 1994. Albemarle's program simply requires to be pre-approved County Service Authority's customers. In both programs, participants may replace up to 3 toilets.

[City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County - Rain Barrel Rebate Program](#)

The [City](#) and the [County](#) both offer commercial property owners \$30 rebates per rain barrel purchased and installed. The City's program requires participants to be in good standing with the City. Albemarle's program requires participants to County Service Authority's customers. In both programs, participants may replace up to 2 rain barrels.



Temperature Controls

[Charlottesville Gas - Programmable Thermostat Rebate Program](#)

The local gas utility offers a rebate of up to \$100 to City commercial property owners who purchase and install a programmable thermostat. To qualify, participants must be in good standing with the City.

[Charlottesville Gas - Tankless Water Heater Rebate Program](#)

The local gas utility offers a \$200 rebate to City property owners who switch from an electric, propane or natural gas tank water heater to an energy saving tankless natural gas water heater. To qualify, property owners must be in good standing with the City.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Heating and Cooling Efficiency](#)

The utility offers rebates to businesses that install new energy efficient heating and cooling systems, including

air conditioners, heat pumps, chillers, variable frequency drives, and economizers. All Dominion Energy commercial customers in Virginia qualify.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Small Business Improvement](#)

The utility conducts an on-site energy assessment, provides a personalized report of potential energy-saving measures, and offers rebates for installing those measures. Dominion offers rebates for HVAC upgrades including air conditioners, heat pumps, programmable thermostats, variable frequency drives, and economizers.

[Dominion Energy \(VA\) - Non-Residential Prescriptive](#)

The utility offers to every commercial customer rebates for energy efficiency improvements, such as HVAC system tune-ups.

Green Roof

[City of Charlottesville - Green Roof Building Permit Fee Reduction](#)

The City of Charlottesville offers a 50% reduction to the building permit fee for the construction of a green roof

on commercial or residential properties, which may entail a vegetative roof or a solar roofing system. All Charlottesville properties that install a green roof can participate.



Renewable Energy

Solar

[City of Charlottesville - Tax Exemption and Tax Credit for Solar Equipment, Facilities, and Devices](#)

The City offers a tax exemption and a tax credit equal to the property tax rate (0.95%) applied to the full cost of installation of a solar system on commercial or residential properties. The tax exemption and credit both apply for 5 years. To qualify, participants must be property owners of real estate in the City and install solar energy equipment.

[City of Charlottesville - Green Roof Building Permit Fee Reduction](#)

The City of Charlottesville offers a 50% reduction to the building permit fee for the construction of a green roof on commercial or residential properties, which may entail a vegetative roof or a solar roofing system. All Charlottesville properties that install a solar roof can participate.

[Energy Star - Renewable Energy Tax Credits](#)

Federal renewable energy tax credits apply to solar energy systems, fuel cells, small wind turbines, and geothermal heat pumps installed by property owners for 1 tax year. The credit is worth 30% for systems serviced by the end of 2019, 26% by the end of 2020, 22% by the end of 2021, and 10% from 2022 onwards.

[LEAP - Solarize Campaign](#)

The energy service provider offers free solar suitability property assessments, consultation, and connection to qualified solar installers through their annual Solarize campaign. All residential and commercial property owners in Charlottesville and Albemarle County qualify.

[U.S. IRS - MACRS Solar Accelerated Depreciation](#)

The IRS offer a 100% bonus depreciation on solar systems that steps down each year over the 5-year MACRS schedule. To qualify, participants must be the commercial property owner and install a solar system on the property.



Transportation

Electric Vehicle Acquisition

[U.S. IRS - Qualified Plug-In Electric Vehicle Tax Credit](#)

The IRS offers a tax credit between \$2,500 and \$7,500 for new electric vehicles purchased for use in the United States for 1 tax year. The size of the tax credit

depends on the size of the vehicle, its battery capacity, and whether the manufacturer of the vehicle has reached its 200,000 quotas.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

[Albemarle/Charlottesville RideShare – Guaranteed Ride Home \(GRH\)](#)

For employees needing to leave work early due to an emergency, RideShare will provide 5 free trips per calendar year. To qualify, participants must be employed full-time or permanent part-time, registered with RideShare, and commute to work via carpool, vanpool, public transit, biking, or walking at least twice a week.

[City of Charlottesville - EV Charging Station Mini-Grant Program](#)

The City offers \$3,000 grants for the installation of Level I and II chargers in the City and \$7,000 grants for DC fast

chargers. Charging stations must be accessible by the general public, near commercial and tourist activity centers, and located on private, non-residential property. Commercial properties can receive up to 2 grants.

[U.S. IRS – Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefits](#)

Beginning on January 1, 2020, businesses may claim tax-free benefits for employees commuting via public transit, carpool, or vanpool of up to \$270 per month. Benefits may be in the form of transit vouchers, commuter highway vehicle fares, and/or parking fees.



Expected Incentives: VA 2020 General Assembly

The Commonwealth's 2020 General Assembly passed multiple bills that will begin to address the energy inequities in communities across the Commonwealth. The bill [HB981/SB1027](#), that enables Virginia to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), includes parameters for how the revenues generated by the program will be allocated to implement low-income energy efficiency programs and authorizes localities to use those funds to provide loans for energy efficiency projects in low-income areas.

The Virginia Clean Economy Act ([HB1526/SB851](#)) also introduced an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, which mandates investor-owned utilities with energy efficiency programs to ensure they are relevant, effective, and widely implemented. Additionally, a bill ("Electric Utilities; Energy Efficiency Programs, Stakeholder Process", [HB575](#)) was also passed and increases the stakeholder engagement process for developing energy efficiency programs to ensure equitable input from community members on what they believe is relevant and effective.

Legislation to increase access to clean energy solutions was also passed in this year's General Assembly. The

Solar Freedom Act increased limits on both net-metering and power purchase agreements, and now enabled owners of multi-family residential buildings to install a renewable energy generation facility and sell the electricity to tenants). This would allow low-income apartment buildings to sell solar energy directly to their tenants, possibly lowering the tenant's energy burden and increasing their access to clean energy. Similarly, a bill was passed that requires utility companies to pilot community solar development programs specifically in low-income communities, which would provide those and surrounding communities access to renewable energy from their existing energy provider.

The Virginia Clean Energy Advisory Board, which was set to expire in July 2022, was extended and now has increased membership with one new member required to have experience implementing low-income loan programs for distributed renewable energy. The board, which counts with the membership of two Charlottesville residents (including C3's executive director, Susan Kruse), has also been directed to develop guidelines to administer public power renewable grant programs. Meanwhile, Virginia's DMME has been authorized to sponsor a statewide clean energy financing program.