# Superintendent’s Memo #097-20

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: April 17, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: New Energy Career Cluster

In 2019, SB 1348 required the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in consultation with representatives from pertinent industries such as renewable energy, natural gas, nuclear energy, coal, and oil, to establish an Energy career cluster. The bill requires the VDOE to base the knowledge and skill sets contained in such energy career cluster on the energy industry competency and credential models developed by the Center for Energy Workforce Development in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Governor Ralph Northam also signed Executive Order 43 which establishes ambitious statewide goals and targets for clean energy deployment and expands upon the Commonwealth’s commitments to reduce our environmental impact, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and boost the clean energy economy in Virginia. Additionally, to ensure that Virginia has the workforce to meet the growing needs and technological advances of the clean energy sector, the Chief Workforce Advisor and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade will develop a plan that includes an evaluation of current curriculum and training programs, including K-12 curriculum and the potential for pre-employment programs. The plan shall address both awareness of energy sector career opportunities and access to career pathways and programs. To that end, the VDOE has been working with the energy industry to create the following pathways and courses for the Energy cluster.

| **Energy Efficiency Pathway** | **Fuel Production Pathway** | **Power Generation**  **Pathway** | **Transmission, Distribution and Storage Pathway** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Energy Supply: Sustainability and Efficiency | Energy Source Life Cycle | Energy and Power Foundations | Energy Transmission and Distribution |
| Energy Demand: Sustainability and Efficiency | Application of Engineered Systems | Power Generation Design and Function | Energy Transmission and Distribution, Advanced |

The eight new high school courses will be available for the 2020-2021 school year. Divisions interested in offering an energy program must submit the [Application for new Programs and/or Courses](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/career_technical/administration/index.shtml). Instructional resources will be available from the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) and VDOE. Online professional development for teaching Energy Supply: Sustainability and Efficiency will be available in the Summer of 2020. Instructional resources and the pre-registration information for the upcoming professional development will be available through an upcoming CTE Director’s Memo.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, at [CTE@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:CTE@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-2052

JFL/GRW/DSE/aar