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As people across the country protest in defense of Black lives, the Sierra Club recognizes the need to dismantle systemic racism in the United States and within our own organization. We must reckon with how white supremacy -- both past and present -- has shaped our institutions and do the critical anti-racism work necessary to repair the harm done. The environmental movement does not exist in a vacuum, and it is our responsibility to use our power to help abolish systemic racism, which is destroying lives, communities, and the planet.

Dear Virginia Offshore Wind Supporter:

We did it! Virginia is first in the nation to stand offshore wind turbines in federal waters.

COVID-19 couldn't dampen our high spirits as we gathered on June 29th in Virginia Beach to watch Governor Northam sign 5 offshore wind bills. And the weather couldn't be more delightful as we motored (not sure of the right verb here) out to see the two glorious machines in what felt like their natural habitat.

I'm not going to reiterate the history here. Suffice it to say, we've been working for a long time on it and we've recruited an amazing and large collection of stakeholder friends along the way.



Gov. Northam pictured here with General Assembly members as he signs OSW bills sponsored by Delegates Hayes, Mugler and Lindsey and Senators Lucas and Mason.

Undeniably, offshore wind is here and now, but we also need it done right - i.e., brought online in a way that is fair, equitable and beneficial for all Virginians. What's next? Well, for the Sierra Club and others, it's all about workforce development. We've got to spread the word, especially within low-income communities, about the training and educational programs that exist right now that prepare folks for good-paying, local, career-length, wealth-building jobs.

I'll repeat what I said here in March...

Offshore wind represents so much hope - hope for clean energy powering our lives significantly, for employment opportunities for thousands of Virginians, and for reinventing our area as a clean energy leader. And together we are making it happen for Virginia.

Together forward!

Eileen

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James Madison University team wins 1st prize in DOE's 2020 Collegiate Wind Competition

A 21-member team from James Madison University earned first-place honors at this year's U.S. Department of Energy Collegiate Wind Competition. [Click here to read all about!](#) Congrats, team and the wonderful Dr. Jonathan Miles!



Matt Smith joins the Hampton Roads Alliance as its first Director of Offshore Wind Business Development

The Hampton Roads Alliance recently announced a new initiative to develop a comprehensive supply chain to serve the east coast offshore wind industry.

"This initiative will position Hampton Roads as the premier destination for offshore wind companies to invest, while also creating new economic prospects for existing businesses, attracting new investments to the region, and sparking new permanent job creation", writes the Alliance in its [press statement](#).

Supporting this initiative, the Alliance hired as its first Director of Offshore Wind Business Development, Matt Smith (formerly a Senior Planner with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission) to lead efforts to both recruit offshore

wind companies to the region and identifying opportunities for existing Virginia businesses to become part of the supply chain.

The Alliance has also established a European-based offshore wind economic development office in Frankfurt, Germany. Again from the Alliance press statement:

"We as the European arm of the Hampton Roads Alliance are thrilled to represent this initiative. As one of the first pioneers to help European offshore wind companies navigate through the U.S. and Hampton Roads, the Alliance will start by opening an office in Frankfurt," said Andreas Paulicks, Director Europe, Hampton Roads Alliance Offshore Wind Office. "This decision is based on the fact that Europe and especially Germany are among the leading nations within the renewable energy industry and in particular offshore wind. The strong presence of renewable energy in Europe will bring great opportunities to support investments from Europe to Hampton Roads."



DMME Hosts *Clean Energy Virginia Webinar Series*

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is hosting a series of Clean Energy Virginia webinars July 22 through Aug. 19. Each webinar will focus on how the newly enacted Virginia Clean Economy Act creates advantages for clean energy businesses to expand or locate in Virginia. Each webinar is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

Webinar 1: Clean Energy Virginia - Energy Efficiency July 22, 2020, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Webinar 2: Distributed Generation Solar July 29, 2020, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Webinar 3: Energy Storage August 5, 2020, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Webinar 4: Utility Scale Solar, Onshore Wind August 12, 2020, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Webinar 5: The Virginia Advantage in Offshore Wind August 19, 2020, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Tell the Trump administration to approve Vineyard Wind!

One decision could create 83,000 quality clean energy jobs and \$25 billion in economic output by 2030 while slashing climate and health-damaging pollution. We need you to help make it happen.

The Interior Department is taking public comments right now on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Massachusetts's Vineyard Wind project. This supplemental SEIS includes an analysis of cumulative impacts of every offshore wind development that is reasonably foreseeable on the East Coast of the United States in the next 10 years.

The public comment period ends Monday July 27.

Here's various ways to make comments online:

- Use the Federal eRulemaking Portal to submit written comments [here](#).
- Sierra Club's Action Alert: [Tell Secretary Bernhardt to approve Vineyard Wind 1 and launch the offshore wind industry!](#)
- [Take Action via Vineyard Wind's Action Alert](#)

This decision impacts Virginia, where researchers have estimated as many as 14,000 jobs could be created with full build-out of the offshore wind industry. These are high-paying, wealth-creating, local, career-length jobs that can employ a broad swath of Virginians, from high school and college grads to returning citizens, veterans transitioning to the civilian workforce, and residents in low-income communities.

Virginia Offshore Wind: Lunch & Learn Aug. 11

Join the Sierra Club for a Virtual Offshore Wind Lunch and Learn on August 11th at 12 pm.

Wanting to learn about the relationship between clean energy and climate change? Want to learn about offshore wind generally? This is the meeting for you! Learn about offshore wind that will be built off the coast of Virginia Beach, what wind turbines are, and why wind energy is important. Join us for an informational meeting designed with entry-level info to introduce people to these ideas!



Photo credit: Ørsted

[Click here to register today!](#)

Offshore Wind 101: North Carolina

The Southeastern Wind Coalition is hosting Offshore Wind 101: North Carolina - an introduction to offshore wind and the opportunity for North Carolina to play a role in this \$70 billion industry, on July 22nd from 1- 2pm.

This event is a great opportunity to hear from those closest to the action about the technology, development process, industry trends, and supply chain opportunity. We encourage all stakeholders to attend - whether you're a student hoping to learn more about jobs in the offshore wind space, a North Carolina resident wondering when we may have turbines generating clean energy off our coast, or you work for a North Carolina business looking to expand into the manufacturing supply chain, this webinar is for you.



(Or, I might add, a Virginian looking to learn more about the project happening just 25 miles south of CVOW and tying eventually into the grid in Virginia.)

Register today to hear from industry experts, including:

Hayes Framme: Government and Communications Manager - Ørsted

Eric Thumma: Director, New Business, Offshore Wind - Avangrid Renewables

Josh Skubon: Service Contract and Operations Manager - GE Renewable Energy, Offshore Wind

John Hardin: Executive Director, Office of Science, Technology & Innovation - North Carolina Department of Commerce

[Click here to register TODAY!](#)

Support Virginia's First Onshore Wind Project: Rocky Forge

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is considering Apex Clean Energy's application for permit-by-rule (PBR) for the Rocky Forge project in Botetourt County, and is open for public comment through Aug. 10th. [Click here](#) to send a message to DEQ in support of what will be Virginia's first onshore wind project!

There is also a Telephone public meeting on July 28 from 5 to 7 pm. To access the meeting, dial 877-229-8493 and use PIN 118386 to join. Press *3 at any time during the call to enter the queue to share your support during the comment portion of the call.

From the [Rocky Forge website](#):

Rocky Forge Wind is a 75 MW wind project located in Botetourt County, Virginia. It is expected to generate enough clean energy to power up to 21,000 U.S. homes annually. The project will bring 30 years of annual revenue to the county, local landowners, and local schools. Over the life of the project, state and county tax revenue will total between \$20 million and \$25 million. In addition to these benefits, the project will create seven full-time, local jobs throughout operation and over 250 jobs and significant local spending during construction.



Check out this op-ed by Dan Crawford, Chair of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter Roanoke Group (pictured here), entitled "[Rocky Forge site is close to perfect for wind energy](#)" that appeared in the Roanoke Times in Feb. 2020.



SIERRA CLUB VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The Virginia Chapter is part of the national Sierra Club, the largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the US. We think globally and act locally as we lead powerful, diverse and history-making campaigns to move Virginia away from the dirty fossil fuels that cause climate disruption and toward a clean energy economy.

sierraclub.org/virginia

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