



## US DOE Energizing Rural Communities Solar in Southwest Virginia: Energy→Future



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.



**Goal 1: Identify and develop sites that are ideal for solar development, making SWVA a hub for solar energy development.**

- A. Identify and develop high-impact distributed solar projects
- B. Support the process to identify and develop utility-scale solar sites
- C. Identify financing options
- D. Act as a neutral hub to help connect property owners, developers, financiers



**Goal 2: Grow workforce development and entrepreneurship opportunities to advance solar projects and maximize local benefits.**

- A. Grow a local solar workforce in partnership with solar developers and educational institutions
- B. Coordinate training opportunities
- C. Develop and promote policies and programs
- D. Support manufacturing jobs



**Goal 3: Expand education and outreach in communities and with local leaders around solar benefits and opportunities.**

- A. Conduct community-wide solar education and outreach events
- B. Connect specific groups
- C. Collaborate with regional educational institutions
- D. Build public awareness through sharing stories and examples of economic impact



**Goal 4: Promote policy changes that will help grow the solar and energy storage industries in Southwest Virginia.**

- A. Expand shared solar
- B. Expand access to Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
- C. Fund solar-energy focused state boards to facilitate solar energy and energy storage research and installations
- D. Increase access to tax incentives and innovative financing tools
- E. Encourage energy storage technologies in Southwest Virginia
- F. Incentivize solar projects on brownfields
- G. Remove restrictions on net metering