# EnergyShare

### Strengthening Virginia's Communities

Annual Report July 1, 2017





#### **EnergyShare: Helping Virginians**

Customers depend on Dominion Energy for clean, reliable and affordable energy, but sometimes they find themselves in a crisis through no fault of their own—someone loses a job, or a loved one gets sick. When that happens, Dominion Energy steps up to help by paying their energy bills and offering no-cost upgrades which will result in lasting improvements to customers' homes, reducing their bills.

On Sept. 1, 2015, Dominion Energy significantly expanded EnergyShare. Since then, we have provided financial assistance and sustainable energy savings to more than 42,000 Virginia families. This brings the total number of individuals and families who have been helped through EnergyShare to 792,799 over the past 35 years.

- 1,611 veterans and 1,888 individuals living with disabilities have received bill assistance.
- More than 16,000 homes have been made more energy efficient, and
- Dominion Energy representatives and volunteers have participated in 505 outreach events designed to encourage residents to make wise energy-saving decisions.

Heating and cooling are essential to the health and welfare of all individuals, especially those who are elderly or living with disabilities. The expansion of the EnergyShare program links, for the first time, energy assistance with weatherization services, education and outreach.

#### **Lives Impacted**

26,575

Families and individuals helped with bill assistance since program expansion

16,224

Homes weatherized since program expansion

1,460

Single-family homes weatherized

14,764

Multi-family homes weatherized

**1,611** 

Veterans

1,888

Individuals with disabilities

23,076

General clients

**505** 

Outreach events conducted since program expansion

212,348

People reached at events since program expansion

Families and individuals helped since 1982

792,799

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#### How Did We Get Here?

Since 1982, EnergyShare has provided bill payment assistance to residents facing a personal or family crisis. This year marks the program's 35th anniversary.

With the expansion, Dominion Energy committed to invest \$57 million through 2019 to help more people with their energy bills. The expanded program broadens participation to individuals with disabilities and military veterans. In addition, EnergyShare also offers free weatherization services and educational outreach to help qualifying customers reduce energy usage and lower their bills. The initiative was launched when Senate Bill 1349 was passed by the Virginia General Assembly, with an executive directive issued by Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and signed into law in 2015.

#### **Working With Experts**

Dominion Energy works with state agencies and non-profits who provide services to individuals facing financial challenges. The program helps older Virginians, individuals living with disabilities and military veterans.

Reaching these vulnerable communities is a key part of the mission of the expanded program. Dominion Energy works with the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Veterans Services to carve out specific support for veterans and individuals living with disabilities.

"Sometimes the struggle for [our clients] to maintain their earning capacity is a big problem," said Jim Rothrock, Virginia Commissioner for the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. "Being able to depend on this program can mean the difference between having to leave their current residence, as opposed to staying in it, and continuing the momentum. And that is critical."

"As we're putting veterans into housing, having help with utility assistance is an immense resource," said Matt Leslie, Director of Housing Development for the Virginia Department for Veterans Services, who coordinates statewide efforts to end veteran homelessness.

As the program continues to evolve, Dominion Energy works with its public partners to make the program more efficient and help more people. "[EnergyShare] allows the agencies ... to serve the clients better and provide more services," said Willie Fobbs, Associate Director of Housing–Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. "We've had more feedback from our clients who have been able to say ... they are experiencing either a more comfortable setting or lower bills."

Dominion Energy coordinates with the Department of Social Services in Virginia to make sure services don't overlap and resources are available between state bill assistance seasons. "EnergyShare is wonderful because it fills in the gaps. We are not a year-round program and EnergyShare is," said Andrea Gregg, Manager of Energy Assistance Programs—Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services.

Dominion Energy also works with the State Corporation Commission's Virginia Energy Sense program and the United States Department of Energy to hand out materials during events and volunteer projects.

In addition, advisory councils were formed to guide the program. The members come from public and private organizations which advocate for energy assistance and weatherization in their communities. Representatives from these organizations help individuals in need and provide valuable insight from their unique perspectives.









James E. Roberts, Jr. and Mayor Stoney

#### **Program Update**

#### **Bill Assistance**

EnergyShare began as a crisis bill assistance program in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia 35 years ago. More than three decades later, the program continues to help those in need pay heating and cooling bills.

Since Dominion Energy accepted Governor McAuliffe's challenge to expand the program in 2015, 26,575 individuals or families received assistance on their bills through EnergyShare. This includes 1,611 veterans and 1,888 individuals living with disabilities.

In 2016 alone, 14,650 families received assistance. EnergyShare has helped 792,799 people since 1982.



**Richard Lee** 

# **EnergyShare Celebrates 35 Years of Public-Private Partnerships**

For James E. Roberts, Jr., Dominion Energy's partnership with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services provided life-changing assistance during one of the commonwealth's hottest summers on record. As part of the 35th Anniversary Celebration of EnergyShare, the Fan Care program was renamed "Senior Cool Care," and what was once a program which provided box fans to eligible seniors, has transitioned to offering window air conditioning units. James was its first beneficiary.

In years past, James was faced with a difficult choice between comfort and security each summer night. The stifling heat tempted him to leave his windows open, but he knew that doing so carried its own safety risks. Unable to afford a new air conditioner after his existing unit stopped working, James recalls hearing about the senior assistance program through word of mouth. "Someone told me to call Senior Connections," he says. "And they hooked me up."

Dominion Energy and Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney presented a new air conditioner to James at EnergyShare's 35th anniversary ceremony. He now looks forward to a more comfortable summer. "I can cut the air conditioner on, close the doors and windows, and just lay back and chill," he says.

As part of the program upgrade, Dominion Energy committed an annual contribution of \$85,000 to Senior Cool Care. Employees and retirees across the company have celebrated the 35th anniversary of EnergyShare by contributing to the program and learning more about how Dominion Energy supports those in need.

#### **Richard Lee: From Homeless to Helping Others**

Three years ago, Richard Lee became a single dad of seven.

While Richard was working and trying to finish school, the burden of his expenses and taking care of his children became too much to handle on his own. At his lowest point, Lee and his children, between the ages of 17 and 5, were sleeping in a truck yard. Richard moved his children to New Jersey to get help from his mother. Once he was back on his feet, he returned to Richmond to finish nursing school in the hopes of getting a better job.

"I had to work for my kids. I was all they had," he said.

When Richard moved back to Richmond, he got help from the Richmond Salvation Army, one of Dominion Energy's EnergyShare agencies.

"The EnergyShare funds allow us to help mitigate each client's immediate crisis, so they can stabilize their life," said Lorraine Edwards, Area Social Services Manager for the Richmond Salvation Army, and Richard's case worker.

In May 2017, Richard moved into stable housing and received EnergyShare assistance to help with his electric bill. Not long after that, he found out he was HIV positive, but Richard isn't going to let that discourage him. He's finishing nursing school with a goal of one day setting up a counseling program to help others with chronic illnesses learn how to overcome their obstacles.

"There are many people out there like me, who are trying the best that they can. Sometimes we need help to get us through a hard time, so we don't have to make the choice between feeding our kids and paying our bills," said Richard.

#### **Honesty Liller: A Voice for Recovery**

In the spring of 2017, Dominion Energy's EnergyShare program team embarked on a project with The McShin Foundation, a community organization which helps individuals and families in their fight against substance abuse.

The goal: to make five of the organization's housing facilities for recovering addicts more energy efficient.

Dominion Energy employee volunteers rolled up their sleeves alongside the residents and weatherization experts to install efficient light bulbs, weather stripping and insulation. Volunteers also shared energy-savings tips with the clients and their neighbors.

Honesty Liller, CEO of the McShin Foundation, is not just the organization's leader. She knows addiction because she's lived it. Honesty is a graduate of the recovery program and even lived in one of the properties during her time as a client. Now she's the organization's biggest advocate.

"This is one of the most amazing gifts McShin has received," said Liller. "The weatherization will help us save money that can be used for our programs and the participants in our housing are very appreciative."

Dominion Energy provides weatherization improvements to its low-income electric customers who meet one of the following eligibility criteria: elderly, disabled or EnergyShare bill assistance beneficiary. The McShin project is a unique way the EnergyShare expansion is meeting community needs. Dominion Energy works with providers to make weatherization improvements to facilities housing homeless families and/or veterans in its service area. This allows the organizations to focus more of their own funds on critical needs in their communities.

In some cases, EnergyShare goes beyond energy savings to make homes safer for residents. Some homes require health and safety measures to be installed alongside energy efficiency upgrades. In those homes, EnergyShare covers the cost of measures such as carbon monoxide detectors, electric and mechanical repairs, air quality and roof repairs.

#### **True Energy Savings**

The EnergyShare weatherization program provides direct-install energy efficiency improvements to qualified customers. The program began operations in Sept. 2015, with initial participation in Oct. 2015. Dominion Energy focused an impact analysis on the period Oct. 2015 through Sept. 2016; the time period captures twelve months of program activity, while maximizing the data available for the post-installation period.

The impact analysis determined that an average family living in a detached home can expect to see an energy consumption decrease of 1,063 kilowatt hours per year. For other dwellings, such as apartments, a customer may expect to see an average energy consumption decrease of 687 kilowatt hours per year. Overall, the analysis determined an annual decrease of 767 kWh among all participants; about a 7.5% reduction in usage.



**Honesty Liller** 

#### **Program Update**

#### Weatherization

16,224 homes have received energy-efficiency measures across Dominion Energy's service territory. Of these homes, 1,460 are single-family homes and 14,764 are multi-family residences. Dominion Energy has worked closely with local agencies to most effectively reach the intended population with weatherization services to make homes more comfortable and affordable for residents in the long term.

Since Sept. 1, 2015, the installed energy-efficiency measures for the EnergyShare program and a Dominion Energy Conservation program equate to more than 11.2 million kilowatt-hours of energy savings. On average, a single family home receiving weatherization services will reduce their electric usage by 8 percent annually. Multi-family homes have an average annual savings of approximately 7 percent.

#### **Budget & Schedule**

Dominion Energy committed \$57 million over five years.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Target
Weatherization	\$3.7	\$10.0	\$8.8	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$28.5
Energy Assistance	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$23.0
Education & Outreach	\$0.3	\$1.2	\$1.6	\$1.2	\$1.2	\$5.6
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$8.6	\$15.8	\$15.0	\$8.8	\$8.8	\$57.1

# **Employees Advocate for Energy Efficiency**

In an effort to reach vulnerable customers, Dominion Energy expanded the company's existing energy assistance outreach team. The team's mission is to educate customers about programs that can help, and ways to manage their accounts more effectively.

The outreach administrators travel around the state, hosting, coordinating and attending community events to educate customers on energy conservation, weatherization and energy assistance payment options.

To get more employees involved, Dominion enhanced the company's existing Speakers Bureau program. More than 100 employees received training and participated in nearly 140 events across the commonwealth. Employees speak to schools, community groups and local businesses.

Zarin Mitchell and TJ Colombell took the time to visit Colonial Trail Elementary School, bearing coloring books and energy kits. They spoke to the students in Ms. Katsarelis' class about how important both renewable and non-renewable resources are to producing the energy that powers the students' homes.

Colombell got the kids to move around and clap their hands to show them energy at work. Mitchell and Colombell were encouraged when the class could name a few examples of renewable resources. The class was engaged, especially when the employees went over the many ways students can help conserve energy every day.

"Having three kids at home, I see how much they care and want to learn to make a difference," Colombell said. "What better way than to present at their school? It's a great way of letting these children know that each of them plays an important role in being more energy efficient. I think the children were excited to hear that they can help. After all, they are Dominion Energy customers, and educating and showing them firsthand ways to save energy benefits us all."



#### **Program Update**

#### **Outreach Events**

In September 2016, Dominion Energy pledged to extend the program reach. In addition to working directly with customers to use energy more efficiently, Dominion Energy expanded their efforts to reach even more Virginians with a goal of 400 events between Sept. 2016 and August 2017. As of July 1, employees have completed 291 events and are on track toward reaching the goal.

Since the program launched in 2015, the outreach team has attended 505 events. Using exhibits and information booths, administrators conduct hands-on demonstration sessions to help participants understand how energy is used and how it impacts their bills.

These events focus on the needs of at risk, low-income, seniors, military veterans and individuals living with a disability across the commonwealth.

# Thank You to So Many Partners

The expanded EnergyShare program was developed in collaboration with state agencies, non-profit organizations and other entities. Dominion Energy works with partner agencies across the commonwealth to administer all aspects of the program, including weatherization, bill assistance and outreach. This public-private partnership brings help to those who need it most.

#### **Partners in Program Development**

Arc of Northern Virginia

Bay Aging

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Community Residences, Inc.

Habitat for Humanity

Housing Virginia

Independence Empowerment Center

Linden Resources

Natural Resources Defense Council

Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Operation Renewed Hope Foundation

Rebuilding Together

Richmond Region Energy Alliance

Senior Services of Alexandria

Southern Environmental Law Center

The Salvation Army

Virginia Community Action Partnership

Virginia Conservation Network

Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services

Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development

Virginia Department of Social Services

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Virginia Energy Efficiency Council

Virginia Energy Sense

Virginia Housing Development Authority

Virginia League of Conservation Voters

Virginia State Corporation Commission Staff

Virginia Supportive Housing

Viridant

#### **Weatherization Partner Agencies**

Bay Aging

Community Housing Partners

Crater District Area Agency on Aging

Lynchburg Community Action Agency

Pittsylvania County Community Action

Project:HOMES

Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging

Telamon, Corp.

The STOP Organization

Total Action for Progress

Tri-County Community Action

Williamsburg-James City County Community Action

#### General EnergyShare Bill Assistance Partner Agencies

ACTS

Alexandria Department of Community and

**Human Services** 

Alexandria Salvation Army

Arlington Department of Human Services

Brunswick Department of Social Services

Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People (CAPUP)

Caroline Department of Social Services

Charles City Department of Social Services

Charlottesville Salvation Army

Chesterfield Department of Social Services

Cornerstones

Covington Salvation Army

Culpeper Department of Social Services

Dinwiddie Department of Social Services

Essex Department of Social Services

Fairfax Salvation Army

Fauquier Department of Social Services

Fredericksburg Department of Social Services

Fredericksburg Salvation Army

Franklin Salvation Army

Fluvanna Rural Outreach

Gloucester Salvation Army

Goochland Department of Social Services

Greensville/Emporia Department of Social Services

Hanover Department of Social Services

Harrisonburg Salvation Army

Hopewell Salvation Army

King George Department of Social Services

King & Queen Department of Social Services

King William Department of Social Services

Lancaster Department of Social Services

Leesburg Salvation Army

Lorton Community Action

Mathews Department of Social Services

Middlesex Department of Social Services

Monticello Area Community Action Program

New Kent Department of Social Services

Norfolk Salvation Army

Northern Virginia Family Services

Northumberland Department of Social Services

Peninsula Salvation Army

Petersburg Salvation Army

Piedmont United Way

Pittsylvania Department of Social Services

Portsmouth Salvation Army

Powhatan Department of Social Services

Prince George Department of Social Services

Richmond County Department of Social Services

Richmond Salvation Army

Rockbridge Area Relief Association

Senior Connections

Shenandoah Department of Social Services

Spotsylvania Department of Social Services

Stafford Department of Social Services

Staunton Salvation Army

STEPS, Inc.

Suffolk Salvation Army

Sussex Department of Social Services

Tri-County Community Action

United Community Ministries

United Way of Central Virginia

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

Virginia Area Agencies on Aging

Waynesboro Salvation Army

Westmoreland Department of Social Services

Williamsburg Salvation Army

#### **Veteran Services Agencies**

Friendship Place

Hampton Roads Community Action Program (formerly Office of Human Affairs)

STOP

Virginia Beach Community Development

Corporation

Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs

Virginia Supportive Housing

Volunteers of America Chesapeake

#### **Centers for Independent Living**

Access Independence, Inc.

Blue Ridge Independent Living Center

Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

disAbility Resource Center

Disability Rights & Resource Center

Endependence Center, Inc.

ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia

Independence Empowerment Center

Independence Resource Center

Lynchburg Center for Independent Living

Peninsula Center for Independent Living/Insight Enterprises, Inc.

Resources for Independent Living, Inc.

Valley Associates for Independent Living

### **EnergyShare Bill Assistance Customer Advisory Board**

Nat Burress, DOW Chemical (retired)
Jill Coleman, The Cameron Foundation
Helena Dodson, NAACP and Ladies of

Janet Green, Habitat for Humanity

Distinction, Inc.

Andrea Gregg, Virginia Department of Social Services

Rhonda Jeter, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

Matthew Leslie, Department of Veterans Services

Kathy Miller, Division for the Aging Robert Morrow, Virginia 2-1-1

Rita Randolph, EnergyShare Program Manager, Dominion Energy

Tanya Ross, Director–Customer Revenue Management, Dominion Energy

Charlene Whitfield, Vice President–Customer Service, Dominion Energy

Tracey Winckler, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

### Weatherization Advisory Committee

Bob Adams, Housing Virginia

KC Bleile, Viridiant

Katharine Bond, Senior Policy Advisor, Dominion Energy

Robert Courtnage, Fredericksburg Clean and Green Commission

Brett Crable, Director–New Technology & Energy Conservation, Dominion Energy

Willie Fobbs, Department of Housing and Community Development

Bill Greenleaf, Virginia Community Capital Chelsea Harnish, Virginia Energy Efficiency

Susan Hill, Department of Housing and Community Development

Michael Hubbard, Manager, Energy Conservation, Dominion Energy

Tom Jewell, Energy Conservation Program Manager, Dominion Energy

Rebecca McNamara, Energy Conservation Analyst, Dominion Energy

Zachary Miller, Virginia Housing Alliance

Helen Reinecke-Wilt, Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy

Charlene Whitfield, Vice President–Customer Service, Dominion Energy

#### **Photo Captions**

Front cover:

Dominion Energy volunteer Justin Huggard (at left) trims a door sweep down to size with help from Tara Richardson (at right) at a home for young men recovering from addiction.

Page 3:

Top: Richard Eary volunteers at a weatherization project.

Middle: Speakers Bureau member, Zarin Mitchell speaks to elementary school students about ways they can save energy at home.

Bottom: Justin Huggard installs weather stripping on a home in Richmond.

Page 6:

Top: Virginia Williams (at left) and Ryan King hand out energy efficiency kits at a Dominion Energy outreach event.

#### **Credits**

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