



## Virtual Workshops, Webinars, and Classes

Interested in improving your enviro know-how from the comfort of home? Take advantage of one or more of the following virtual opportunities this summer and fall!

### 1. Clean Energy Virginia webinar series

The focus is on recent legislation that creates incentives for clean energy businesses to expand or locate in Virginia.

#### Energy Storage

Wednesday, August 5; 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Get a detailed review of the utility energy storage requirement within the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA). Discussion on the current policy landscape, existing barriers to large-scale energy storage deployment, opportunities for third party developers, and how storage can bolster energy and economic resilience across Virginia. [Register](#)

#### Utility-Scale Solar and Onshore Wind

Wednesday, August 12; 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Learn about the ambitious renewable energy goals within the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) and associate bills that will transition Virginia's energy landscape by mid-century. Utility scale solar and onshore wind components of the VCEA as well as renewable energy credits and deficiency payments will be discussed. Attendees will also receive an overview of state-level permitting and a breakdown of energy equity programs to ensure clean energy to all Virginians. [Register](#)

#### Offshore Wind

Wednesday, August 19; 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Join a conversation among offshore wind industry experts as to why Virginia is the natural choice to build America's newest renewable energy industry. Virginia is acting now in the transition to a new energy era. DMME Director John Warren said: "We are excited about implementing strategies that include how we use energy, how we store energy, and how we deploy new energy assets, all in creating a carbon free state-of-the-art electric grid. Deep water, no overhead air draft, available land, prepared workforce and commitment from the state government—that is the Virginia Advantage." [Register](#)

CONTACT: More details on the Clean Energy Virginia initiative, including how to register for the webinar series, can be found [here](#). For more information, contact Jordan Burns at [jordan.burns@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:jordan.burns@dmme.virginia.gov) (804) 786-7900.

SPONSOR: Hosted by Governor Ralph Northam's Office and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME)

## 2. Webinar: Lessons from the Living Landscape

WHEN: Monday, August 3; 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Horticulturists Rick Darke and wife Melinda Zoehrer have been creating and tending their home garden for more than a quarter century. The garden is a living laboratory devoted to proving how residential landscapes can be beautiful, manageable, and joyfully livable while sustaining a vibrant diversity of plant and animal communities. Rick will share insights and strategies from what continues to be an inspiring journey. His many books include *The Living landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, co-authored with Doug Tallamy. Click [here](#) to register for this virtual event. Fee: \$5, \$10 or \$15 (whichever one of these fees you would like to pay when you register)

SPONSOR: Audubon Society of Northern Virginia

## 3. ACEEE Summer Study Webinar: How Deep Can Building Retrofits Go?

WHEN: Tuesday, August 4, 1:00 p.m.

Energy-efficient building retrofits are critical for saving money, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and meeting climate goals. This free webinar, a sneak peek of ACEEE's [Summer Study Buildings](#), will explore the potential scale and energy savings of retrofits for single-family homes as well as multifamily and commercial buildings. Authors of three Summer Study papers will preview and discuss their findings.

[REGISTER](#)

Moderator: Jennifer Thorne Amann, Buildings Program Director, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Speakers:

Chrissi Antonopoulos, Analyst, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

Paul Mathew, Staff Scientist and Department Head, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

Paul Torcellini, Principal Engineer, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

## 4. Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening

WHEN: Friday, August 7, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Wondering what to plant when the weather starts to cool? Join the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia to learn what to plant when, and simple tips for success. They will discuss inexpensive techniques to extend your harvest and ways to enjoy some of your crops in the

dead of winter. They will also discuss how to select and plant winter cover crops to improve your soil for next year. The speaker is Extension Master Gardener Dona Lee, an avid vegetable gardener who previously shared her tips on how to grow fantastic tomatoes all summer long! Free.

RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive the link to participate.

## **5. Virtual Offshore Wind Lunch & Learn**

WHEN: August 11, 12:00 p.m.

Want 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 the Sierra Club for an informational meeting designed with entry-level info to introduce people to these ideas. [RSVP](#) for this online event.

## **6. EcoAction Arlington Energy Master Volunteer Training**

Energy Masters is a program that promotes a more energy efficient and sustainable community, is now accepting community and student (age 16 or older) volunteer applications for the 2020-2021 training program, which begins in October.

Energy Master volunteers complete a training course on energy efficiency and water conservation techniques to equip them to deliver hands-on conservation upgrades and community education in affordable housing communities in Northern Virginia. The training will likely be delivered virtually, with any in-person sessions or volunteer opportunities determined based on local and regional restrictions and social distancing measures in place.

For more information about the Energy Masters program, including an overview of the program requirements and fall training dates, or to begin the application process, visit <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/energy>.

EcoAction is hosting a free online informational happy hour on Thursday, August 13 from 5:30-6:30pm. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/EMHappyHourRegistration>. Join to learn more about the program from current volunteers.

There is a cost to the training that begins in October. Apply before August 15 to receive a \$15 early bird discount. The application period will close on September 20, or earlier if the class has filled.

## **7. Managing Wildlife in the Urban Home Landscape**

WHEN: Friday, August 14, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to manage and control garden critters affecting your vegetables, fruits, ornamentals, and lawn with Kirsten Conrad, the Agricultural Natural Resource Extension Agent for Arlington County and City of Alexandria. This will be an informative and entertaining look

at some of the science-based advice offered in the *Pest Management Guide: Home Grounds and Animals 2020* published by the Virginia Cooperative Extension (download for free at <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html>). Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

## 8. Native Grasses, Sedges and Rushes for the Home Landscape

WHEN: Friday, August 21, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

This class explains how native grasses, sedges and rushes can add structure and beauty to your garden all year long. Explore the landscape uses for native grasses and sedges, learn how to maintain them, and appreciate the important ways that these plants support wildlife. The speaker is Extension Master Gardener Elaine Mills who researches and writes the resources for the *Tried and True Native Plant Selections for the Mid-Atlantic* at <https://mgnv.org/plants/>. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

## 9. Fall Lawn Care

WHEN: Friday, August 28, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Fall is the ideal time to restore cool-season grass, the most common turfgrass grown on lawns in our area. This program will describe how to improve lawns and the underlying soil, and outline steps for ensuring a beautiful weed-free lawn with an emphasis on sustainable practices and minimizing the impact to our native pollinators and wildlife. The speaker is Extension Master Gardener Joyce Hylton, who, in addition to Spring and Fall lawn care, is an expert in weed identification and management. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

## 10. Wetland Ecology

WHEN: Tuesday, September 8; 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Christian Jones of George Mason University's Potomac Science Center will give a presentation titled *Wetland Ecosystems in the Mid-Atlantic: Types, Functions and Threats*. This meeting will be online using the Zoom platform and require advance registration. To sign up, email [info@fodm.org](mailto:info@fodm.org) and put *September 8 program* in the subject line and your name in the body of the email.

SPONSOR: Friends of Dyke Marsh

## 11. Livable Public Play Spaces that Integrate Natural Systems

*Resilience Webinar Series Part 2*

WHEN: Tuesday, September 15; 12 to 1:30 p.m.

*Play space* in US cities too often conjures an image of landscapes consisting of sterile, mono-dimensional playsets designed to entertain infant and small children. Too often, parks in the US give little consideration to the inclusion of multiple generations or cultures, the mitigation

of urban heat island, or inspire curiosity, adventure, or inspiration. The demand for parks that are ecological and multi-functional has seldom been greater in light of the COVID-19 crisis – especially in the realm of mental health. Join Herbert Dreiseitl for a discussion of his work on ecological play spaces in cities such as Pforzheim, Gelsenkirchen and Singapore. He will share his work in these cities and their potential inform equivalent efforts in our region.

Register [here](#).

SPONSOR: Northern Virginia Regional Commission

## **12. Naturalist Hour**

WHEN: various times

Enjoy these sessions with local regional nature experts to learn about various topics, including trees, caterpillars, fish, bees, edible plants, and more. Each program has an 80 registrant limit. Participants will be emailed the link on the day of the program. If you don't receive the email, please check your spam folder. Registration closes at 9 a.m. on the day of a program occurring at 1 p.m. Registration closes at 2 p.m. on the day of a program occurring at 7 p.m. If you have trouble accessing Zoom during the program, please contact [diane.lill@anshome.org](mailto:diane.lill@anshome.org).

[Learn more and sign up for a session!](#)

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