Table of contents:

2: About VA-REA
3: VA-REA Membership Survey
4: Organization Growth
6: Become a Member
7: Staff & Board Members
10: Job Board
11: Virginia Renewable Energy Leadership Award
13: Events
19: VA-REA Members
Mission Statement

The Virginia Renewable Energy Alliance leverages the diverse interests and market knowledge of our members to find solutions that:

- Identify and close the gaps to renewable energy development through collaboration on target initiatives;
- Research and support best industry practices;
- Serve as an authority and resource through public education;
- Generate policy analysis; and
- Foster coordination and partnership through networking opportunities.
We would love to hear your feedback! Please take our membership survey by scanning the QR code, or searching the web link below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJKRFRF
From starting out in 2015 with just 7 members to now sitting at 88 by the end of 2022, we could not be prouder of VA-REA’s continued growth. After the inaugural Virginia Clean Energy Summit in 2019, we jumped from 38 members in 2018 to 52 and have hit a steady growth ever since.
VA-REA prides itself on being a "big tent" organization and representation within the industry. We want to aim to fill in any gaps and be a voice for all who are involved within clean energy in Virginia.
Joining the Virginia Renewable Energy Alliance can be a great step forward for you, your business, government agency, nonprofit, school, and partners working to advance Virginia’s renewable energy economy. Because members that participate in this group promote each other and work together, your own business can grow and prosper quickly. You can become a member by visiting our website at https://www.va-rea.org/join-us or scanning the QR code below.
2022
Staff & Board Members

Staff

BLAYNE BARRAS
Associate Director

Board of Directors

SARAH COSBY
Vice Chair
Dominion Energy

CLIONA ROBB
Chair
Thompson McMullan, P.C.

TYSON UTT
Immediate Past Chair
Commonwealth Energy Partners

RICK THOMAS
Secretary
Timmons Group

KEVIN COMER
Treasurer
Antares Group, inc.

PRESTON BRYANT
McGuireWoods Consulting

GUY CHAPMAN
Archaea Energy

ROB CORRADI
Amazon Web Services

ERIC HEINTZ
M&T Bank

FRANCIS HODSOLL
SolUnesco

EMILY HUGHES
EDP Renewables

JON AMORES
Appalachian Power Company

CARRIE HEARNE
Virginia Energy

JONATHAN MILES
James Madison University

DEBORAH REYES
174 Power Global

BEN SAUNDERS
AES

ANTHONY SMITH
Secure Futures LLC

LISA OLIVER
Fisher Associates

PETER MUHORO
Rappahannock Electric Coop

KIRK JOHNSON
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative

ANDREW WILLIAMS
Sol Systems

KEVIN CHANDLER
Apex Clean Energy
Meet the Team

Blayne Barras, Associate Director

Blayne has a background in Hospitality and Business Management from James Madison University. For VA-REA, she oversees all day to day operations of the organization alongside the Board of Directors. She has had a hand in coordinating the Virginia Clean Energy Summit since the inaugural summit in 2019, in addition to many other events within the clean energy industry. If she isn’t at work, then you can find her spending time with her two dogs and husband outdoors.

Cliona Mary Robb, Chair

Cliona Robb is a director at the Thompson McMullan law firm in Richmond, Virginia, where she co-chairs the firm’s Energy and Telecommunications practice group. She’s a graduate of Princeton University and of the Duke School of Law. Cliona typically advises large customers and competitive service providers in direct negotiations with incumbent electric utilities, in proceedings before the Virginia State Corporation Commission, and in lobbying before the Virginia General Assembly concerning energy matters.

Cliona has been recognized as a 2022 Virginia Lawyers Weekly Influential Woman of Law and as a Lawyer of the Year in 2022 for Energy Law by Best Lawyers in America. She is a member of the Virginia Bar Association’s Board of Governors, a director on the national board of the Energy Bar Association, and is on the boards of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Bar Association’s Environmental Law Sections. She serves as Chair of the Virginia Renewable Energy Alliance and received a gubernatorial appointment to the Virginia Solar Energy Development and Energy Storage Authority, where she serves as Chair of the Authority.

However, she is most proud of having qualified for the Boston Marathon with a time of 3:09 as a high school senior.
Donna Hill and Kristian Quejado joined our VA-REA accounting team this year! We are very fortunate to have OMG’s support through all of our events, membership, and staffing needs. For all OMG inquiries, visit their website: https://www.omgafs.com/

Donna M. Hill,  
Accounting Director

Donna is OMG’s Accounting Director. She was Controller for an oil company for over 10 years where she oversaw all accounting functions to ensure proper recording of all transactions, 1099s, collections, and much more. Prior to this she was Senior Accountant at a medical company. Donna started her accounting career in 1990 and has a wealth of experience in all aspects of financial management, with skill proficiencies in financial management, quarterly reports, accounts payable/receivable, general ledgers, financial statements and bank reconciliations. Donna has an Associate of Science in Accounting, a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and a Master of Science in Accounting/Controllership.

Kristian Quejado,  
Accountant

Kristian brings over a decade of accounting experience focused in the high volume industry of medical billing. He spent the majority of his accounting career working for Guam’s largest medical imaging provider, supporting five medical facilities. He worked his way up from Accounts Receivable Technician to Staff Accountant. He is highly proficient in advanced bookkeeping and Excel and has an exceptional attention to detail in all aspects of accounting. He graduated in 2019 from the University of Guam with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in finance and economics.
VA-REA introduced our job board last year, which features open positions from our members companies. This perk is open to all levels of membership year-round!

Scan here to view open positions

https://www.va-rea.org/Job-Opportunities
Richard Walker is a mental health professional and Founder and CEO of Bridging the Gap in Virginia, a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to empower ex-offenders, veterans, persons in substance abuse recovery, and those experiencing chronic homelessness. A strong advocate for environmental justice and renewable energy, Richard developed a green workforce development program that has already facilitated free clean energy career trainings to 52 vulnerable individuals and returning citizens, providing them a crucial path to overcoming barriers to change; as well as a Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium committee member for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Richard’s work across Virginia as an advocate for rights restoration and “Ban the Box” (Fair Chance hiring) ordinances has assisted over 10,000 individuals in getting their civil rights restored. Richard has served on the Stakeholders Group for Restoration of Rights for three governors and is a Federal Bureau of Prisons Certified Offender Workforce Development Specialist. He also serves as a Committee Member for multiple Regional Reentry Councils, facilitated “Overcoming Barriers” employment workshops for the City of Richmond’s Office of Community Wealth Building, and is a certified VADOC Statewide Volunteer for Cognitive and Reentry Community Units. He has advocated for Expungement, ending Solitary Confinement, fair access for public housing, and other legislation that has adversely affected all Virginians. For many years, Richard has been a strong community advocate and through his work, Richard continues to uplift vulnerable individuals and advance justice.
Bridging The Gap In Virginia is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to providing a bridge to success for those men and women struggling with addiction, incarceration, chronic homelessness, and lack of employability. Working with partner organizations, we aim to reduce recidivism, homelessness, unemployment, and relapse. We have expanded our mission to address environmental justice and green workforce development. As we seek to reach those communities most unfairly targeted by the criminal justice system or federal and state governments, we continue to seek collaboration with agencies and organizations that strive towards the same goals and outcomes.

Every six weeks, we offer a FREE solar installation training class in the City of Richmond in partnership with the City’s Office of Community Wealth Building and energy efficiency non-profit Viridiant. We have trained over 70 people to date, with several going on to pass the (fully subsidized) NABCEP PV Associate exam and landing jobs in the industry.

https://btgva.org/

BRIDGING THE GAP IN VIRGINIA AND FLIPP INC. PRESENT

EARTH DAY SPRING FEST

FEATURING

Solar Workforce Development Information  Face Painting  Solar Demonstration with Dr. Mary Finley-Brook and students at 1pm  Fish Fry  Field Games  Egg Hunt at 2pm

ENJOY A DAY OUTSIDE WITH FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE

Saturday, April 16, 11am-3pm
1174 South Constitution Route, Dillwyn, VA

With collaborative aid from University of Richmond students with Dr. Mary Finley-Brook, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Friends of Buckingham
LEAD Series 1: 2022 General Assembly Recap on Energy Bills
April 22nd, 2022

LEAD Series 2: Nuclear Energy and its Role in the Virginia Energy Transition
September 15th, 2022

Virginia Clean Energy Summit
October 20th - 21st, 2022

Annual Members Meeting
November 30th, 2022
The VA-REA LEAD Series exists to feature hot topics in Virginia, but for the past few years the first LEAD event has been dedicated towards a General Assembly recap. This year, the panel featured policy experts such as the moderator, Trieste Lockwood, President of Lockwood Strategies, LLC. The panel lineup had The Honorable Delegate Terry Kilgore, Majority Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates, Will Cleveland with Southern Environmental Law Center, Katharine Bond with Dominion Energy, and Narissa Turner with Virginia Conservation Network.

This LEAD panel had our highest attendance yet with 129 total people; because of its success, we’ve decided to have our LEAD Series 1 permanently be a general assembly recap.
Our Lead Series 2 highlighted how nuclear energy will impact the Virginia energy transition. The panel included April Wade, Executive Director of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium, as the moderator; the rest of the panel featured Scott Rasmussen, Director of Sales at NuPower, Todd Flowers, Director of Business Development at Dominion Energy, Jon-Michael Murray, Nuclear Policy Manager with Clean Air Task Force, and Dr. Aaron Totemeier, Vice President of Fuel Cycle Technology & Fuel Fabrication at Lightbridge Corporation.

The topic for LEAD Series 2 in 2023 has not been selected yet, so if you have any ideas, please connect with us!
The 2022 Virginia Clean Energy Summit, or VACES, was finally back in person with the highest turnout we’ve seen yet. Our final headcount was 429 people- which included 70 panelists, 16 exhibitors, 34 sponsors, and 17 students! The summit had 13 panels featuring topics on policy, workforce, clean energy developments, and two plenary sessions regarding the Inflation Reduction Act and Rate Payer Impacts.

Along with VA-REA, our key collaborators and co-hosts were:

- Virginia Energy;
- Virginia Advanced Energy Economy;
- CHESSA;
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and
- Virginia Energy Efficiency Council.

Like previous summits, we had the honor of having notable representatives join us for keynotes such as: the Honorable Governor Glenn Youngkin, and the Honorable Senator Tim Kaine.

Be sure to save the 2023 dates: October 16th - 17th, in Richmond, Virginia!

Thank you to VA-REA Member Sponsors!


Antares Group Inc, EDP Renewables, GreeneHurlocker, Secure Solar Futures, SolSystems,

Fisher Associates, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Williams Mullen, & Timmons Group
2023 Virginia Clean Energy Summit

October 16th - 17th, 2023

Join us this October for the fifth annual Virginia Clean Energy Summit! If you have any topic suggestions, please take our membership survey on page 3 of this report, or contact blayne@va-rea.org.
The Annual Members Meeting was hosted by McGuireWoods, LLC, in Richmond, Virginia. At the meeting, the VA-REA Board of Directors was joined by numerous members, old and new, to go over VA-REA’s accomplishments in 2022; the Renewable Energy Leadership Award was also awarded to Richard Walker.
2022 VA-REA Membership

Gold Members

Dominion Energy
AES
ANTARES Group, Inc.
FutureLaw II, LLC
Secure Solar Futures
McGuireWoods Consulting
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
EDP Renewables North America
Dewberry
James Madison University
Archaea Energy

Commonwealth Energy Partners (CEP)
ODEC
Boyd & Sipe
Gentry Locke
Black & Veatch
Virginia Energy
GBR Hodson LLC
Sun Tribe
Thompson McMullen
Appalachian Power
M&T Bank
Timmons Group

Business Members

Green Front Energy
Hecate Energy
AC Power
Ipsun Solar
Community Energy
Kimley-Horn Associates
McBride Energy Services LLC
Watson Electrical Construction Co.
Birch Studio
SWEB Development
Environmental Resources Management
Longroad Energy
GreeneHurlocker
Ameresco
TRC Solutions
Strata Solar

Commonwealth Power
Orsted
Sargent
Pivot Energy
Red Oak Excavating
Advantus Strategies, LLC
Williams Mullen
Properties of Virginia
FDC Enterprises inc (FDCE)
Montrose
GAI Consultants, Inc.
WireGill LLP
Citadel
Hewitt Solutions, PLLC
AgriSunPower
Slurry Pavers
Standard Solar

Associate Members

Environmental Resilience Institute
Virginia Community Capital
Virginia Clean Cities
Old Dominion University
VHB
CHESSA
Green Front Energy
GRJD Alternatives Mid-Atlantic
Appalachian Voices
William & Mary

Resilient Virginia
Virginia Energy Efficiency Council
Richmond Region Energy Alliance
The Oak Hill Fund
Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium
NEED Project
Southeastern Wind Coalition
Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition
Embassy of Canada
Sierra Club Virginia Chapter
Infrastructure + Impact
A Full-Service Utility-Scale Solar and Storage Provider

- Project Development
- Financing Solutions
- Environmental Commodities
- Landowner Services

Learn more at www.solsystems.com
Finding suitable land is a familiar bottleneck for developers of renewable energy projects. Besides the usual considerations for industrial land projects — renewable energy installations need to be close to electrical grid substations and to electrical lines with the right voltage rating and capacity to take on more power. These sites may need to be hundreds of acres in size. They also need to be owned by someone who’s open to entertaining proposals.

And so, one of the developer’s first big tasks is to winnow down the list of potential site candidates by gathering this information. The traditional method is to hire consultants who (hopefully) have strong local relationships, knock on doors and amass a great volume of back-and-forth email, text and phone communications. All of this gets fed into an unwieldy spreadsheet.

This scenario begs for the kind of technological solutions we’ve become accustomed to in other industries. And they’re starting to arrive. When seeking a partner for a renewable energy installation, developers shouldn’t hesitate to ask their engineering firms what kind of technology a firm has on hand to give the project an edge.

Mobile GIS-based software — an obvious application for land-based projects such as these — offers promising productivity improvements by bringing disparate bits of parcel information together in one easy-to-see dashboard. Having everything in one application allows multiple team members to perform tasks in parallel. This gets all consultants involved earlier and produces results more quickly - typically cutting site selection time by half.

GIS-based systems can be used in such a way that a developer, before ever talking to any owners, first pares down the best site candidates from among hundreds identified by marrying parcel data with field data gathered by engineers and technicians to create a full evaluation of the site. When the best sites have risen to the top, developers can confidently reach out to owners with real information and will stand a greater chance of success.

Say a company is looking to develop dozens of battery storage sites over a large area such as an entire state and is under competitive pressure to bring them to market quickly. Having the ability to narrow down the list of potential candidates from hundreds of thousands of sites to dozens or hundreds represents a powerful competitive advantage. The system draws a clearer and clearer picture of real, pragmatic possibilities. In this way, the developer does not waste time chasing down parcels that were never meant to be. And then for those parcels that rise to the top of the list, important information-gathering work happens faster. The information can then be shared with the client directly and even the client’s investors and other outside parties who want to see status and progress updates.

One of the easily overlooked benefits of systems such as these comes after these early needs are met. The system built and data gathered for the project isn’t lost at the end of this first step. It can be built upon further during the construction phase and then once operations get underway. A good system at the start begets a better and longer-term system.

This level of clarity also serves you well for another hold-your-breath moment: seeking approval from the regional independent system operator (ISO). ISOs approve the all-important interconnection agreements that allow energy projects to feed power into the grid. If you come well prepared with information on how your power generation will impact the capacity on a given line, that is all the better in the eyes of the ISO that operates the grid relevant to your project. If the ISO is looking at a handful of competing proposals and yours offers the utmost clarity, that certainly bodes well for your project.

Seek partners who are ready to bring you the latest technology. They just may have the competitive edge you need to make your renewable energy project a reality.

How GIS Can Speed Up Site Selection for Renewable Energy Installations

In the race to deploy renewable energy, more and more inefficiencies are being wrung out of an industry that remains comparatively young. One that is still easy to spot comes early in the stages of a renewable energy project: obtaining land.

By Spencer Francis, PE - Executive Vice President at Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. (Bowman)

Bowman is an engineering services firm delivering infrastructure solutions to customers who own, develop and maintain the built environment. With over 1,700 employees and more than 70 offices throughout the US, Bowman provides a variety of planning, engineering, construction management, commissioning, environmental consulting, geomatics, survey, land procurement and other technical services to customers operating in a diverse set of regulated end markets. Bowman trades on the Nasdaq under the symbol BWMN. For more information, visit bowman.com or investors.bowman.com.

This is an excerpt from a byline article authored by Bowman for North American Clean Energy.