

## 2012 VEPGA Annual Meeting: General Assembly Energy Bills

At the outset of the 2012 General Assembly session, VEPGA prepared three fact sheets to address issues expected to surface in this year's General Assembly bills addressing energy issues.

- The first fact sheet addressed utilities getting overcompensated for renewable energy cost.
- The second fact sheet addressed utilities being given improper incentives to build generation.
- The third fact sheet addressed utilities [placing obstacles in the way of ratepayers using renewable power provided by non-utilities](#).

The basic thrust of all three fact sheets was that Virginia law favored utilities in a way that was unduly burdensome to ratepayers.

The rationale for doing the fact sheets was to assist in having a well informed consideration of these issues from a ratepayers perspective.

So, now that the session is over, VEPGA members should ask themselves, **did the Fact Sheets address significant issues in this year's session?** The answer is clearly yes. There were 10 bills devoted to utility compensation for the cost of renewable energy. There was one law enacted that addressed incentives to build generation. And the bill to address non-utility provision of renewable energy was debated so hotly that it got deferred to next year's session, with a stakeholder process to come up with language in the meantime.

VEPGA members should also ask themselves, **is there now a credible discussion of how ratepayers get impacted?** The answer to this is less clear.

[As you can tell from the energy scorecard we've just passed out, the General Assembly is clearly getting informed from the utility's perspective and the environmentalist's perspective.](#)

What seems to be missing is serious consideration of how ratepayers get impacted.

You can also tell from developments after the regular session closed that closer scrutiny of energy bills will be forthcoming.

- The Commission on Electric Utility Restructuring is now [resurrected](#), after being [revived](#) in a special session.
- [The Attorney General](#) has toured southside in a series of town hall meetings in [March and April](#) discussing recent APCo rate cases. He's even said the Attorney General's Office will form a "commission" to consider the issue of utility "adders." But then he blames high rates on EPA compliance and avoids the one question that matters: what can the General Assembly do to stop making matters worse for ratepayers and start making them better?

[For the sake of ratepayers, we hope that the General Assembly takes a hard look at that question when it considers future energy bills.](#)