

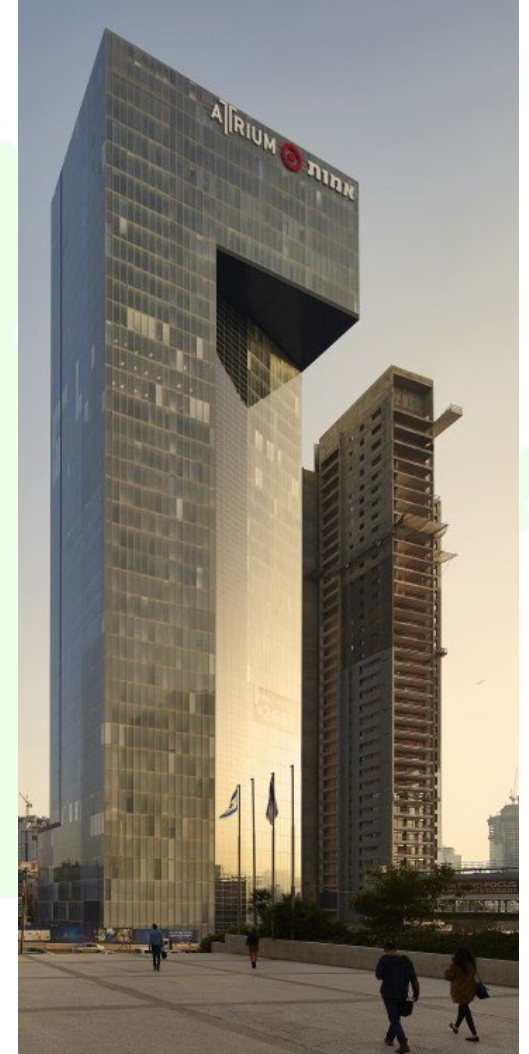
Energix Renewable Energies in Virginia: VCHR Pushback

Jeanne Trabulsi
Virginia Coalition for Human Rights



Transcending the Israel Lobby
At Home and Abroad
March 3-4, 2022

What is Energix Renewable Energies?

- One of Israel's largest renewable energy companies.
- Headquartered in Ramat-Gan, Israel.
- Active in Israel, Poland, and the U.S.
- Market cap approximately \$1.9 billion.
- Publicly traded company on the Tel Aviv stock exchange since May 2011.



Energix is a U.N. designated human rights violator

	<p style="text-align: right;">A/HRC/43/71</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advance Unedited Version</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Distr.: General 12 February 2020 Original: English</p> <hr/> <p>Human Rights Council Forty-third session 24 February-20 March 2020 Agenda items 2 and 7 Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Summary</i></p> <p>The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has prepared the present report pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.</p> </div>	
<p>Owned the “Meitarim Solar Field” in occupied West Bank from 2015-2020.</p>	<p>Designated as “Category G” business by Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed 155 MW field of wind turbines in occupied Syrian Golan Heights in 2015. Partnered with Israel Defense Ministry to build 41 wind turbines.

How does Energix exercise undue influence within Virginia state government?

- Energix is promoted by the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB).
- VIAB is a state agency under the General Assembly of Virginia funded by Virginia taxpayers that advocates exclusively for Israeli businesses.
- Energix, through VIAB, has access to legislators that homegrown Virginia businesses, including solar energy companies, do not have.



**VIRGINIA ISRAEL
ADVISORY BOARD**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



**ENERGIX
RENEWABLES**

How does Energix exercise undue influence within Virginia state government?

- VIAB connects Energix with senior political leaders in Virginia.
- VIAB sponsored a trade delegation to Israel in 2019 in which former Gov. Northam and former Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball met with Energix officials.



Governor Northam, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball (right) and Virginia Israel Advisory Board Vice Chairman Chuck Lessin (left) at a meeting with Energix in Tel Aviv (November, 2019).

How does Energix exercise undue influence within Virginia state government?

Cary, David (GOV)

From: Aviva Frye <aviva@viab.org>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 8:24 AM
To: Cary, David (GOV)
Subject: Appointment with First Lady

Dear David:

I hope this email finds you doing well .
I would like to set an appointment to meet with the First Lady, if possible some time next week,
to discuss some projects through the Governor's Virginia Israel Advisory Board as well as the investments in Virginia by Energix, the Israeli renewable energy company, I run in the United States.

I can be reached at 276-451-4428.

Thank you for your attention,

Aviva S. Frye
Virginia Israel Advisory Bd
SouthWest Coordinator



- In 2018, Aviva Frye used her status as a VIAB board member to meet with the governor's office on Energix's behalf while she also served as U.S. representative of Energix.

What undue subsidies does Energix extract from state and federal sources?

- In 2020, **Energix received a Virginia Jobs Investment Program subsidy** that supported Energix's human resources costs.
- In 2020, **Energix received a third of all the state's PPP forgivable loans** in the category of industrial scale solar projects — although Energix was flush with cash from overseas stock sales and only employed several full-time employees.

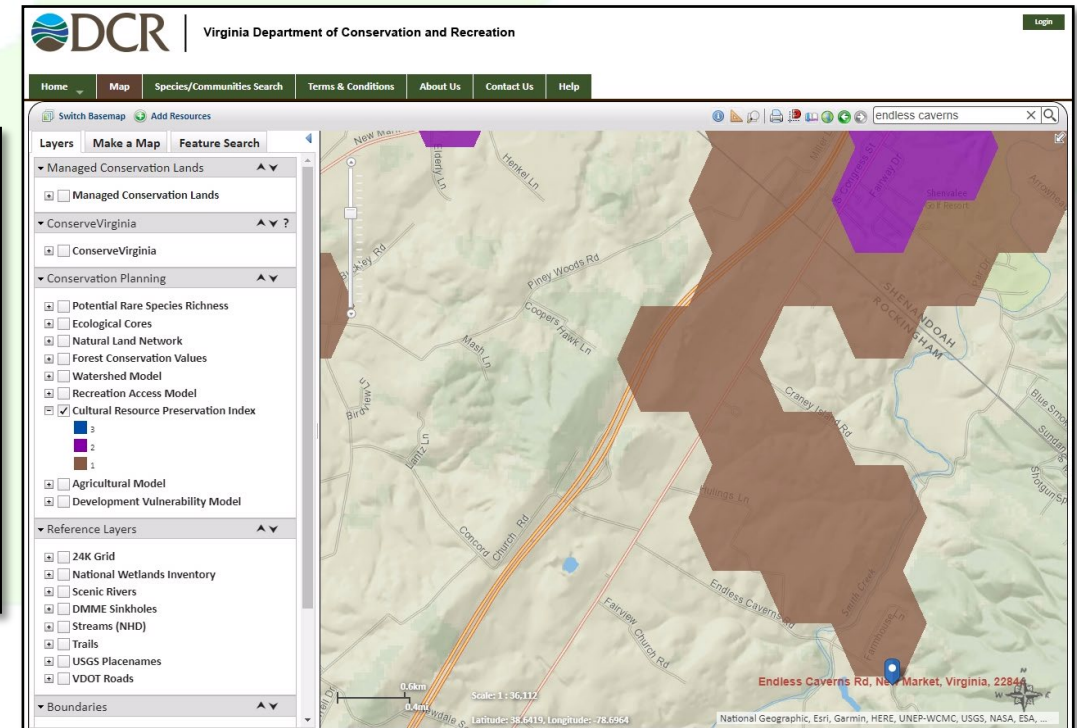


How is VCHR educating communities?

- VCHR educational outreach:
 - Presentations to county officials and community that highlight...
 - Energix violations of human rights overseas
 - VDCR designations of land parcels
 - CdTe solar panel dangers
 - Recycling contract requirements



Tornado damage to Desert Sunlight facility in 2015



How are communities pushing back?

Dinwiddie rejects solar project agreement

Oct 31, 2021



County Bans on CdTe Panels

Prince George County – Public, formal, written ban: 2020 Solar Energy Facility Siting Policy

Madison County – Public, formal, written ban: Zoning Ord. #2019-12

Buckingham County – Public, formal, written ban: one SUP: Nov 2021

Chesterfield County – Public, unofficial, unwritten ban: Bermuda District - Jim Ingle (BoS)

Spotsylvania County – Non-public, unofficial, unwritten ban

Virginia: In the Circuit Court of Rockingham County

Plaintiffs

Duane R. Lam and Joni S. Lam, etc.

v.

Defendants

Board of Supervisors of Rockingham County, etc.

Complaint for Declaratory Judgment

The Plaintiffs identified above move this court for declaratory judgment against the Defendants herein, and in support thereof state as follows:

I. Basis for Jurisdiction

1. Plaintiffs move this court to declare that the December 8, 2021, vote by the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors to grant defendant Caden Energix Endless Caverns, LLC (Caden Energix) a special use permit to construct a large solar facility on property owned by, and leased from, defendants Conley and Virgil is legally null and void. Plaintiffs' statement of support is appended as Attachment 1.

Westlake solar farm plans scrapped by energy company

Jason Dunovant

and Laurence Hammack

Sep 15, 2021

Renewable energy company Energix US has scrapped plans to build a solar farm in Westlake, the company told the county this month.

A light green silhouette of the state of Virginia is centered in the background of the slide.

Virginia Coalition for Human Rights

vchr.org

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