



TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY IN VIRGINIA

1. Virginia has enough offshore wind potential to supply the *entire* electricity demand of the state. (Source: NREL; VCERC)
2. Developing just the one area that the federal government has already proposed for leasing off Virginia could add over 3,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity and supply 10% of our electric demand by the end of this decade – enough to power over 700,000 homes. (Source: VCERC)
3. Development of just this leasing area would create about 10,000 career-length jobs in Virginia. (Source: VCERC; VEDP)
4. Offshore wind energy is already common in Europe, which has had offshore wind farms for almost 20 years. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, Texas and Delaware all have plans for offshore wind farms.
5. Virginia's General Assembly passed a near-unanimous resolution this spring in support of 3,000 MW of offshore wind energy. Unfortunately the resolution has no force of law and included no incentives or mandates.
6. 1,000 MW of wind energy in western Virginia would bring \$2.7 million annually to local landowners and over \$9 million in property tax revenues for local governments, and create thousands of new jobs. (Source: NREL)
7. Virginia could meet almost 20% of its electric demand from solar energy. (Source: VA Tech) Today the figure is much less than 1%.
8. Virginia's voluntary renewable portfolio standard (RPS) is meaningless. Because of loopholes, the stated target of 15% by 2025 could actually be met with less than 5% renewables. Even worse, the energy doesn't have to be produced in Virginia, so utilities can meet the target by purchasing renewable energy certificates (RECs) from out of state.
9. Renewable energy could compete on cost if the playing field was level, but it's not. Virginia hands out almost \$45 million in taxpayer subsidies for coal mining. Fossil fuels also cause pollution and illnesses like asthma that aren't accounted for in the price we pay. Renewable energy also offers price stability because the fuel for wind and solar is free, but regulators don't value this.
10. The variability of renewable energy is not a problem for the grid until it reaches about 20% of electricity supply. (DOE report, "20% wind by 2030.") Better forecasting, emerging storage technologies, the use of complementary technologies together, vehicle-to-grid technology, and "smart grid" technology will all allow greater amounts of RE to enter the grid. A proposed offshore transmission line (the Atlantic Wind Connection) will even-out offshore wind generation over very large areas and make it easier to predict output.