



Issue: Energy Efficiency Myths/Talking Points

1) Virginia Has Cheap Power

Not exactly . . . Dominion Virginia Power claims to have low base rates — just like some airlines claim to offer cheap tickets but then charge extra for bags and boarding preference. Dominion charges extra for building new power plants. It adds those costs on top of the base rates. Total bills went up 30 percent between 2006 and 2016, making Virginia's electric bills the 10th highest in the country.

2) We Need New Power Plants

Not so. If Virginians were encouraged to use less energy and were given options to do so, we wouldn't need new plants. Virginia ranks 33rd out of 50 states on the effectiveness of their energy efficiency policies and programs.

3) Getting Efficiency Savings is Hard

Utilities in other states manage because their state legislatures require them to meet energy savings targets. In Virginia, those targets are voluntary goals. Dominion ranks dead last of the 30 largest investor-owned utilities in the country on energy efficiency savings.

4) Virginia Does Have Efficiency Goals

The Republican-controlled legislature has ensured that energy efficiency goals are completely voluntary—and they are not being met. In 2007 the state set a goal of reducing electricity consumption by 10% by 2022. After 10 years the state is only one-tenth of the way there. Dominion has no incentive to save energy because the state legislature refuses to hold them accountable.