



# **CECAP Implementation: Legislative Concepts**

## Information

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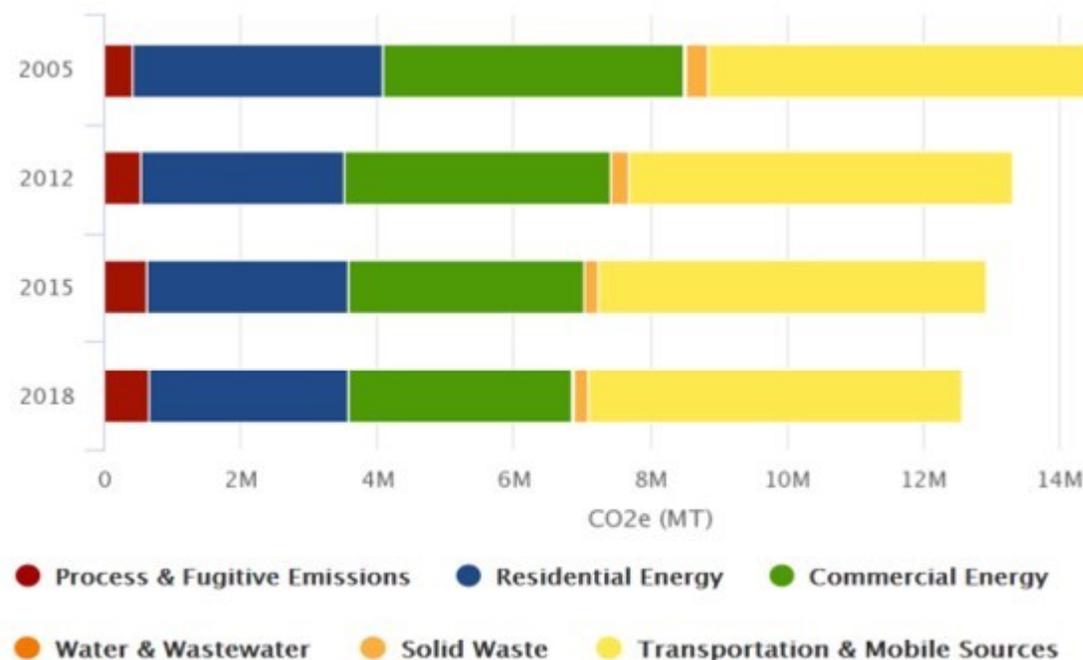
# Context of 2022 Political Reality

- In contrast to recent history, the Virginia General Assembly is more divided over environmental regulations, including energy and climate issues.
- Much political effort is now devoted to protecting and retaining past gains with respect to clean energy.
- Priorities must be selected carefully for maximum achievable results.

# Primary Sources of GHG Emissions in Fairfax County

*(2018 COG Inventory Results)*

- Building energy use: 49%
  - 35% due to the use of electricity to light, heat, and cool buildings and to power appliances and electronics.
  - Natural gas use accounts for remaining 14%
- Transportation: 44%
  - On-road mobile emissions accounted for about 37% of the county's total GHG emissions.



# 2022 Focus on Buildings and Transportation

Staff's initial legislative proposals are focused on:

- (1) Encouraging, incentivizing or requiring action by residents and businesses, and
- (2) Have the greatest potential to reduce emissions.

CECAP recommendations not addressed at this time:

- Those with limited emissions reduction potential.
- Action to be taken by regulated electric or natural gas utilities.
- Federal issues.

# Strategies: *Building Energy Efficiency and Performance*



- Allow the state to set the floor for building codes but permit localities to exceed them.
  - Allow localities to establish and enforce energy efficiency and energy performance standards.
  - Specifically authorize passive and net zero building standards.
- Establish and fund incentives for building retrofits that meet enhanced energy efficiency and performance standards.
- Authorize and fund programs, like green banks, that provide resources and technical expertise to individuals, builders, contractors and others interested in implementing green building practices.



# Strategies: *Other Building Energy Issues*

## *Building Electrification:*

- Establish and fund state incentives to encourage building electrification, including commercial and residential building retrofits that meet electrification standards.
- Allow localities to establish building electrification requirements for new construction and major renovations.

## *On-Site Renewable Energy Generation:*

- Dismantle state and regulatory barriers to on-site renewable energy generation (distributed generation).
- Establish and fund state incentives to encourage residential and commercial installation of on-site renewable energy generation.



## Strategies: *Electric Vehicles*

- Fund Virginia's EV rebate program as set forth in VA Code Sec. § 45.2-1726 *et seq.*
- Establish and fund incentives to lower-income drivers to scrap their older, high-polluting car and replace it with a zero- or near-zero emission replacement.
- Promote public investment at the federal, state, regional and local levels in EV infrastructure and incentives.
- Work with common interest communities and associations to devise state legislative solutions to EV charging in common areas.

# Strategies: *Other Possible Transportation Issues*



- Establish incentives for local land use decisions that reduce vehicle travel and pollution.
- Support roundabouts for smaller intersections in lieu of four-way stops.
  - Ensure a means for safe and convenient crossing by pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Determine the pollution and GHG increase/decrease expected from major transportation projects.
  - Take steps to ensure that GHG emission levels do not exceed set reduction amounts.

# Next Steps

- Assess impact of 2022 General Assembly on county's energy and climate priorities.
- Identify legislative opportunities for advancing county priorities.
- Formulate proposals for presentation at Environmental Committee meeting in July 2022.