



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Virginia Energy Opens Applications for Solar Interconnection Grant Program to Advance Public-Sector Solar Projects

Applications Are Due by October 2, 2026

RICHMOND, VA — The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) today announced the opening of applications for the new **Solar Interconnection Grant Program**, which will help public bodies offset utility interconnection costs for eligible solar-energy projects across the Commonwealth.

Established through House Bill 683 and Senate Bill 659 of 2026, the program will be administered by Virginia Energy's Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, commonly known as the State Energy Office. The program addresses the cost of connecting distributed solar facilities to the electric grid, which is a key barrier facing public-sector solar development.

"Virginia's public bodies should not have to put strong solar projects on hold because the cost of connecting to the grid is beyond reach," **said Vince Maiden, Director of the Virginia Department of Energy**. "This program will help communities move viable projects forward, reduce long-term energy costs, and provide better information about the interconnection challenges that public-sector solar projects face across the Commonwealth."

The Solar Interconnection Grant Program offers approximately \$2 million in grant funding to Virginia public bodies for eligible interconnection-related expenses at solar facilities located on previously developed sites. Eligible costs may include transformers, relays, direct transfer trip equipment, SCADA and telemetry, metering modifications, protection equipment, engineering, and other utility-required infrastructure needed to complete interconnection.

Under the law, priority must be given to facilities located on previously developed project sites, and the program is scheduled to expire on July 1, 2027. Grants may cover eligible interconnection upgrade costs up to 25 percent of the total solar project cost or \$600,000, whichever is less. Virginia Energy may elect to partially award proposals at its discretion.

Eligible applicants include Virginia public bodies, such as local governments, school divisions and other entities defined under § 2.2-3701 of the Code of Virginia. Third parties—including solar installers, contractors, and nonprofit organizations—may support applications; however, the public body must submit and administer the grant if selected.

Projects are strongly encouraged to have completed interconnection studies and have a clear understanding of required upgrade costs at the time of application. Awardees will report project information, including interconnection timelines, solar capacity, projected energy savings, community benefits, and details of utility-required upgrades. The information will support Virginia Energy’s understanding of barriers to public-sector solar deployment and inform required reporting to the General Assembly.

Applicants must submit proposals through the [Virginia Energy Grant Portal](#).

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on October 2, 2026. Only complete applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

Applicants may submit questions through the Help & Communications tab in the [Grant Portal](#). Virginia Energy staff will respond within five business days. The final day to submit questions is September 18, 2026. For program guidelines and more information about Virginia Energy grants and programs, visit the [Virginia Department of Energy website](#).

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