



FACTSHEET

DOMINION'S CAP ON NET METERING

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NET METERING ALLOWS VIRGINIANS TO SELL SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY THEY PRODUCE BACK TO THE GRID. BUT AN ARBITRARY, SELF-SERVING DOMINION CAP MAY SOON PREVENT ANY NEW VIRGINIANS FROM ENROLLING IN THE PROGRAM.

What is Net Metering, and How Does it Lower Everyone's Energy Bills?

- Net metering is a billing mechanism **for homeowners or businesses** that produce their own solar, wind, or other renewable energy to sell excess energy back to the grid.
- Net metering reduces energy prices for everyone—even those who don't install their own renewable energy systems. It raises the overall supply of energy in the grid and reduces the demand for energy during peak times, one of the biggest drivers of increased energy costs and stress on the grid. Instead of building out more peak-demand utility infrastructure with ratepayer money, which increases energy bills, private individuals are supplying their own capital to build out generation capacity. Everyone wins.
- Net Metering increases grid resilience by creating overlapping energy sources and limits the need for more industrial power plants. That means cleaner air for everyone.
- Net metering creates local jobs that can't be outsourced. It's one of the main reasons why there are more **solar jobs in Virginia than coal jobs.**

How Dominion and ApCo are Blocking Virginians on Net Metering:

- Thanks to lobbyists who work for Dominion and other regulated utility monopolies, who have a profit interest in controlling the means of energy production, net metering is capped in Virginia at 1% of a utility's annual peak-load.
- Utilities could hit that 1% cap very soon due a recent boom in cost-competitive solar installations.
- Once we hit the cap, **no new solar customers can enroll in net metering.**
- Consumers are deterred from entering the net metering program by high standby charges and entrance fees

How to Save Net Metering in Virginia:

- Eliminate the net metering cap altogether, as Del. Kathy Tran proposed in 2018 (**HB 1060**).
- Eliminate all standby charges and fees for ratepayers who enroll in net metering, as net metering **benefits all ratepayers**, even ones who don't enroll.
- Pass legislation like Sen. Dave Suetterlein's proposed 2018 bill **SB 837** that would repeal size caps that limit how much energy homeowners and businesses can generate and sell back to the grid.
- Encourage lawmakers to refuse campaign cash from Dominion and other regulated utility monopolies to ensure Virginia's ratepayers come first, not well-connected lobbyists.