

POSITION STATEMENT FORM
(Completed form to be provided to the Legislative Committee)

GENERAL SUBJECT AREA -- TITLE OF PROPOSAL:

Renewable Energy

PROPOSAL: *(Provide brief description of legislative or funding position)*

Support legislation to encourage development of distributed renewable energy by removing some of the legal impediments, including but not limited to: (1) clarifying that renewable energy companies that sell to power purchase agreements (PPAs) are not public utilities; and (2) expanding the concept of “agricultural net-metering” to include community net metering programs.

SOURCE: *(Provide the name of the agency, board, or commission generating the proposal and the date of the proposal)*

EQAC, August 10, 2016

BACKGROUND:

*(Briefly summarize why the position(s) is/are necessary to the County; list any pros/cons, note any previous Board of Supervisors action or previous General Assembly study or action on this issue; note any other helpful information. **This section should provide a synthesis of the proposal and should be no more than one paragraph, two if necessary; the Board wants concise information in the Legislative Program. Please use “Additional Background Information” on the next page to more fully explain the proposal. If you are submitting more than one proposed position, please include background information for each position.)***

Distributed renewable energy increases security of the electricity grid and supports individual property rights by allowing landowners to generate their own energy from their land.

The Board endorsed legislation supporting Community Net Metering in 2013 and Power Purchase Agreements in 2012. Expansion of net metering as proposed in HB 1286 (2016 session) would benefit the county by allowing energy generated by a solar installation on a county facility in one area, such as the landfill site in Lorton, to be used to power another non-contiguous county facility.

Delegate Minchew introduced HB 1286 in the 2016 Session where it was referred to Commerce and Labor and continued to 2017 with a review later in 2016 by a Special Sub Committee on Energy. Delegate Minchew plans to introduce the bill in 2017, possibly with changes recommended by the Solar Collaborative group which has not yet held its meeting at the time of this writing.

POSSIBLE SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION BY ORGANIZATIONS:

(List any organizations or groups, if any, which might be in favor of or against the proposed position)

This legislation is a high priority for environmental groups including the Virginia Conservation Network (a coalition of 150 organizations) and the Sierra Club. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments encourages jurisdictions to “help support, where appropriate state and federal legislation that reduces barriers to renewable energy.” Dominion Virginia Power will probably oppose it.

STAFF CONTACT PERSON(S):

(Provide name and phone number of County staff person(s) best able to provide any additional research or necessary information)

Noel Kaplan (EQAC staff liaison)
Environment and Development Review Branch
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 730
Fairfax, VA 22035

Phone: 703-324-1380

Fax: 703-653-9447

Email: Noel.Kaplan@fairfaxcounty.gov