Jumpstarting a Solar Industry in Southwest Virginia

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LENOWISCO: Lee, Wise, Scott, Norton

Cumberland Plateau: Russell, Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickenson
Solar Companies in SWVA


Solar Companies in SWVA
Where it all began
1. Identify and develop sites that are ideal for solar development, especially solar “ambassador” projects.

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

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

4. Promote policy changes that will help grow the solar industry in Southwest Virginia.
Solar-friendly recognition sought

WISE — County supervisors have agreed to support an effort of local governments to seek official recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy for encouraging solar energy development.

The Appalachian Voices regional environmental and sustainable development organization is working with the National Association of Counties to seek solar-friendly designation of localities through the energy department’s new SolSmart program.
Key Takeaways

- Critical importance of Co-convener and facilitation structure;
- Consistent engagement with local governments;
- Message: Southwest Virginia as Energy Producing Region.
Thanks!
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