



Solar Workgroup Of Southwest Virginia
DOE Energizing Rural Communities Prize
Partner Track Cover Page

Group Name: Solar Workgroup of Southwest Virginia

Title: Solar in Southwest Virginia: Energy → Future

Location: Norton, Virginia and the counties of Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Buchanan and Scott

Short Description:

The Solar Workgroup of Southwest Virginia is a group of nonprofit and community action agencies, colleges, state agencies, planning district commissions and other interested citizens and businesses seeking to develop a renewable energy industry cluster in the seven coalfield counties of Southwest Virginia. The workgroup is co-convened by Appalachian Voices, People Incorporated, and the UVA-Wise Office of Economic Development & Engagement, with facilitation assistance from Dialogue + Design Associates, policy analysis from Southern Environmental Law Center, program development assistance from Virginia Energy and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and regional solar planning with The Nature Conservancy.

The Solar Workgroup of Southwest Virginia is developing a locally rooted solar industry as a regional economic and social catalyst, creating jobs and energy savings, as well as attracting renewable energy investments and new business opportunities to Southwest Virginia. This proposal envisions the workgroup building on past success to take key strategies to scale to capitalize on current federal support and create lasting, measurable economic and social impact through renewable energy development in underserved energy communities.

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/a-0rOwwgSgo>

Key project members:

Adam Wells, Regional Director of Community and Economic Development, Appalachian Voices
Robert Kell, New Economy Program Manager, Appalachian Voices
Emma Kelly, New Economy Field Coordinator, Appalachian Voices