

## Introduction

The 2014 Virginia Energy Plan is intended to provide a strategic vision for energy policy in the Commonwealth. This plan has been developed in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 67 of the *Code of Virginia*. Per the statute, the Division of Energy of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy is the agency tasked with releasing the Virginia Energy Plan.

On June 4, 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe signed [Executive Order 16](#) establishing the Virginia Energy Council. As stated in EO 16, the Energy Council was formed to advise on the development and implementation of the 2014 Virginia Energy Plan. Maurice A. Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Trade, is the Convener and Chair of the Virginia Energy Council.

The Energy Council is comprised primarily of private sector, non-profit and higher education representatives with extensive knowledge and expertise about the energy industry in Virginia. As part of its duties, the Energy Council held two formal meetings in Richmond to review drafts of the Plan and provide recommendations on policy strategies to be included in the Plan. The Energy Council also spent significant time reviewing public comments and stakeholder input submitted to the Division of Energy during the public comment period. The Energy Council will remain convened for the duration of Governor McAuliffe's Administration and will meet annually to receive updates on implementation progress, provide strategic guidance, and assist in the interim update to be released in October of 2016.

The Division of Energy provided a 60-day public comment period that included a series of public listening sessions, as well as a web page housed in the website of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade. Six listening sessions were conducted across the Commonwealth to give the public an in-person forum to provide comments and input about what should be included in and excluded from the Plan. The table below shows the location and number of attendees and speakers at each listening session.

2014 Virginia Energy Plan Listening Sessions		
Locations	Attendees	Speakers
University of Mary Washington (City of Fredericksburg)	30	11
Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale Campus (Fairfax County)	41	17
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (Town of South Boston)	27	12
Virginia Highlands Community College (City of Abingdon)	72	29
Old Dominion University (City of Norfolk)	44	15
James Madison University (City of Harrisonburg)	67	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>112</b>

An online form was created to give the public an additional mechanism to provide comments and input outside of the listening sessions. One hundred and forty four individuals and organizations submitted comments online.

The 2014 Virginia Energy Plan is composed of an executive summary, twelve sections and two appendices. Sections 1-11 provide a snapshot of current energy assets in the Commonwealth.

The technical sections include:

- Consumption patterns of the population
- In-state and imported generation
- Transmission, storage and distribution infrastructure
- Energy-related education institutions and programs
- Resiliency and assurance protocols
- Energy source types
- Energy efficiency

Section 12 of the Plan outlines a series of action-oriented recommendations that is intended to shape the Commonwealth's energy policy during Governor McAuliffe's Administration and beyond.

The plan also fulfills the statutory language added during the 2014 General Assembly session requiring analysis of any proposed rule promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency related to the regulation of carbon emissions at existing fossil fuel power generating stations. The analysis can be found in the Appendix A.

The 2014 Virginia Energy Plan has been constructed to provide a comprehensive view of where Virginia has been and currently is in terms of its energy assets, and it charts a path forward for energy policy in the Commonwealth.