



**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER SINCE 1905**

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## Climate Uncertainty – Global Sea Level Rise



1 meter of relative sea level rise in Hampton, VA



Jimmy Carter  
(1977)



Ronald Reagan  
(1981)



George HW Bush (1989)



Bill Clinton  
(1993)



George W. Bush (2001)



Barack Obama  
(2009)

~~361%~~  
48%

~~375%~~  
46%

~~392%~~  
39%

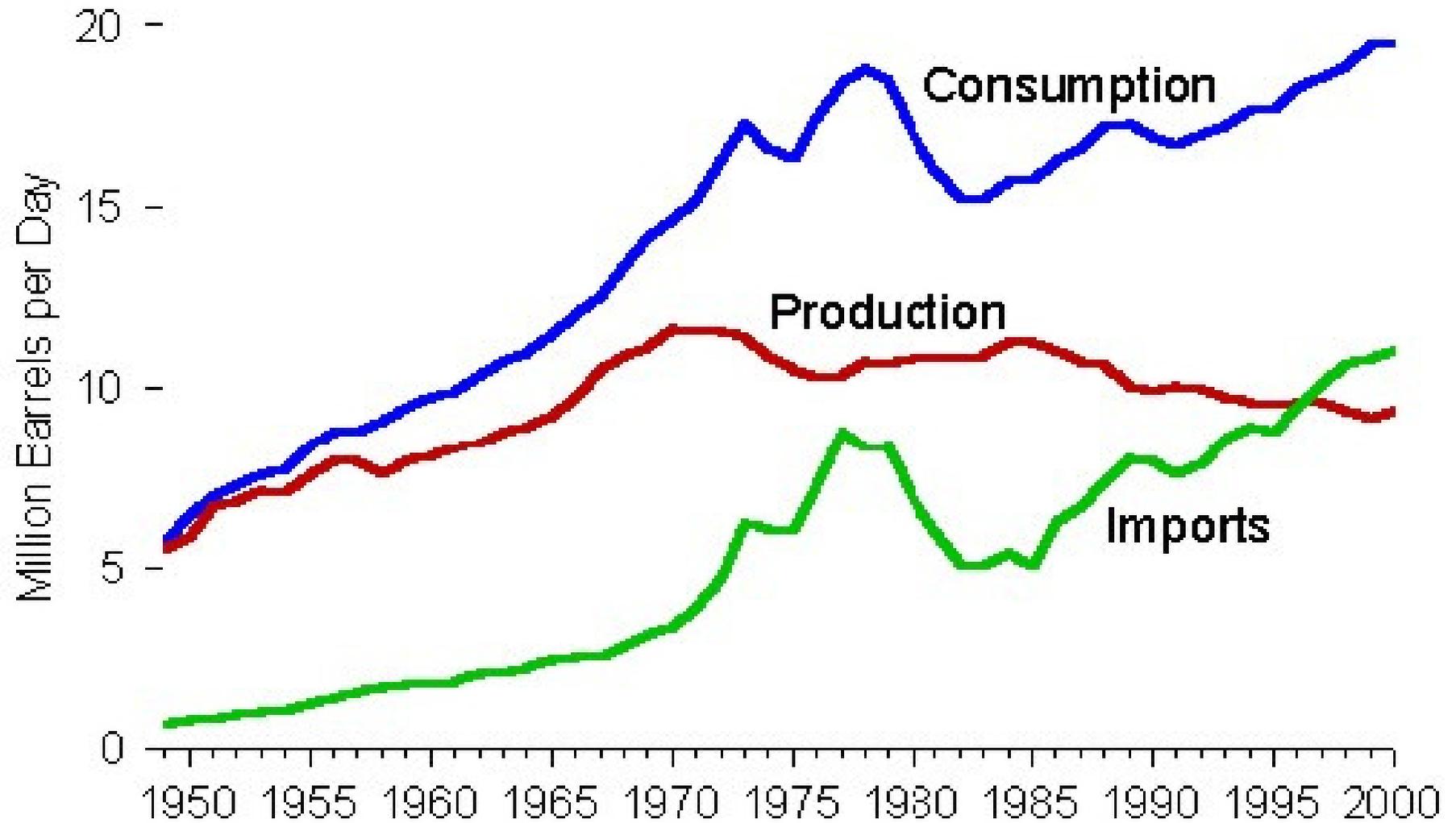
~~400%~~  
58%

~~420%~~  
70%

~~439%~~  
78%

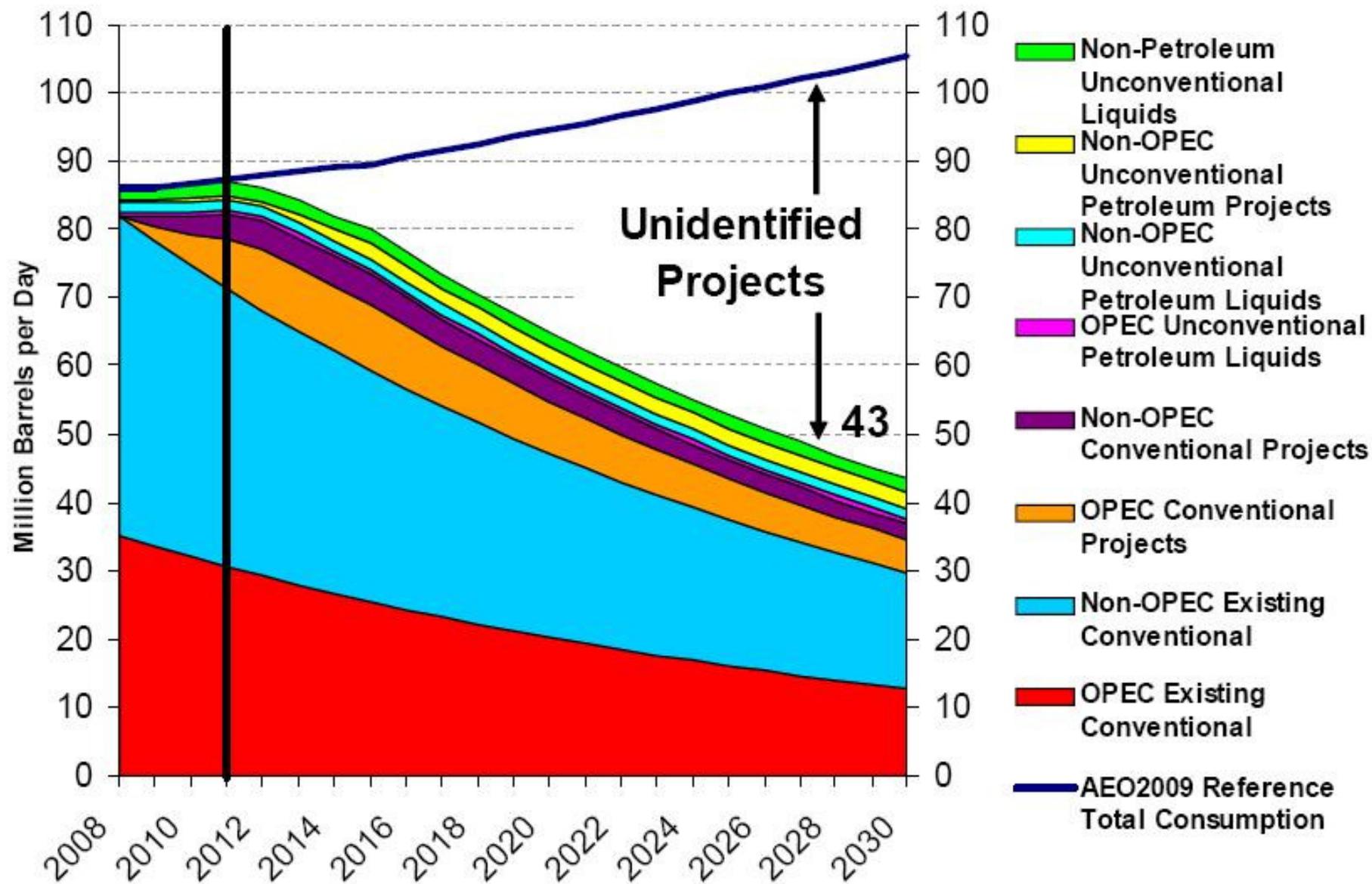
GHG concentrations in atmosphere  
Oil Imports  
(470 is considered dangerous)  
(as a percentage of U.S. oil consumption)

# Energy Uncertainty



Source: Energy in the United States: 1949-2000, USDOE

# World's Liquid Fuels Supply



Source: EIA, AEO2009



The VML Go Green Virginia initiative (GoGreenVA) recognizes that communities need to take innovative steps to reduce energy usage and promote sustainability.

Member local governments are urged to participate in a friendly competition known as the Green Government Challenge designed to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that not only reduce carbon emissions, but can save local governments money.

# Go Green Virginia Advisory Committee

- Cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Hopewell, Lynchburg, Radford, Roanoke
- Counties of Arlington, Henrico
- Towns of Altavista, Purcellville
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- National League of Cities
- Office of the Governor, Senior Advisor for Energy Policy
- ConEdison Solutions
- Dominion Power
- Moseley Architects
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network

# Green Government Challenge Basics



- Governments earn “green points” by implementing or adopting up to 30 policies and actions divided into 11 categories ranging from energy efficiency and green buildings to land-use and innovation.
- Amassing 100 to 124 “green points” out of a possible 200 earned certification as a “Green Government.” In addition, local governments could earn Silver, Gold and Platinum levels of certification for scores of 125 points or higher.



# town of *Warrenton, Virginia*



[General](#) ▾ [Community](#) ▾ [Government](#) ▾ [Do Business](#) ▾ [Green Initiative](#) ▾ [Services](#) ▾ [Parks & Rec](#) ▾

Sunday, July 17, 2011

...: [Green Initiative](#) ...:

## Green Initiative

### WARRENTON BIOMASS FACILITY

Warrenton is a town of 8,500 people situated 50 miles west of Washington D.C. It is the seat of Fauquier County, a county of 60,000 people. It is a semi-rural county with more than 50,000 acres of farmland and 100,000 acres of public and private woods. Reflecting the state average, half the farmland is no longer being used and therefore is available for new energy crops.

Mayor George Fitch has launched a Green Initiative to reduce the carbon footprint in the area or as he likes to say, "to put Warrenton on a low carbon diet." The Initiative includes a green building code, improving the energy efficiency of government buildings, establishing a carbon footprint baseline through energy audits and powering a new indoor recreation center of 25,000 square feet with solar panels and methane gas captured at the nearby sewer treatment plant.

The centerpiece of the Green Initiative is a biomass plant at the landfill just outside the town limits. The plant would use suitable wastes and residues within an economic radius, i.e. 25 to 50 miles, to produce both electricity and ethanol. The goal is to make Warrenton energy independent where its electricity and fuel come exclusively from renewable resources.

The prefeasibility study has shown that there is enough feedstock for a minimum 250 ton per day operation that, based on certain technology, should provide at least 5 MW of electricity – surplus to the needs of the plant – and 10 million gallons of ethanol. The 5MW of electricity is enough to supply all the households in Warrenton. The 10 million gallons of ethanol would be made available at two local service stations, and perhaps Wal-Mart and any surplus would be easily sold into the 160 million gallon a year mandate

Challenge Action #5: Purchase electric power from renewable sources or install renewable energy technology (solar, wind, or geothermal) for use in government facilities.



City of Danville Solar Array

154 solar panels generating 43.4 megawatt hours per year

Posted on: October 22, 2010

## **Solar building materials manufacturer brings 372 jobs to Danville area**

DANVILLE, VA. – For a year, Robert Bennett and the five other founders of United States Green Energy Corp. (USGE) searched for a place in which to manufacture solar building materials, including roof slates, roof shingles, siding and facades.

**“The vision of Danville and Pittsylvania County fits ours,” said Bennett, speaking at a ceremony held at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. “What we like about the area is that it not only talks the talk, but it walks the walk.”**

Bennett explained that Danville came into the picture late. It was at that time that a Roanoke development consultant advised the company to consider Danville and Pittsylvania County. Within a matter of hours of the company's contact with the city, the basis of a deal was in place. From that point, the details fell into place.

# Green Government Challenge Results



- 101 local governments have participated;
- 59 submitted scores; and
- 42 have become certified

# VMS & Green Government Challenge



- 40 VMS local governments have participated;
- 23 submitted scores; and
- 15 have become certified

## Town and PBPA Help Businesses Go Green

### Business Recycling Container Placed at Fireman's Field

To help businesses with an effective, economical way to reduce waste, the Town of Purcellville and the Purcellville Business & Professional Association (PBPA) have teamed up to place a recycling container for business use in the east parking lot beside the Skating Rink at Fireman's Field. The service began on April 1, 2009.

Purcellville businesses can bring their commingled recyclables and place them in the eight-yard container provided by the Town's refuse and recycling contractor, American Disposal Services. Access to the container in the east parking lot is via 20th Street.

"The Town is pleased to once again partner with the PBPA to improve the environment," said Mayor Bob Lazaro who also spearheaded the Town's effort to establish a Committee on the Environment in 2008.

More businesses are expected to recycle as a result of this central collection point which will reduce the amount of recyclables sent to the



ReStore, a new business in Purcellville affiliated with Habitat for Humanity, held a

# Abingdon Farmers Market



- 1st farmers market in the VA authorized to operate a SNAP EBT scrip program.
- In 2009 SNAP redemptions of \$1,281.
- Double Value Coupon program resulted in \$2,562 in benefits issued.

# Expansion of the Challenge in 2009/2010



**Green Government  
Challenge**



**Green Public Schools  
Challenge**



**Green Independent  
Schools Challenge**

- 52 public school systems and 14 independent schools have participated.
- Green Challenge model has been emulated both within and outside Virginia.

# Green Community Challenge



- Local governments account for approximately 5 percent of total energy use.
- 40 action items in 3 broad categories: environmental, economic, and social.
- Pilot Phase communities: Blacksburg, Loudoun, City of Roanoke, and Norfolk
- Green Community Challenge Implementation Guide - pilot communities will be featured as case studies in the Guide and their best practices will be publicized throughout Virginia and the country

# Involving Businesses & Citizens

## Education / Community Participation

23	Establish an advisory commission composed of local residents and business representatives to advise and assist the local governing board on policies and practices dealing with the environment and energy conservation <a href="#">See background materials</a>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Implement a "Green Living Challenge" for households and civic associations to promote sustainable living practices <a href="#">See background materials</a>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Implement a "Green Office Challenge" for commercial property owners and office tenants to promote improved environmental performance of their office operations. <a href="#">See background materials</a>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Implement a "Green Business Challenge" for businesses to promote actions within their organizations to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gases <a href="#">See background materials</a>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>