

Renew Georgia Newsletter

March 2023

Renew Georgia is a grassroots campaign working for clean air and water, and energy bills we can afford. In this monthly Renew Georgia campaign newsletter, I'll share with you some of the most important news updates and actions you can take to help move forward equitable clean energy policy at the local, state, and federal levels.

[Click here to join our call on March 17 at noon!](#) **Everyone who supports clean and equitable energy for Georgians is welcome!**

Georgia Legislative Session In Progress



The 2023 Georgia Legislative session will wrap up on March 29th, a day known as Sine Die. Bills must be passed by both the state House and state Senate by midnight on Sine Die, and will then go to the Governor for signature. Bills that were not passed in one house or the other by Crossover day on March 6th will not advance this year, although some could be added to existing bills over the next few weeks.

Bills that are moving forward:

- [HB 73](#) This bill creates requirements for solar installers in Georgia and makes the Public Service Commission responsible for regulating rooftop solar installers. Many solar advocates agree that some oversight of the rooftop

solar industry is important, but many oppose putting more regulatory power in the hands of the Public Service Commission, which has historically been unfriendly to rooftop solar providers in Georgia.

- [SB 146](#) This bill charges EV charging customers by the kilowatt hour instead of time spent charging. Many see charging by the kilowatt hour as more equitable, since some high-end electric cars charge at much faster rates than other electric vehicles. [Click here for more information on this bill.](#)
- [SB 145](#) This bill prevents local municipalities from banning gas-powered lawn equipment. Opponents to the bill argue that it strips local government control. Many are concerned about noise and air pollution from gas powered lawn equipment.
- [HB 206](#) This bill allows municipalities to create a land-secured financing district to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy.

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Clearing the Air of Soot

Whether we live on the coast, on the fall-line, or in the Blue Ridge mountains, we all deserve clean air to breathe, so our kids can play outside safely any time of year. We know that some polluting industries want weak air pollution rules from the EPA so they can keep profiting off polluting our communities. Join us in calling for the strongest possible rules to reduce harmful air pollution.

Time is running short to get strong protections for our communities against harmful particulate matter pollution! The comment period on the EPA's Soot Rule is wrapping up on March 28th. We are looking for individuals, community leaders, and specifically anyone who works in a health-related field to write a comment to the EPA.

- **Take Action!** *If you are a health professional or community leader and would like to make a comment, please email me at cary@cleanenergy.org. For individual grassroots comments, [click here!](#)*
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IRA Programs for our Communities!

We are continuing to track new opportunities for community engagement in the rollout of the Inflation Reduction Act.

- **Incentives for energy efficiency and weatherization.** Tax credits are available now, and rebates will likely be available in 2024.
 - **TAKE ACTION!** [Click here to learn more, and feel free to use our flier to communicate with people about these programs!](#)
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund** On February 14th, [the EPA announced initial program design for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#). The EPA is hosting two competitions to develop programs for the \$27 billion in funding: a \$7 billion Zero-Emissions Technology Fund and a \$20 billion General and Low Income Assistance Fund. We will continue to monitor for new updates to this part of the policy.
- **Climate Pollution Reduction Grants** This grant program provides [“grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.”](#) The program will involve formula funding for developing plans. States and some larger cities can opt in, or smaller municipal governments in can join together to apply. A second tranche of competitive grants will be awarded to winning applicants to implement plans developed in the first round

of formula funding. Like other programs, this program is in development, and we will share more information as we learn more.

[Join us on March 17 for the next Renew Georgia grassroots call](#), where we will go over the latest news, share updates, hear about community efforts around the state, and learn about important actions we can take together. Everyone who supports clean and equitable energy for Georgians is welcome to join the call!

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[Read more about the Renew Georgia campaign](#)

Were you forwarded this email? **[Click here to add your name to the Renew Georgia campaign and receive regular updates.](#)**
