



# Virginia Chapter Annual Report 2022



**SIERRA CLUB**  
VIRGINIA CHAPTER



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## Acknowledgements

**Robert Ullman**  
Graphic Design

**Ann Creasy**  
Content Creation and Editing

**Connor Kish**  
Content Creation and Editing

*All of our staff, members, leaders, donors and volunteers!*

### Photography and Design Credits

**Front Cover**  
Robert Ullman

**Page 3**  
Dexter Coen Gilbert

**Page 1**  
Paul Halliday

**Page 5**  
Robert Ullman

**Page 2**  
Matthew Staver



## Chapter Director's Note

**2022 was a year of continued change and transition, but one, too, of tremendous accomplishments.**

The Virginia Chapter began the search for our next Director, and was led ably in the interim by Gustavo Angeles and Ann Creasy, who deserve thanks for their work serving in acting roles on behalf of the Chapter. While changes were occurring, the work was ongoing. We continued our efforts across a wide range of campaigns to promote a fossil fuel future, drive down pollution of our air and water, and protect our treasured outdoor spaces.

In 2022, we ramped up our opposition to Governor Glenn Youngkin's illegal decision to withdraw from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), delivering thousands and thousands of comments to the Department of Environmental Quality against the proposed cancellation of one of our most effective pollution reduction

strategies. We also helped deliver the most significant sign-on letter by members of the Virginia General Assembly in many years; more than 60 legislators signed a letter opposing the Governor's reckless RGGI decision.

We continued the fight for clean energy, launching programs, webinars, toolkits, in-person presentations, and more to help unlock our clean energy future for homes, schools, and businesses. We led a successful effort to require 40% diversity hiring during the construction and operation of Virginia's first offshore wind farm, a remarkable achievement by our staff and counsel. We continued our role as the facilitator of the Virginia Distributed Solar Alliance; promoting distributed generation assets across Virginia.

We continued to mobilize against dirty fossil fuel projects, including the Mountain Valley Pipeline and the Virginia Reliability Project. We mobilized hundreds of community members to engage in these processes. We are proud of our work to advance a fossil-fuel-free future where every person can thrive in a healthy community and where

our work centers environmental justice and those communities most impacted by purposeful pollution. We plan to continue the fight into 2023 and beyond.

In 2022, the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter remained strong, visible, and effective. We delivered on our mission to oppose projects and policies that put the interests of polluters above the needs of communities through an inclusive, justice-centered movement. We will always do so.

**Thank you for your support!**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Connor Kish".

Connor Kish  
Director



Connor Kish is the Director of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, and can be reached by email at [connor.kish@sierraclub.org](mailto:connor.kish@sierraclub.org).

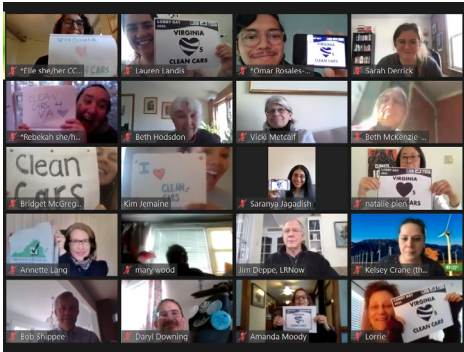
# 2022 By the Numbers



2022 Total  
c3 Raise:  
\$936,169.88



2022 Total  
c4 Raise:  
\$258,969.38



95,000  
advocates



20,000  
members



121  
monthly donors



926  
lifetime members



1338 = total  
number of  
donations



500+  
comments  
opposing the  
repeal of RGGI



4 new issue chair  
leads appointed



50+  
festivals and  
community  
events attended



250  
meetings with  
legislators



170 bills  
the Legislative  
Committee took  
a position on



139  
press hits



24+  
climate and  
clean energy  
laws protected



45 years  
since the  
founding of the  
Virginia Chapter!



24+ virtual  
events



57 letters  
to the editor  
published in

2022 in defense of climate  
policies and protection  
of land and water



40% diversity  
hiring in offshore  
wind achieved



12 total staff  
members at the  
Virginia Chapter



# 2022 Victories and Accomplishments

## Victories

**Mountain Valley Pipeline Delays:** In 2022, we continued our campaign against the Mountain Valley Pipeline, and the pipeline dealt with massive cost overruns and continued construction delays due to their failure to secure necessary permits.

**Diversity Hiring Commitments for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project (CVOW):** The Chapter secured much-needed improvements on diversity, equity, and inclusive hiring practices for CVOW. These commitments include reporting on racial and ethnic demographics, veteran status, and geographic location of Dominion employees, contractors and suppliers, and a commitment to at least 40% diverse workforce representation by the end of 2026.

**Virginia Hits Top 10 States For Solar:** In 2022, Virginia became one of the top 10 states in the nation for amount of solar energy installed! A huge victory, all thanks to our successful legislative effort to pass the Virginia Clean Economy Act and Virginia Solar Freedom Act in 2020. The tremendous amount of work involved in these bills by the Chapter and partners were deserving of this massive Top 10 accomplishment.

**Legislative Wins:** In 2022, we continued our defense of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and Advanced Clean Car Standards at the General Assembly. We were successful in defending these absolutely critical pollution reduction efforts.

**Gas tax suspension defeated:** In conjunction with partners, the Chapter successfully advocated against a gas tax suspension that was proposed by the Governor. Had the suspension been implemented, the Commonwealth would have lost about \$437 million in revenue, including funding for equitable, clean transportation such as transit services.

**Equitable affordable housing win:** The Chapter joined partners to amplify New Virginia Majority's successful campaign to save Leesburg Mobile Home Park from being sold and turned into condos. This already-existing affordable housing community is located within walking distance of jobs, shopping and services, and is home to many immigrants and people of color.

**National Drive Electric Week (NDEW):** Over 50 EV owners registered to show their vehicles to hundreds of attendees looking to make the switch from a fossil fuel vehicle to an EV. An electric transit bus and electric school bus were on display. Exhibitors included Moms Clean Air Force, Solar United Neighbors, Quiet Clean NoVA, SUMA mobile EV charging, and George Mason University's solar race car team.

**Transit Equity Day:** The Chapter produced a webinar in honor of Rosa Parks' birthday, with a panel of experts who addressed the intricate issue of gentrification in the wake of transit improvements.

**Go EVirginia dashboard:** The Chapter developed and launched a Go EVirginia page on its website to be used as a tool for transportation decision makers and electrification advocates to help municipalities transition their bus fleets to clean battery electric models. The webpage features a digital dashboard which details transit authorities' bus electrification efforts and plans throughout the Commonwealth, as well as a toolkit for policy makers.

## Ongoing Work

**Cumberland Landfill:** A proposed mega-landfill, accepting between 3,500-5,000 tons of waste per day, threatens a rural community and Pine Grove, historic Rosenwald school, which sits across the street from the proposed landfill site.

**Brown Grove:** Wegmans plans to build a distribution center on a 220-acre site. The 1.7 million square foot center would sit in the Brown Grove community and across the street from the Brown Grove Baptist Church. Citizens say the warehouse would destroy their historically Black community as well as disturb critical nearby wetlands.

**Mountain Valley Pipeline:** Six years after private companies set out to build the 303-mile Mountain Valley Pipeline across the mountains, rivers and farmlands of West Virginia and Virginia, the project is billions of dollars over budget and years behind schedule. We continue to challenge the approval of this disastrous project.

**Offshore Wind Progresses:** For over a decade, the Virginia Chapter has been working to advance the equitable development of offshore wind (OSW) off its coast. The long permit and regulatory process for Virginia offshore wind comes to an end in 2023. Construction starts in 2024 and 2,600 megawatts of clean energy will be delivered into Virginia by 2026. [The federal government will also be leasing additional areas off Virginia in 2024.] Thanks to our Chapter's efforts Virginia is, and will continue, leading work that ensures a clean energy future that benefits all Virginians.

**Rocky Forge Wind:** The Roanoke Group continues to ensure Virginia's first onshore wind project is responsibly and equitably built.

**Racial Justice and Equitable Community Engagement:** In 2022, we continued our commitment to racial justice and equity by developing our working group series and collaborating with Virginia Community Voice, a group of experts in equitable community engagement, to continue enhancing how we do our work. This work with Virginia Community Voice continues to grow in scope.

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA):** In coordination with Sierra Club DC and Maryland Chapters, Earth Justice, Union of Concerned Scientists and other partner groups, the Chapter continues to pressure WMATA to accelerate its electrification date for transit buses, and drop plans for compressed natural gas (CNG) infrastructure and bus purchases.

**Transit equity:** The Chapter continues to work toward more equitable, accessible transit, including raising awareness of related issues and delivering meaningful transit equity events to educate and engage participants.

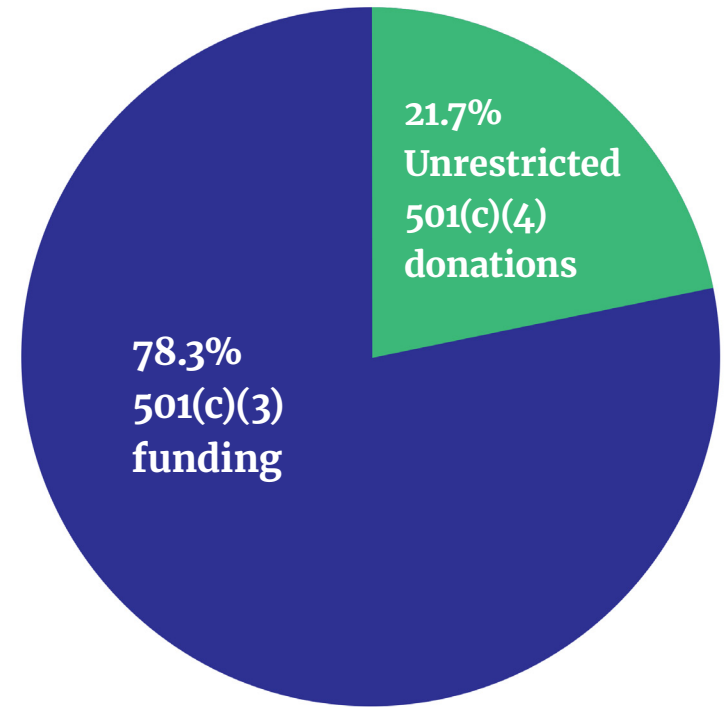
**Clean Battery Electric Buses:** The Chapter raises awareness for, promotes, and supports opportunities for school districts to purchase clean battery electric buses through the EPA's Clean School Bus Program, including letters of support, and participation in U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly's Inflation Reduction Act Roundtable.

**Go EVirginia dashboard:** The dashboard detailed above will be expanded to include more transit agencies from across the Commonwealth. Go EVirginia will be promoted to partners, elected officials, members, and followers, to raise awareness for these valuable tools to help communities transition to clean, battery electric transit buses.

# Your Critical Support

We are proud of how much we achieve with such a low proportion of c4 funding. Your c4 support sustains our advocacy work and our operations. The Sierra Club Foundation is our fiscal sponsor of c3 funding, which supports our campaign work that educates, recruits, and mobilizes grassroots power to achieve big victories in local, state, and federal policies that protect our environment. We can't do one without the other; we can't do any of this without you!

Your generous contribution to the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter makes this work possible. And remember that when you give, 100% of your gift stays in Virginia to support our local work. For this reason, contributing to the Virginia Chapter is a long-term investment to protect the environmental health of our state for future generations.



Give today at  
[vasierra.club/donate](https://vasierra.club/donate)

# Donor Appreciation

We cannot do this amazing work without your consistent support through yearly memberships and donations. For over 40 years, your support has moved Virginia expeditiously towards a clean energy future, protected our lands, air and water, and cut harmful pollution. There are many ways to continue this support. You can become a monthly donor, which translates into sustainable operating funds that we can count on.

Have you considered becoming a life member? You will never have to remember to renew and it comes with amazing benefits: lifelong membership in the Sierra Club and your local chapter, personalized life membership card and certificate with Ansel Adams image, subscription to Sierra Magazine, worldwide eco travel opportunities, discounts on Sierra Club gifts, Life Member Newsletter and updates from the Club's Conservation Director. The rates are \$1,000 for a single membership and \$1,250 for joint with an option to pay in installments. More information can be found at [sierraclub.org/virginia](http://sierraclub.org/virginia).

No matter which level you join—monthly, annual, lifetime—your support enables us to continue the fight for a healthy planet. We depend on committed changemakers like you. For over 450 years, this Virginia Chapter has made incredible strides to protect our precious resources and to create a healthy future for all of us to thrive for generations to come. Please continue to show up for us as we continue to fight for you.

## Scaling Old Rag \$100-249

Barbara Abraham	Guy Buford	Robert K & Susan M Egbert	Diana Hardison	James & Carolyn R. Key
J L Greeley & M J Acheson	Jane Cox and Eddie Bumbaugh	Gloria Elliott	Carol Harrison	Sigrid Kilcullen
Jay & Kelly Adams	Peggy and Blain Butner	Mr G Foster and Ms B Ellis	D B Stewart & T Harvey	Susan Kooi
Nancy Alexander	Ronald S Campbell	John Eltzroth	Jean & Walter Hazlett	Gary Kosciusko
Barbara and Gene Anderson	Karen Campblin	Elizabeth Ewing	G Johnston & K Helbrecht	Beth & Nicholas Kuhn
Ryan Arnold	Jon and Alice Cannon	Randall K Falls	Charles and Jutta Helm	Ellen LaBelle
Preston G and Leslie Atkins	Elinor Eve Capehart	Peter Fannon	Louis H Henry	Mrs Blair Lawrence
Gerlinde Austin	Katherine Carey	Mr John Fish	Darlene Herod	Anna L. Lawson
Stewart F & Cecelia Babbott	Mr Michael Carvellas	Genevieve Forsyth	Maura & Larry Herring	Karen Lee
Steve Banashek	Margaret Chatham	Anthony Gabriele	Ellen Hill	Steve Legge
Margaret P Bashara	Brenda & Richard Cheadle	Jennifer S Gaden	Mary Hix-Baldwin	Russ Leinbach
Chris and Mary Bates	Gianluigi Ciovati	Mr Brian Gallagher	Kathlyn B Hoekstra	Judith LePera
Annette Beadle	Cheri Conca	Megan Gallagher	Grace Holden	E Sidamon-Eristoff & H Lewis
Carille Greenberg	A Conway	Kathleen Garces-foley	Jean & Dave Holman	Gladys Lewis
Ribley & David Beck	Paul Cook	Mr Danny L Gardner	Fritz Hudson	R Salzman & J Liedtka
C Ann Bennett	Peyton & Carol Coyner	Peter G and Janet B Gartlan	James and Michelle Humble	Philip Lilienthal
Michael & Susan Bentley	Susan Crawford	Siewyuen Giocondo	Albert & Carol Hunt	Elizabeth B Lowe
James Bevins	Penelope Crisp	Lynn Godfrey	Janet & Muayad Al Hussaini	Dan Lysy
Charlie Blair	Stephen & Juanita Csontos	Steve Gold	Kathy & Royce Husted	Shirley Lytle
Keith Bonney	Paul & Carol Cunningham	Ms Evelyn Goldston	D Hawkins and Dr K Jacobs	Tom and Lesley Mack
J Boomer	Maryellen Daffron	Leslie & Joni Grady	Claire Jacobsen	Lynda Mallow
Lee Bowen	Mary Daniel	Mr Bradley Grant	Amy Jeanguenat	Maryann Manning
D Campbell & J Bragdon	Sherry & Guy Daugherty	Sandy Greene	Mr David Jenkins	Danielle Marquez
David Brant	Diane & Seth Davidson	Rebecca & Bryon Greenwald	Bill Johnson	R Gilmer & C Marschak
Henry Broaddus	Mr Timothy Denby	Drew Gruenburg	Mr Howard Jones	William H McCormick
Frances	Alphonse Desena	Charles Grymes	James & Dorothy Joslin	Michael McKenney
Broaddus-Crutchfield	Martha Devening	Mr and Mrs Kenneth Gubin	O. Justice	Art McLaughlin
John Shea & Kathy Bromley	Margaret Dillon	Doni Guggenheimer	Lisa & Paul Kaplowitz	Michael Mcshane
Shawn Brooks	Ruth Douglas	Mike Iwanik & Vickie Gullet	Robert Keller	Suzanne McWilliams
William Brooks	Mary Duffer	Annette Gurian	Mr Matthew Kennedy	Gary & Chris Medlin
Ellen B and Charles Brown	Michael Dunbar	Marian Hackney	Otis Kenny	Rodger Merriman
Stuart Brust	Mr William J Durch	M R Halapatz	ElizabethKetz-robinson	Shirley Midyette
	Fredette Smith Eagle & Tabitha F Eagle	Gustav W Hall		Maureen & Joe Mikolajczak
	Ms Michele Ebright	Ms Adrienne Hall-Bodie		Martha Miller
	Ivan Z Eby	Michael & Danella Halle		W and F Millhouser

# Donor Appreciation continued

Mr Matthew B Murray  
Kathleen Nawaz  
Philip Niccolls  
Claire Noakes  
Sally Noble  
Christina Nojek  
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Bill Nottingham  
Jessica Mott &  
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Anne F Odell  
Annerieke Owen  
Diana & Larry Parker  
Bob & Kristin Peckman  
Jimmie Petersen  
Jan D and Don H  
Phillips, PhD  
Dr. Thomas J Powers Jr  
M. Pierce William  
& Molly Pugh  
Asad Quasem  
Eleanor & Bob Quigley  
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John Rabasa  
Mary Rainey  
Marita Ravenhorst  
Mary H Rhoades  
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Nancy Ronald  
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Dr Richard D Shingles  
Robert Shippee  
Peggy & Dan Siegel  
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Thomas Smith  
Tamara Smith  
Ellen B Smyth  
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Linda Stevens  
Donna Storm  
Jeffery and Linda  
Stratford  
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Matt Summey  
Aaron Sutch  
William Swaine  
Barbara Swart

R C Marlay & N E Tate  
Robin Van Tine  
Michael Trauberman  
Jo Ann & John Valvo  
John Vance  
Walton Vaughan  
Rudy & Karen Vietmeier  
E Wilk Walsh  
and J Walsh  
Sonya Walter-Breehey  
Justin Watzman  
Fredric A & Karen  
W Weinberg  
Kate West  
Charles Wilkers  
Nancy and Richard  
J Williams  
Ronald and Susan  
Williams  
Timothy R Williams  
Mary Winsky  
Gregory Witman &  
Emily Witman  
Bruce and Luci Wright  
Jane Yerkes  
Philip Young  
Megan Zimmerman  
Barbara Zuegel

## Scaling Hogback \$250-499

Phoebe Antrim  
Walter P and Jill  
S. Auburn  
B Carlton & E Sumpter  
Phil & Pat Church  
Elizabeth R. Costle

David and Carolyn  
Crighton  
Alvin Doehring  
Thomas Emory  
Ralph Grove  
Gary Haverty  
Seth & Caroline Heald  
Joyce Herman  
Russ Hopler  
Dawn F Jacobs  
Elizabeth Koprowski  
Annette M Lang  
Karen Laski  
John and Cecelia Latham  
Michael Lefever  
Joy Loving  
Susan & Charles  
MacLane  
Tyla Matteson  
Carolyn Mcmillen  
Michael Morency  
Lawrence and  
Linda Muller  
Cheryl A Outland  
Thomas and  
Sarah Parsons  
Ms Natalie Pien  
David Sansone  
Melissa Schake  
David and Gladys  
Shanklin  
Donna Shaunesey  
Ross Shearer  
Sharon Shutler  
Tony Smith  
Bonnie Snead  
Patricia Soriano  
Adrienne Stefan

Cheryl Sweeney  
Timothy Whitcombe  
Bruce Zoecklein

## Scaling Pinnacle \$500-999

Samantha Ahdoot  
John H Frischkorn  
C. F. Robinson and  
M. A. Mullins  
Barbara Null  
Deborah Pollard  
Lowell F. Smith  
Paige Wesselink  
Ruth Woollett

## Scaling Stony Man \$1,000-2,499

Glen Besa  
John Bloom  
Ms Rosa Boshier  
Pamela Fisher &  
Mike Lasky  
Judy Gayer  
Dr Steven Johnson  
Jim Lang  
Anthony Larocco  
Kirk and Sarah Ludwig  
William & Judith  
Penniman  
Shavon and Andrew  
Peacock  
Susan Stillman

## Scaling Whitetop \$5,000-9,999

Joseph Brancoli  
Lyn Day  
Ms. Ivy Main

Lee Williams

## Scaling Mt. Rogers \$5,000-9,999

Anonymous Donator  
Dean Amel and  
Terry Savela  
Birgit and Loren Hershey  
John And Bucci Zeugner

Old Rag.....3,268'  
Hogback.....3,474'  
Pinnacle.....3,730'  
Stony Man .....4,010'  
Hawksbill .....4,050'  
Mount Rogers ... 5,728'



*The Susan L. Stillman  
Award was created  
by Rivanna Natural  
Designs. To learn more  
about their mission  
driven work, please visit  
rivannadesigns.com*

## Susan L. Stillman Award

This award honors the generous contributions of volunteer leadership and financial support to our Virginia Chapter from Susan L. Stillman. An individual is appreciated with this award when they have both demonstrably contributed to our Chapter's work with their volunteer time and built capacity through direct non-tax deductible giving and/or volunteer fundraising. These are the funds that support our legislative advocacy work and operations. Award recipients may qualify by making substantial donations themselves, or by raising money through other means such as hosting major fundraising programs, fund drives or events. Each year potential recipients of this award are considered, but it is not necessarily given. No award was granted in 2022.



# Behind the Scenes

We are committed to informing, empowering and engaging activists in implementing strategic climate solutions in and for Virginia.

## Staff



**Kate West**  
Director, January-August



**Connor Kish**  
Legislative & Political Director



**Eileen Woll**  
Offshore Energy Program Director



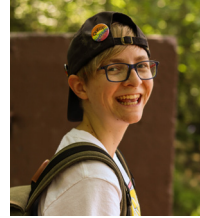
**Tim Cywinski**  
Communications Manager



**Lynn Godfrey**  
Community Outreach Coordinator



**Gustavo Angeles**  
Acting Chapter Director



**Hunter Noffsinger**  
Community Outreach Coordinator



**Ann Creasy**  
Acting Deputy Chapter Director



**Paige Wesselink**  
Digital Outreach Coordinator - 100% Virginia



**Ceri Conca**  
Conservation Program Coordinator



**McKenna Dunbar**  
Community Engagement Coordinator

## Leadership



**Ralph Grove**  
Chair



**Judy Gayer**  
Vice Chair



**Bill Johnson**  
Secretary



**Matt Summey**  
Treasurer

## 2021 Executive Committee

**Robin van Tine,**  
At-Large

**Ann Bennett**  
At-Large

**Amory Fisher**  
At-Large

**Susan Stillman**  
At-Large

**Bob Shippee**  
At-Large

**Ralph Grove**  
At-Large

**Matt Summey**  
At-Large

**Megan Clark**  
At-Large

**Daryl Downing**  
Council of Club Leaders Delegate

**Tom Eick**  
Blue Ridge Group Ex-Com Rep

**Patrick Berard Jr.**  
Chesapeake Bay Group Ex-Com Rep

**Joe Brancoli**  
Falls of the James Ex-Com Rep

**Judy Gayer**  
Great Falls Group Ex-Com Rep

**Rick Keller**  
Potomac River Group Ex-Com Rep

**Rick Shingles**  
New River Valley Group Ex-Com Rep

**John Cruickshank**  
Piedmont Group Ex-Com Rep

**Bill Johnson**  
Rappahannock Group Ex-Com Rep

**Dan Crawford**  
Roanoke Group Ex-Com Rep

**Pete Bsumek**  
Shenandoah Group Ex-Com Rep

**Gary Kosciusko**  
Potomac Region Outings Ex-Com Rep

**Tyla Matteson**  
York River Group Ex-Com Rep

## Issue Chairs

**Judy Gayer,** Legal Chair and Conservation Chair

**Ana Prados,** Air Quality Chair

**Ivy Main,** Conservation Chair

**Dan Crawford,** Onshore Wind Chair

**Carolyn Lyle,** Equity Chair

**Sherman Bamford,** Forests Chair

**Jim Lynch,** Group Boundaries Chair

**Bob Shippee,** Legislative Chair

**Steve Banashek,** Electric Vehicles (EV) Chair

**Robin van Tine,** Environmental Justice Chair

**Susan Stillman,** Renewable Energy Chair

**Ralph Grove,** Outings Chair

**Andrew Densmore,** Political Chair

**Glen Besa,** Plastics Chair

**Bill Penniman,** Sustainability Chair

**Karen Campblin,** Transportation and Smart Growth Co-Chair

**Douglas Stewart,** Transportation and Smart Growth Co-Chair

**Dean Amel,** Solid Waste Chair

**Pete Bsumek,** Wilderness Chair



## National Volunteer Awards

Douglas Stewart and Karen Campblin, Transportation and Smart Growth Co-Chairs, were recipients of the National Sierra Club's Environmental Alliance Award, which honors Club members or entities who have helped further environmental goals through collaboration with other, non-Sierra Club constituencies. Tackling transportation and smart growth issues is no easy task, but Karen and Douglas did so tirelessly, with an abundance of passion.



The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. We amplify the power of our 3.8 million members and activists to defend everyone's right to a healthy world.

We know actions speak louder than words. That's why we've built a national community of volunteers, advocates, and grassroots activists who show up when and where it counts. Our supporters have the tools and resources to make themselves heard in nearly every district in every state across the country.

From securing protection for 439 parks and monuments, to winning passage of the Clean Air and Endangered Species Acts, to putting over 281 coal plants on the path to replacement with clean energy, to securing the right of every kid in America to visit a national park, we have an unmatched record of success and impact.

The Sierra Club Virginia Chapter is over 20,000 members strong. We coordinate action to promote climate solutions and oppose projects and policies that put the interests of corporate polluters above the needs of communities.



## SIERRA CLUB VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

### Virginia Chapter

100 West Franklin Street, Mezzanine  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
(804)225-9113

[sierraclub.org/virginia](https://sierraclub.org/virginia)

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