



Chris Bast

Chief Deputy, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)



[@chris_bast](https://twitter.com/chris_bast)



Chris Bast is an expert in state and city-led climate action with over a decade of experience working at the intersection of climate and environmental policy and politics. In 2018, he was appointed by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam to the position of **Chief Deputy of the Department of Environmental Quality** where he provides strategic communications and policy support for the agency and works across the government to promote climate leadership and a comprehensive climate agenda.

In this role, Chris focuses broadly on transportation decarbonization, environmental and climate justice, and building policy support for bold climate action. A native Virginian, Chris recently moved back to the Commonwealth after working at the forefront of climate and clean energy policy in the Northwest - first working for Climate Solutions, a regional climate and clean energy advocacy organization, and then as the lead transportation decarbonization advisor for the City of Seattle. He received his undergraduate degree from James Madison University and his MPA from Seattle University and lives with his family in Richmond, Virginia.