



Arlington's Energy Future: Ready for 100

By Rick Keller

On November 16th, the Sierra Club hosted a panel and forum on Arlington's energy future as part of the Club's ongoing [Ready for 100](#) campaign. Ready for 100 asks communities to commit to 100 percent renewable energy sources for electricity by 2035 and 100 percent renewable for all sectors by 2050. Already, 19 cities across the country have made the commitment, and we are asking Arlington and the City of Alexandria to do the same. The event was co-sponsored by [Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment](#).



Over 80 attendees heard Delegate Rip Sullivan (VA 48th District) provide opening remarks that addressed the state of the Commonwealth when it comes to renewable energy legislation and other environmental initiatives. There is certainly work to be done in those areas.

Dean Amel, current chair of the Mount Vernon Group, provided an overview of the tasks ahead in achieving renewable energy goals. The presentation, authored by MVG volunteers John Bloom, Barbara Swart, and Pierce Bishop, will be available on the MVG website <http://www.sierraclub.org/virginia/mount-vernon>.

The panel featured short presentations by experts in different energy realms followed by questions submitted by the audience. The panel included:

- Matt Coleman: a principal with [Skyview Ventures](#), a firm that invests in companies involved in renewable energy. He has fifteen years of expertise in renewable energy via project development and finance, corporate investment and technology development.
- Dylan Reed: an associate of federal and state policy at the [Advanced Energy Economy](#), a business coalition focused on a clean, affordable, energy future. He oversees AEE's congressional affairs to educate key offices on Capitol Hill on the advanced energy industry at the federal level and advocates for greater deployment of advanced energy in wholesale markets.
- Mary Shoemaker: environmental and state policy analyst for the [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#), a nonprofit organization that acts as a catalyst to advance energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, and behaviors. She works on supporting the research and outreach of both the state policy and national policy teams. Mary

has a particular focus on state technical assistance and energy efficiency as a means to comply with air pollution regulations.

- John Morrill: Arlington County's energy manager leads a portfolio of activities, including energy management in government facilities; community energy planning; energy and greenhouse gas emissions scorekeeping; and energy policy development.
- Seth Heald: chair of the Virginia Chapter, Sierra Club and a member of the Mount Vernon Group's Executive Committee. His volunteer work focuses on climate change and he will receive a master of science degree in energy policy and climate from Johns Hopkins University. His article "The Pope's Climate Message in the United States: Moral Arguments and Moral Disengagement" was published in the May/June 2016 issue of the journal *Environment*.

The evening was moderated by Paul Ferguson, currently serving as clerk of the circuit court in Arlington, but formerly a member of the Arlington County Board (1996-2007). Ferguson originally proposed the [Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy](#) (AIRE). He also served as chairman of the Virginia Municipal League Environmental Committee and was a member of Governor Kaine's Commission on Climate Change.

Unfortunately, no member of the Arlington County Board attended.

For more information on the Ready for 100 Campaign or to get involved contact Taylor Bennett, Ready For 100 Community Outreach Coordinator for the Sierra Club's Virginia Chapter, at taylor.bennett@sierraclub.org or at (304) 942-4269.

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