

Overview of Solar Development in Virginia

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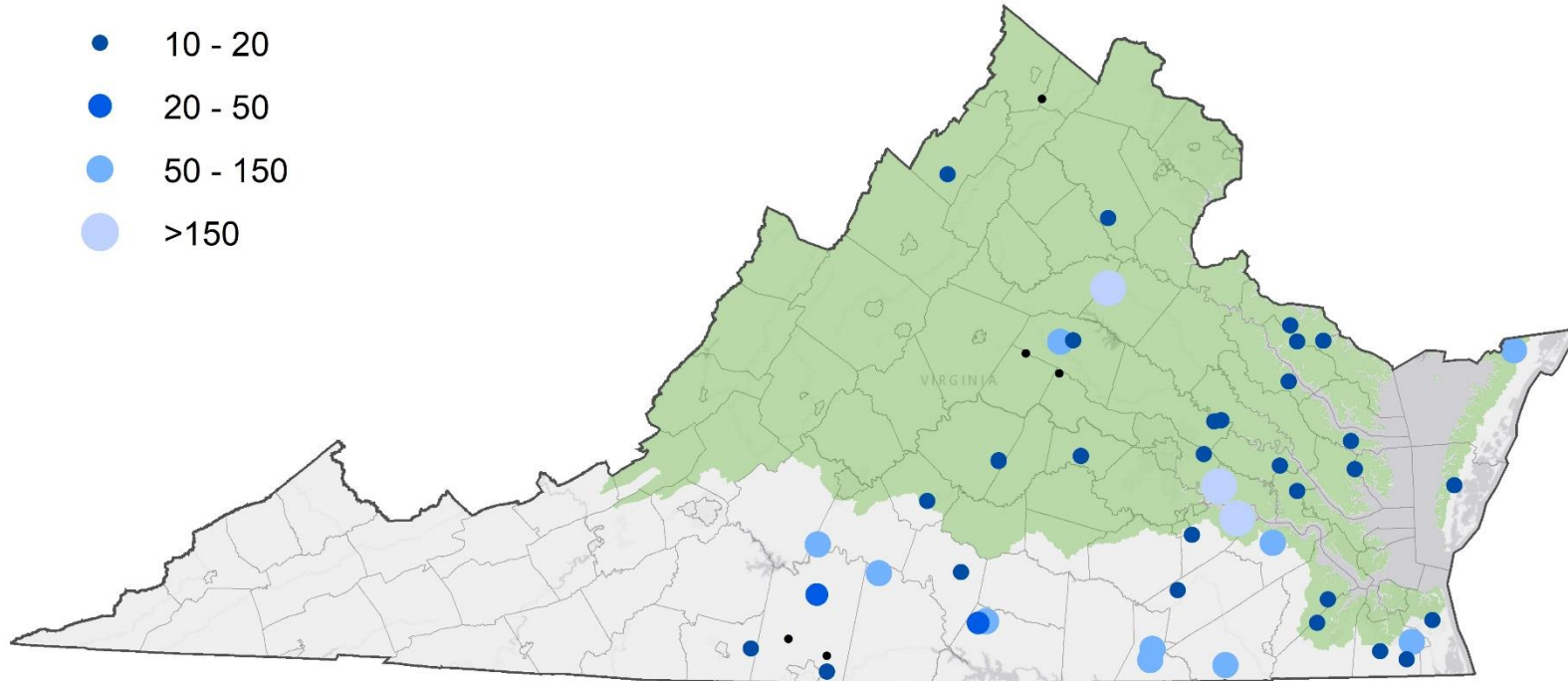
May 18, 2022

Large-Scale Solar Facilities in Virginia

Active Virginia Solar Facilities (52)*

Nameplate Capacity (MW)

- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 50
- 50 - 150
- >150

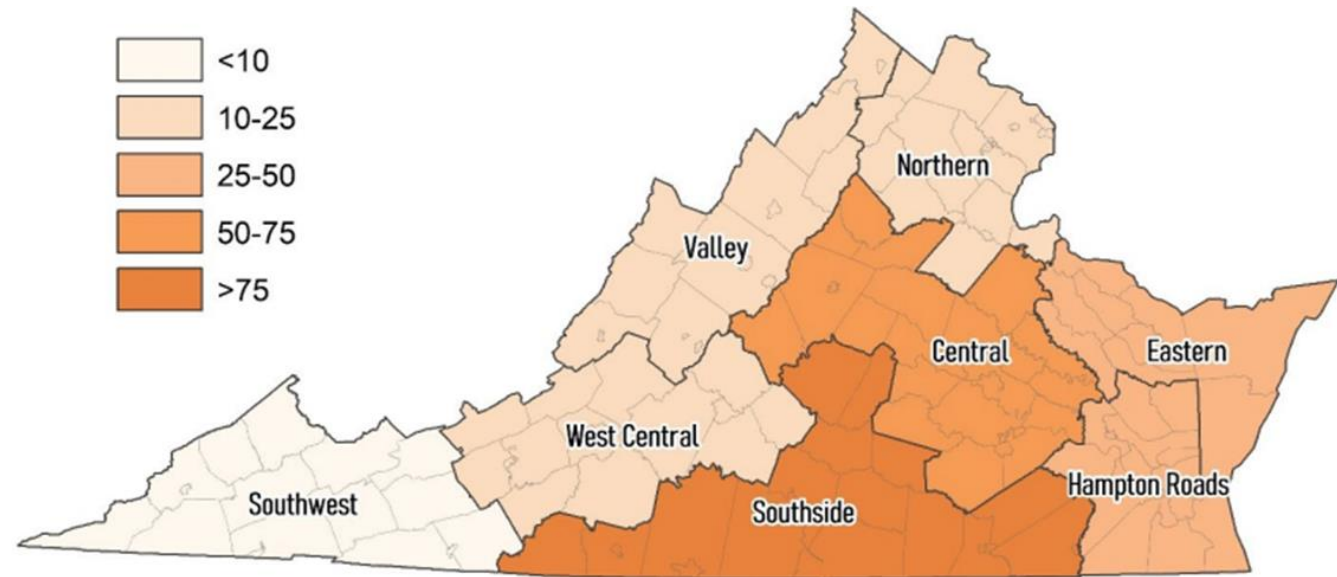


**Active Facilities as of May 1, 2022*

Drivers of Large-Scale Development in VA

- Virginia Clean Economy Act of 2020 (VCEA)
- Land availability
- Local economic opportunity
 - Siting Agreements and Revenue Sharing
- Concentration of data centers

Local Applications for Large-Scale Solar Facilities (>500 kW) by Region- Virginia Solar Survey



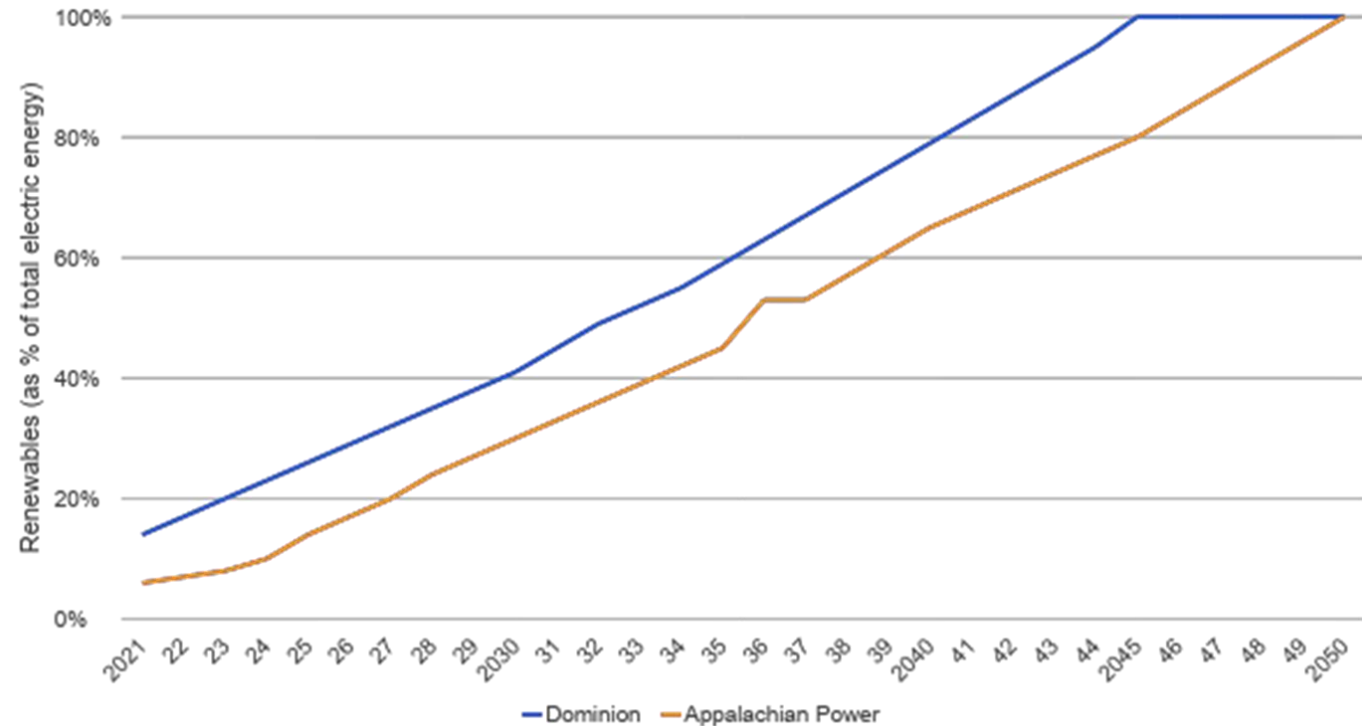
Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) - 2020

- Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power to retire carbon-emitting sources by midcentury
 - Electric Cooperatives are not mandated by the VCEA
 - Main power supplier of the cooperatives (ODEC) has a net-zero goal
- **Establishes mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS): 100% clean energy sources by 2050:**
 - Dominion: 40% by 2030; 100% by 2045
 - APCo: 30% by 2030; 100% by 2050
 - Requires at least 1 RFP per year from Dominion and APCo
- **2024 deadline to retire coal-fired power plants**



Virginia Clean Economy Act - 2020

- Deems in the public interest by 2035:
 - 16,100 MW of solar and onshore wind
 - 1,100 MW of solar facilities not to exceed 3 MW
 - 200 MW on previously developed sites
 - 100 MW large rooftop solar installations (>50 kW)
 - 2,700 MW of energy storage
 - 5,200 MW of offshore wind



Findings from the Virginia Solar Survey

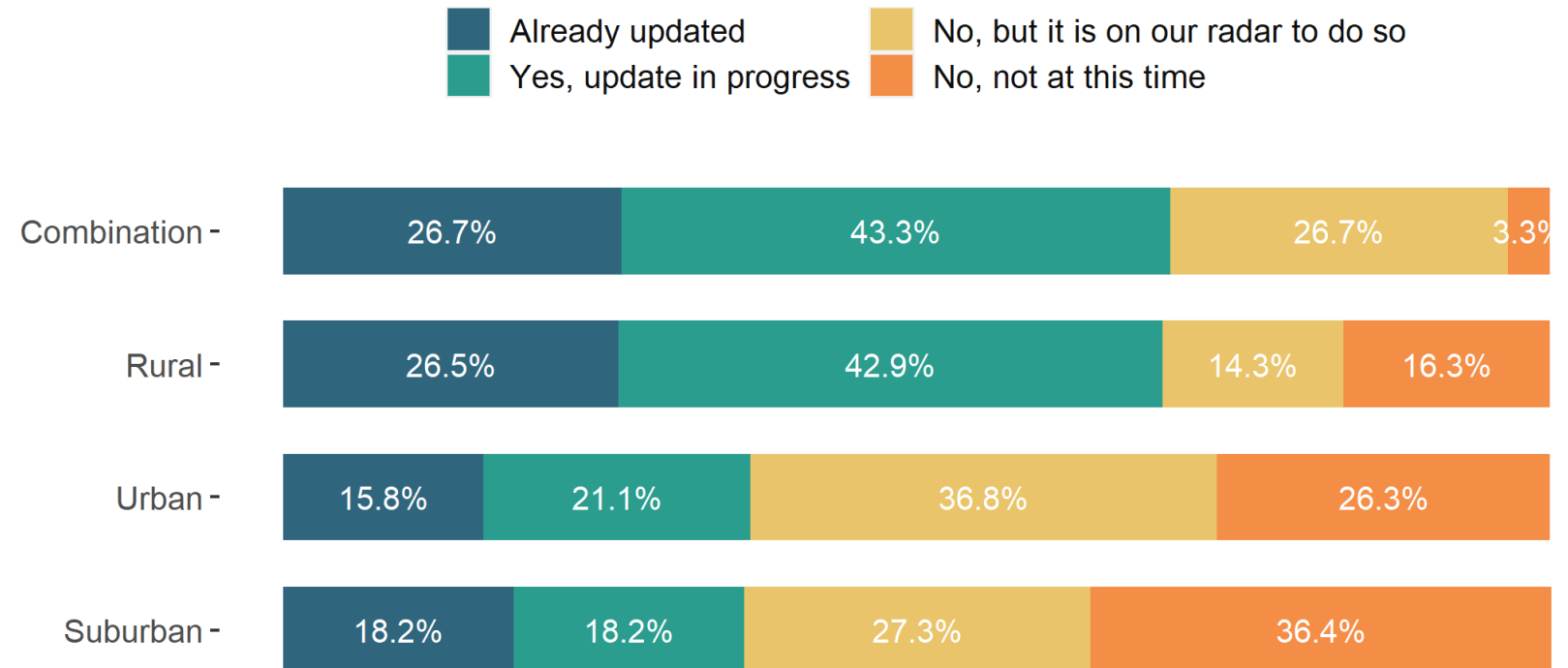
Is your locality preparing to update it solar policies, regulations and/or application and permitting processes?

(n=109)

Survey Totals:

-37%: Update in Progress

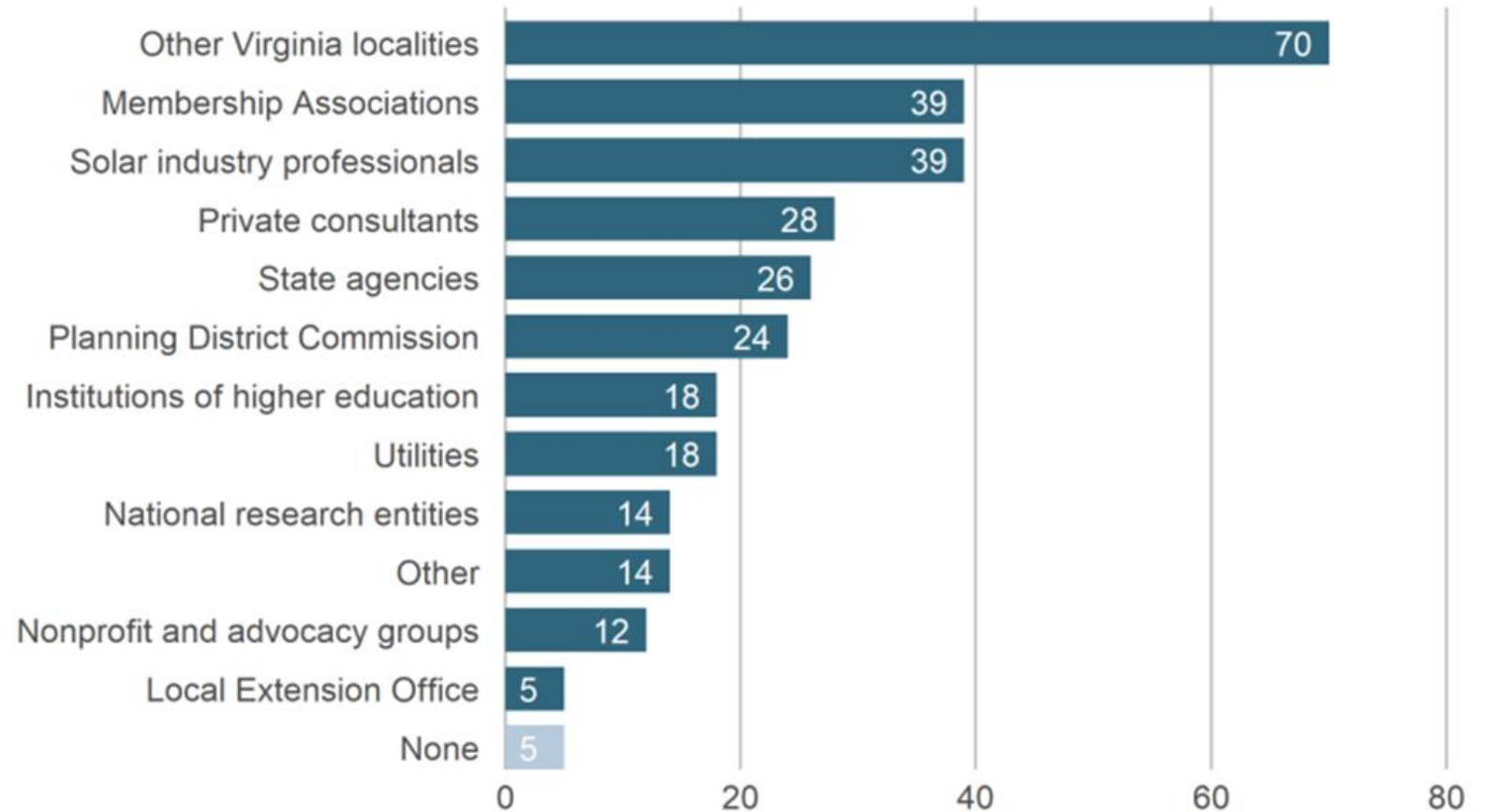
-24%: Already updated



Findings from the Virginia Solar Survey

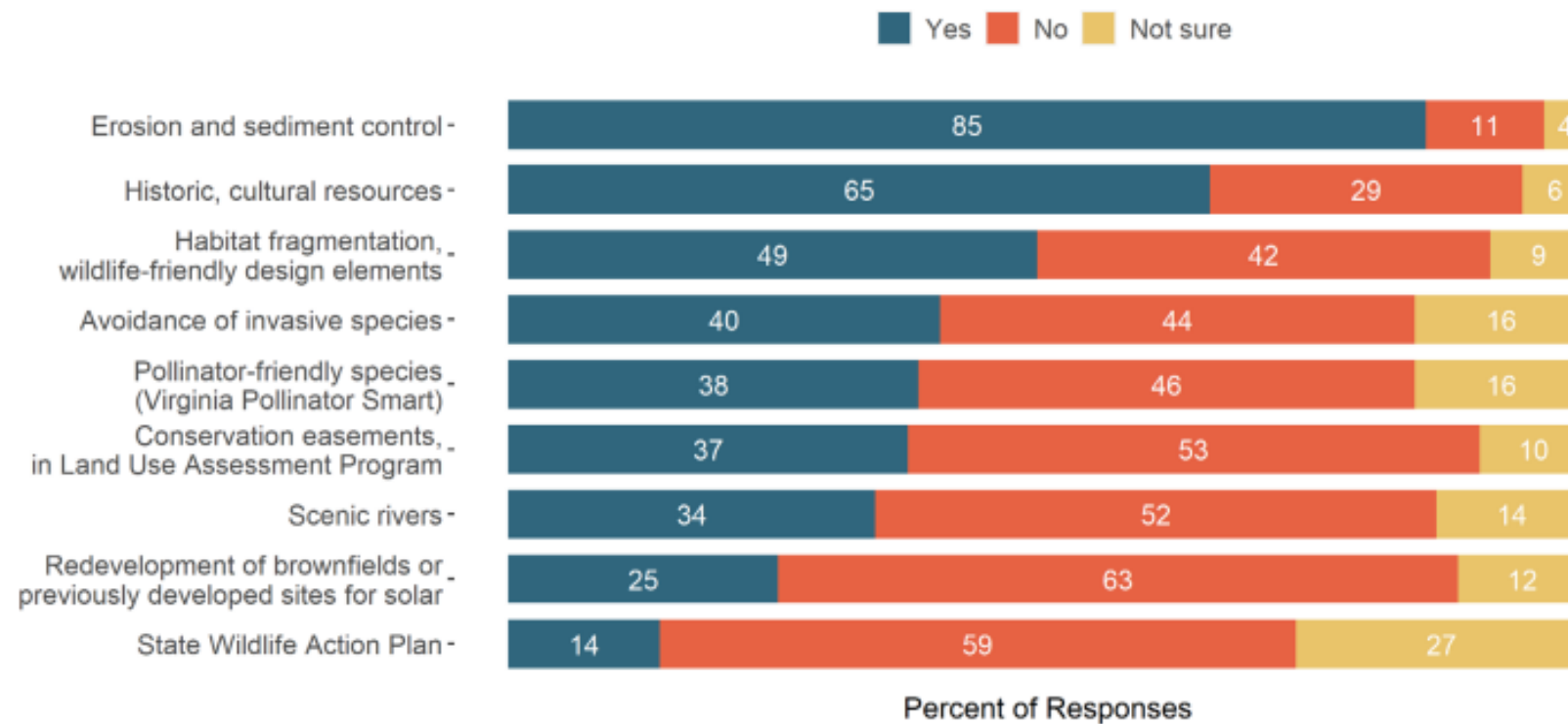
What resources are your locality turning to for support and assistance in developing new policies and ordinances?

(Choose all that apply, n=109)



Findings from the Virginia Solar Survey

Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application? (*n*=109)



Relevant New Legislation and Guidance

DEQ's Small Renewable Energy Projects (Solar) Permit by Rule (PBR)

- PBR review by DEQ for solar projects greater than 5 MW or 10 acres
 - Shorter Sec. 130 application for projects below 5 MW or less than 10 acres
 - SCC reviews projects above 150 MW
-
- HB 206 (2022)* – Large-scale solar projects permitted by DEQ's Permit-by-Rule (PBR) process will be subject to mitigation if they have significant adverse impacts
 - Significant adverse impacts includes:
 - More than **10 acres** of prime agricultural soils (USDA)
 - More than **50 acres** of contiguous forest lands
 - Will not impact projects with interconnection approval before December 31, 2024
 - Rulemaking will be led by DEQ in the coming months

Relevant New Legislation and Guidance

- [HB 894](#) (2022)* Virginia Cooperative Extension to develop a map/repository of prime farmland to assist localities in siting determinations of solar facilities.
 - Initial report on development of a map submitted by December 1, 2022
 - Includes Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Forestry, Conservation and Recreation, and Energy
- [HB 774/SB 499](#) (2022)* – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will convene stakeholder workgroups to analyze the life cycle of renewable energy facilities.
 - Representatives of local governments are specifically mentioned as a stakeholder
 - Study recycling, waste strategies, liability for decommissioning, impacts on life cycle of farming/forestry, and beneficial economic impacts.
 - Initial report submitted by May 1, 2023

Opportunities on Mined Land, Brownfields

- **Office of Innovative Reclamation**
 - Repurposing mined land to include renewable energy development
 - Connecting operators, land owners, and developers to opportunities on mined land properties
- **Brownfield & Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund Program**
 - **\$35M to be allocated to the program**
 - \$20M reserved for previously coal mined land projects
 - \$10M per project limit on previously coal mined sites
 - \$5M per project limit on brownfields sites
 - **Incentives:**
 - \$500/kW for projects located on previously mined lands and \$100/kW for projects located on brownfields
 - **Still Awaiting Funding for this Program**
- Virginia Energy completing a Handbook for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Development on Brownfields and Previously Coal Mined Lands in the coming months

DEQ Stormwater Management

March 29 Memo

- Solar panels and base posts statewide will be considered impervious areas for the calculations water quantity runoff and water quality calculations TMDL
- Specific agency guidance documents to be drafted and approved

April 14 Memo

- Will apply to projects that do not obtain an interconnection approval by December 31, 2024

A photograph of a worker in a grey shirt and black cap installing solar panels on a brown shingled roof. The worker is using a tool to secure a panel. The background shows a blue sky with wispy clouds and green trees. The solar panels are blue with silver lines.

Questions

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