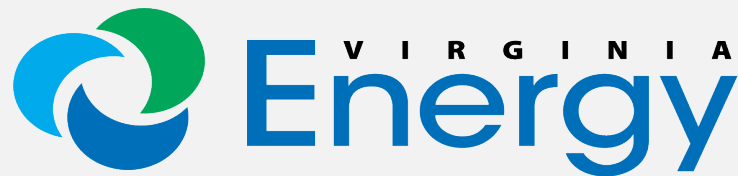


VIRGINIA SOLAR SURVEY

SURVEY RESULTS: FREQUENCY TABLE DATA

Developed and conducted by
Virginia Department of Energy
Virginia Solar Initiative at the University of Virginia

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ENERGY TRANSITION INITIATIVE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



Weldon Cooper Center
for Public Service
Center for Economic and Policy Studies

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SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.1. Is your locality preparing to update or is actively updating its solar policies, regulations, and/or application and permitting processes?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, update is in progress	40	36.7%
No, not at this time	18	16.5%
No, but it is on our radar to do so	25	22.9%
No, we have already updated our solar policies, regulations, and/or application and permitting processes	26	23.9%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.2. What resources are your locality turning to (or did your locality turn to) for support and assistance in developing new policies and ordinances? Choose all that apply.		
	Frequency	Percent
Other Virginia localities	70	22.4%
Planning District Commission	24	7.7%
Membership Associations	39	12.5%
Local Extension Office and/or Soil & Water Conservation District	5	1.6%
State agencies	26	8.3%
Institutions of higher education	18	5.8%
Private consultants	28	9.0%
Solar industry professionals	39	12.5%
Nonprofits and advocacy groups	12	3.8%
National research entities and agencies	14	4.5%
Utilities	18	5.8%
None	5	1.6%
Other	14	4.5%
Total	312	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.3. State agencies such as Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) and UVA offer technical assistance related to solar energy. With respect to solar development, would you be interested in training or technical assistance in any of the following areas for your locality? Choose all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent
Solar basics (foundational information about solar and solar+storage technology)	43	11.8%
Technical assistance (tools and resources to assist with policy and process development)	57	15.6%
Identification of previously disturbed land, brownfields or coal-impacted lands (DMME, DEQ assistance)	24	6.6%
SolSmart Advisors Program (no-cost technical support and designation program to enhance solar readiness)	24	6.6%
Energy procurement (solar leases, power purchase agreement, solar financing)	28	7.7%
Tax and economic impact assessment (revenue share decision analysis)	53	14.5%
Low impact development (pollinators, livestock grazing)	37	10.1%
Locality best practices (Tips and Tricks from other localities)	72	19.7%
No, not interested	16	4.4%
Other	11	3.0%
Total	365	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.4.1. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Agricultural, farmland impacts*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	19	17.4%
Minimal Interest	6	5.5%
Some Interest	26	23.9%
A lot of Interest	36	33.0%
The Most Interest	22	20.2%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 1.4.2. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Decommissioning*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	15	13.8%
Minimal Interest	13	11.9%
Some Interest	27	24.8%
A lot of Interest	36	33.0%
The Most Interest	18	16.5%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.4.3. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Emergency response*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	8	7.3%
Minimal Interest	27	24.8%
Some Interest	37	34.0%
A lot of Interest	29	26.6%
The Most Interest	8	7.3%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 1.4.4. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *End users, corporate buyers, energy off-takers*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	14	12.8%
Minimal Interest	27	24.8%
Some Interest	39	35.8%
A lot of Interest	23	21.1%
The Most Interest	6	5.5%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.4.5. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Energy equity, environmental justice*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	14	12.8%
Minimal Interest	27	24.8%
Some Interest	38	34.9%
A lot of Interest	24	22.0%
The Most Interest	6	5.5%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 1.4.6. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Forests, timbering, carbon sequestration*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	19	17.4%
Minimal Interest	19	17.4%
Some Interest	37	34.0%
A lot of Interest	28	25.7%
The Most Interest	6	5.5%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.4.7. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Low impact development, agrivoltaics*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	12	11.0%
Minimal Interest	13	11.9%
Some Interest	42	38.6%
A lot of Interest	35	32.1%
The Most Interest	7	6.4%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 1.4.8. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Property values, economic benefits, taxation*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	8	7.3%
Minimal Interest	8	7.3%
Some Interest	27	24.8%
A lot of Interest	46	42.2%
The Most Interest	20	18.4%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.4.9. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Soil and water conservation and protection*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	8	7.4%
Minimal Interest	14	12.8%
Some Interest	35	32.1%
A lot of Interest	35	32.1%
The Most Interest	17	15.6%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 1.4.10. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Transmission, grid, energy storage, resiliency*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	12	11.0%
Minimal Interest	21	19.3%
Some Interest	41	37.6%
A lot of Interest	26	23.9%
The Most Interest	9	8.2%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.4.11. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Viewsheds, cultural, historic resources*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	6	5.5%
Minimal Interest	16	14.7%
Some Interest	30	27.5%
A lot of Interest	43	39.4%
The Most Interest	14	12.9%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 1.4.12. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: *Wildlife, habitat fragmentation and conservation*

	Frequency	Percent
No interest	15	13.8%
Minimal Interest	11	10.1%
Some Interest	33	30.3%
A lot of Interest	43	39.4%
The Most Interest	7	6.4%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 1: SOLAR READINESS

Question 1.4.13. To help DMME and UVA understand your priorities related to the siting and development of utility scale solar, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics: <i>Landowner leases, property rights</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
No interest	9	8.3%
Minimal Interest	18	16.5%
Some Interest	40	36.7%
A lot of Interest	31	28.4%
The Most Interest	11	10.1%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.1. Does your locality have a formalized process for making decisions regarding electricity procurement for your own public buildings? (i.e., necessary channels to go through to introduce a new fuel type into your energy mix)		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	13.8%
No	52	47.7%
Not sure	42	38.5%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.2. What buildings and entities are covered by your locality's electricity procurement? Check all that apply.		
	Frequency	Percent
Administrative Offices	43	12.3%
Fire & Rescue	36	10.3%
Police Station	41	11.7%
Courthouse	37	10.6%
Schools (even if their procurement is managed by your locality's School Board)	41	11.7%
Parks & Recreational Facilities	40	11.5%
Public Works/ General Services/ Transportation & Fleet Services	40	11.5%
Not sure	58	16.6%
Other	13	3.8%
Total	349	100.0%

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.3. What is your locality's experience with using "energy-positive building design" for new public-school buildings?		
	Frequency	Percent
No Experience	52	47.7%
Some Experience	21	19.3%
Extensive Experience	2	1.8%
Not Sure	34	31.2%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 2.4. Does your locality have a policy requiring solar photovoltaics be considered in the design of new public buildings?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	5.5%
No	78	71.6%
Not sure	21	19.2%
Other	4	3.7%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.5. Does your locality procure any of its own energy load from solar?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	15.6%
No, we have no plans to procure any of our own energy load from solar	44	40.4%
Not sure	33	30.3%
No, not at this time but we are working towards it within the next 2 years	15	13.7%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 2.6. (If response to Q2.5 = Yes or No, not at this time but we are working towards it within the next 2 years) . Is (or will) any of the solar energy be procured from on-site solar installations such as rooftop or ground-mounted systems on public property?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	22	20.2%	68.7%
No	2	1.8%	6.3%
Not sure	8	7.4%	25.0%
Response Total	32	29.4%	100.0%
Not Included	77	70.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

**Question 2.7. (If response to Q2.5 = Yes or No, not at this time but we are working towards it within the next 2 years) .
Are (or will) your solar installation(s) be owned or procured through a power purchase agreement (PPA)?**

	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Owned	2	1.8%	6.3%
PPA	9	8.3%	28.1%
Not sure	19	17.4%	59.4%
Both: we have project(s) that are owned and project(s) that are procured though a PPA	2	1.9%	6.2%
Response Total	32	29.4%	100.0%
Not Included	77	70.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

**Question 2.9. (If response to Q2.5 = No, we have no plans to procure any of our own energy load from solar)
Has your locality considered incorporating solar in its generation mix?**

	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	5	4.6%	11.4%
No	25	22.9%	56.8%
Not sure	14	12.9%	31.8%
Response Total	44	40.4%	100.0%
Not Included	65	59.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.10. (If response to Q2.9 = Yes)			
Is your locality actively pursuing the installation of solar systems on public buildings or public land?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	0	0.0%	0.0%
No	5	4.6%	100.0%
Not sure	0	0.0%	0.0%
Response Total	5	4.6%	100.0%
Not Included	104	95.4%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 2.11. (If response to Q2.9 = Yes)			
Has your locality encountered barriers which have prevented solar from being incorporated into its energy generation mix?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	4	3.7%	80.0%
No	0	0.0%	0.0%
Not sure	1	0.9%	20.0%
Response Total	5	4.6%	100.0%
Not Included	104	95.4%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.12.1. (If response to Q2.9 = Yes) Please allocate 100 points between the choices below, giving the most points to the topics that pose the biggest barriers (total must add up to 100): <i>Site not suitable for solar</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
20.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
25.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
50.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
Response Total	4	3.7%	100.0%
Not Included	105	96.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.12.2. <i>(If response to Q2.9 = Yes)</i> Please allocate 100 points between the choices below, giving the most points to the topics that pose the biggest barriers (total must add up to 100): <i>Upfront costs, financing</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
15.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
20.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
50.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
100.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
Response Total	4	3.7%	100.0%
Not Included	105	96.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 2.12.3. <i>(If response to Q2.9 = Yes)</i> Please allocate 100 points between the choices below, giving the most points to the topics that pose the biggest barriers (total must add up to 100): <i>Lack of staff time, capacity, bandwidth</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0.00 Points	2	1.9%	50.0%
20.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
25.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
Response Total	4	3.7%	100.0%
Not Included	105	96.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.12.4. (If response to Q2.9 = Yes) Please allocate 100 points between the choices below, giving the most points to the topics that pose the biggest barriers (total must add up to 100): <i>Lack of support or direction from leadership</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0.00 Points	2	1.9%	50.0%
25.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
35.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
Response Total	4	3.7%	100.0%
Not Included	105	96.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 2.12.5. (If response to Q2.9 = Yes) Please allocate 100 points between the choices below, giving the most points to the topics that pose the biggest barriers (total must add up to 100): <i>Complication in the process</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0.00 Points	2	1.9%	50.0%
5.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
10.00 Points	1	0.9%	25.0%
ResponseTotal	4	3.7%	100.0%
Not Included	105	96.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.12.6. (If response to Q2.9 = Yes)			
Please allocate 100 points between the choices below, giving the most points to the topics that pose the biggest barriers (total must add up to 100): Other			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0.00 Points	4	3.7%	100.0%
Response Total	4	3.7%	100.0%
Not Included	105	96.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 2.13. (If response to Q2.7 = PPA or Both: we have project(s) that are owned and project(s) that are procured through a PPA)			
Has your locality joined a PPA through a rider arrangement?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	3	2.7%	27.2%
No	4	3.7%	36.4%
Not Sure	4	3.7%	36.4%
Response Total	11	10.1%	100.0%
Not Included	98	89.9%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.14. (If response to Q2.13 = No or Not Sure) Are you interested in learning more about cooperative procurement models and examples?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	4	3.7%	50.0%
No	2	1.8%	25.0%
Not Sure	2	1.8%	25.0%
Response Total	8	7.3%	100.0%
Not Included	101	92.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 2.15. In the box below, please describe your biggest concerns and/or questions about incorporating solar into your locality's own energy generation mix, or select "No concerns" if you have none.		
	Frequency	Percent
Concerns/Questions (Please describe)	33	30.3%
No concerns	36	33.0%
Not sure	40	36.7%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.16.1. Rate how familiar you are with each solar policy mechanism: <i>Federal Investment Tax Credit</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all familiar	52	47.7%
Slightly familiar	34	31.2%
Somewhat familiar	9	8.2%
Moderately familiar	5	4.6%
Extremely familiar	4	3.7%
No response	5	4.6%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 2.16.2. Rate how familiar you are with each solar policy mechanism: <i>Net-metering</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all familiar	45	41.3%
Slightly familiar	33	30.3%
Somewhat familiar	11	10.1%
Moderately familiar	8	7.3%
Extremely familiar	7	6.4%
No response	5	4.6%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.16.3. Rate how familiar you are with each solar policy mechanism: *Virtual net-metering (meter aggregation)*

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all familiar	71	65.1%
Slightly familiar	21	19.3%
Somewhat familiar	8	7.3%
Moderately familiar	1	0.9%
Extremely familiar	3	2.8%
No response	5	4.6%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 2.16.4. Rate how familiar you are with each solar policy mechanism: *Power Purchase Agreements (including Virtual PPAs)*

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all familiar	48	44.0%
Slightly familiar	29	26.6%
Somewhat familiar	17	15.6%
Moderately familiar	5	4.6%
Extremely familiar	5	4.6%
No response	5	4.6%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

Question 2.16.5. Rate how familiar you are with each solar policy mechanism: Shared, Community Solar		
	Frequency	Percent (including non-respondents)
Not at all familiar	51	46.8%
Slightly familiar	23	21.1%
Somewhat familiar	19	17.4%
Moderately familiar	6	5.5%
Extremely familiar	4	3.7%
No response	6	5.5%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 3: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Question 3.1.1. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, does your locality provide any of the following online: *Summary of the permitting process (permitting checklist)*

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	59	54.1%
No	48	44.0%
Not sure	2	1.9%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 3.1.2. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, does your locality provide any of the following online: *Examples of typical building plans*

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	16	14.7%
No	90	82.6%
Not sure	3	2.8%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 3: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Question 3.1.3. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, does your locality provide any of the following online: <i>Fee schedule</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	76	69.7%
No	32	29.4%
Not sure	1	0.9%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 3.1.4. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, does your locality provide any of the following online: <i>Local design criteria for building permits</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	42	38.5%
No	60	55.1%
Not sure	7	6.4%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 3: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Question 3.1.5. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, does your locality provide any of the following online: <i>Incentives (summary of policy and/or forms)</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	13.8%
No	88	80.7%
Not sure	6	5.5%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 3.2.1. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, can an applicant in your locality do any of the following online: <i>Apply for a building permit</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	68	62.4%
No	37	33.9%
Not sure	4	3.7%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 3: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Question 3.2.2. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, can an applicant in your locality do any of the following online: <i>Submit construction plans/ drawings</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	64	58.7%
No	40	36.7%
Not sure	5	4.6%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 3.2.3. Regarding residential and commercial solar permitting and inspections, can an applicant in your locality do any of the following online: <i>Schedule an inspection</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	51	46.8%
No	51	46.8%
Not sure	7	6.4%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 3: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Question 3.3. Research shows that standardized permitting requirements across neighboring localities lowers the cost of solar installation. To what extent are you interested in your locality adopting a uniform permit review procedure?

	Frequency	Percent
Not all interested	16	14.7%
Somewhat interested	47	43.1%
Very interested	18	16.5%
Our locality has already adopted standardized permitting requirements	7	6.4%
Not Sure	21	19.3%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 3.4. Research shows that online permitting lowers the cost of solar installation. To what extent are you interested in your locality adopting an online permit review procedure, such as the SolarAPP tool offered through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory?

	Frequency	Percent
Not all interested	18	16.5%
Somewhat interested	24	22.0%
Very interested	18	16.5%
Our locality has already adopted standardized permitting requirements	30	27.6%
Not Sure	19	17.4%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 3: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Question 3.5. If your locality operates an electric utility, does it allow customers generating solar energy to “net meter” any excess solar generation?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.8%
No	5	4.6%
Not sure	12	11.0%
Not applicable	89	81.6%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 3.6. Has your locality adopted by ordinance a policy to exempt or partially exempt solar equipment from property taxes, as permitted by Virginia Code Section 58.1-3661?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	10	9.2%
No	64	58.7%
Not sure	35	32.1%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 3: DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Question 3.7. (If response to Q3.6 = No; n= 64) To the best of your knowledge, why does your locality not exempt or partially exempt solar equipment from property taxes? Choose all that apply.		
	Number of Selections	Percent
Unaware tax exemption was allowed	5	7.0%
Because of potential fiscal impacts/revenue loss	20	27.8%
Citizens have not expressed interest	15	20.8%
Not sure	26	36.1%
Other	6	8.3%
Response Total	72	100.0%

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.1. Is your locality large enough to accomodate a large or utility scale solar facility?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (incuding non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	81	74.3%	75.0%
No	27	24.8%	25.0%
Response Total	108	99.1%	100.0%
Not Included	1	0.9%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 4.2. (If response to Q4.1 = Yes)			
Has your locality ever reviewed an application (e.g., conditional use permit, special use permit, special exception, or Code of Virginia section 15.2-2232 compliance review) for a large or utility scale solar facility?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (incuding non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	51	46.8%	63.0%
No	28	25.7%	34.5%
Not sure	2	1.8%	2.5%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.3.1. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) Per 9VAC15-60-130, for projects with capacity of 500 KW up to 5 MW, please indicate: How many applications reviewed total?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	13	11.9%	25.5%
1	11	10.1%	21.5%
2	6	5.5%	11.7%
3	12	11.0%	23.5%
4	3	2.8%	5.9%
5	1	0.9%	2.0%
7	1	0.9%	2.0%
8	1	0.9%	2.0%
10	1	0.9%	2.0%
15	2	1.9%	3.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.3.2. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) Per 9VAC15-60-130, for projects with capacity of 500 KW up to 5 MW, please indicate: How many applications currently under review?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	33	30.3%	64.7%
1	10	9.2%	19.6%
2	3	2.8%	5.9%
3	2	1.8%	3.9%
4	2	1.8%	3.9%
5	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.3.3. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) Per 9VAC15-60-130, for projects with capacity of 500 KW up to 5 MW, please indicate: How many applications approved?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	24	22.1%	4705.9%
1	12	11.0%	2352.9%
2	6	5.5%	1176.5%
3	5	4.6%	980.4%
5	1	0.9%	196.1%
6	1	0.9%	196.1%
12	1	0.9%	196.1%
14	1	0.9%	196.1%
Response Total	51	46.8%	10000.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	NA

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.3.4. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) Per 9VAC15-60-130, for projects with capacity of 500 KW up to 5 MW, please indicate: How many applications withdrawn (and not resubmitted)?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	42	38.6%	82.3%
1	7	6.4%	13.7%
2	1	0.9%	2.0%
3	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	10000.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.3.5. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) Per 9VAC15-60-130, for projects with capacity of 500 KW up to 5 MW, please indicate: How many applications denied?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	44	40.3%	86.3%
1	3	2.8%	5.9%
2	3	2.8%	5.9%
4	1	0.9%	1.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.4.1. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 5-79 MW, please indicate: How many applications reviewed total? (Include those currently under review)			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	16	14.7%	31.4%
1	11	10.1%	21.6%
2	6	5.5%	11.8%
3	11	10.1%	21.6%
5	4	3.7%	7.8%
6	1	0.9%	2.0%
9	1	0.9%	2.0%
30 *	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

**Public data sources indicate this one response of 30 may be a typo. The survey team interprets this as 3 for the purposes of interpretation and discussion.*

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.4.2. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 5-79 MW, please indicate: How many applications currently under review?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	44	40.4%	86.3%
1	6	5.5%	11.7%
3	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.4.3. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 5-79 MW, please indicate: How many applications approved?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	22	20.2%	43.1%
1	11	10.1%	21.6%
2	4	3.7%	7.8%
3	10	9.2%	19.6%
5	2	1.8%	3.9%
6	1	0.9%	2.0%
9	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.4.4. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 5-79 MW, please indicate: <i>How many applications withdrawn (and not resubmitted)?</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	45	41.3%	88.2%
1	4	3.7%	7.9%
2	2	1.8%	3.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 4.4.5. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 5-79 MW, please indicate: <i>How many applications denied?</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	46	42.2%	90.2%
1	4	3.7%	7.8%
2	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.5.1. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 80-149 MW, please indicate: How many applications reviewed total? (Include those currently under review)			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	34	31.2%	66.6%
1	10	9.2%	19.6%
2	2	1.8%	3.9%
3	1	0.9%	2.0%
4	1	0.9%	2.0%
5	3	2.8%	5.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.5.2. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 80-149 MW, please indicate: How many applications currently under review?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	48	44.0%	94.1%
1	3	2.8%	5.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.5.3. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 80-149 MW, please indicate: How many applications approved?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	39	35.8%	76.5%
1	7	6.5%	13.7%
2	2	1.8%	3.9%
3	1	0.9%	2.0%
4	2	1.8%	3.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.5.4. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 80-149 MW, please indicate: How many applications withdrawn (and not resubmitted)?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	45	41.3%	88.2%
1	4	3.7%	7.9%
2	2	1.8%	3.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 4.5.5. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 5-79 MW, please indicate: How many applications denied?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	48	44.0%	94.1%
1	3	2.8%	5.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.6.1. <i>(If response to Q4.2 = Yes)</i> For projects with a capacity of 150 MW and above, please indicate: How many applications reviewed total? <i>(Include those currently under review)</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	38	34.9%	74.5%
1	10	9.2%	19.6%
2	1	0.9%	2.0%
3	2	1.8%	3.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 4.6.2. <i>(If response to Q4.2 = Yes)</i> For projects with a capacity of 150 MW and above, please indicate: How many applications currently under review?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	48	44.0%	94.1%
1	2	1.9%	3.9%
2	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.6.3. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes)			
For projects with a capacity of 150 MW and above, please indicate:			
<i>How many applications approved?</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	42	38.6%	82.3%
1	8	7.3%	15.7%
2	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 4.6.4. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes)			
For projects with a capacity of 150 MW and above, please indicate:			
<i>How many applications withdrawn (and not resubmitted)?</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	49	45.0%	96.0%
1	1	0.9%	2.0%
2	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.6.5. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes) For projects with a capacity of 150 MW and above, please indicate: How many applications denied?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
0	50	45.9%	98.0%
1	1	0.9%	2.0%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.8. (If response to Q4.1 = Yes)

Regarding siting agreements, as passed in 2020 and updated in the 2021 legislative session, Virginia code section 15.2-2316.7 states:

“Any applicant for a solar project or energy storage project shall give to the host locality written notice of the applicant's intent to locate a solar in such locality and request a meeting. Such applicant shall meet, discuss, and negotiate a siting agreement with such locality.”

Are you aware of this section of the code?

	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	54	49.5%	66.6%
No	22	20.2%	27.2%
Not sure	5	4.6%	6.2%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.9. (If response to Q4.1 = Yes)			
Has your locality ever entered into a siting agreement negotiation process for a solar project?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes, at least one agreement was negotiated	8	7.3%	9.9%
Negotiations are in progress, but not yet finalized	10	9.2%	12.3%
No	63	57.8%	77.8%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 4.10. (If response to Q4.2 = Yes)			
Would your locality be interested in participating in a case study project to help develop Virginia-based best practice guidance related to utility scale solar development?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	22	20.2%	43.1%
No	29	26.6%	56.9%
Response Total	51	46.8%	100.0%
Not Included	58	53.2%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.1. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Avoidance of invasive species</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	32	29.4%	39.5%
No	36	33.0%	44.4%
Not Sure	13	11.9%	16.1%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.2. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Conservation easements, in Land Use Assessment Program</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	30	27.5%	37.0%
No	43	39.5%	53.1%
Not Sure	8	7.3%	9.9%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	NA

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.3. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Erosion and sediment control</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	68	62.4%	85.0%
No	9	8.2%	11.2%
Not Sure	3	2.8%	3.8%
Response Total	80	73.4%	100.0%
Not Included	29	26.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.4. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Habitat fragmentation, wildlife-friendly design elements (e.g., fencing)</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	40	36.7%	49.4%
No	34	31.2%	42.0%
Not Sure	7	6.4%	8.6%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.5. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Historic, cultural resources</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	53	48.6%	65.4%
No	23	21.1%	28.4%
Not Sure	5	4.6%	6.2%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.6. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Redevelopment of brownfields or previously-developed sites for solar</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	20	18.3%	24.7%
No	51	46.8%	63.0%
Not Sure	10	9.2%	12.3%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.7. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Pollinator-friendly species</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	30	27.5%	37.5%
No	37	44.0%	46.2%
Not Sure	13	11.9%	16.3%
Response Total	80	73.4%	100.0%
Not Included	29	26.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.8. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>Scenic rivers</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	27	24.8%	33.7%
No	42	38.5%	52.5%
Not Sure	11	10.1%	13.8%
Response Total	80	73.4%	100.0%
Not Included	29	26.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.11.9. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> Do your local regulations specify criteria for the evaluation of the following topics when reviewing a utility-scale solar facility application: <i>State Wildlife Action Plan</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	11	10.1%	13.6%
No	48	44.0%	59.2%
Not Sure	22	20.2%	27.2%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.12.1. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> To what extent do your local regulations enable the following low impact development practices for utility scale solar facilities: <i>Pollinator-friendly planting</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Not allowed	1	0.9%	1.2%
Allowed, but not recommended or required	18	16.5%	22.2%
Recommended, but not required	14	12.9%	17.3%
Required to be satisfied	17	15.6%	21.0%
Silent, No Position	31	28.4%	38.3%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.12.2. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> To what extent do your local regulations enable the following low impact development practices for utility scale solar facilities: <i>Vegetative ground cover (native or otherwise)</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Not allowed	1	0.9%	1.2%
Allowed, but not recommended or required	7	6.4%	8.6%
Recommended, but not required	7	6.4%	8.6%
Required to be satisfied	42	38.6%	51.9%
Silent, No Position	24	22.0%	29.7%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.12.3. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> To what extent do your local regulations enable the following low impact development practices for utility scale solar facilities: <i>Animal grazing as a means of ground maintenance</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Not allowed	2	1.8%	2.5%
Allowed, but not recommended or required	22	20.2%	27.2%
Recommended, but not required	11	10.1%	13.5%
Required to be satisfied	3	2.8%	3.7%
Silent, No Position	43	39.4%	53.1%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.12.4. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> To what extent do your local regulations enable the following low impact development practices for utility scale solar facilities: <i>Apiary/Beekeeping</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Not allowed	2	1.8%	2.5%
Allowed, but not recommended or required	24	22.0%	29.6%
Recommended, but not required	6	5.5%	7.4%
Required to be satisfied	3	2.8%	3.7%
Silent, No Position	46	42.2%	56.8%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.12.5. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> To what extent do your local regulations enable the following low impact development practices for utility scale solar facilities: <i>Dual-use of agriculture and solar photovoltaics (agrivoltaics)</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Not allowed	2	1.8%	2.5%
Allowed, but not recommended or required	22	20.2%	27.2%
Recommended, but not required	6	5.5%	7.4%
Required to be satisfied	4	3.7%	4.9%
Silent, No Position	47	43.1%	58.0%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 4: UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

Question 4.12.6. <i>(If response to Q4.1 = Yes)</i> To what extent do your local regulations enable the following low impact development practices for utility scale solar facilities: <i>Soil health management</i>			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Not allowed	1	0.9%	1.2%
Allowed, but not recommended or required	13	11.9%	16.0%
Recommended, but not required	11	10.1%	13.6%
Required to be satisfied	16	14.7%	19.8%
Silent, No Position	40	36.7%	49.4%
Response Total	81	74.3%	100.0%
Not Included	28	25.7%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 5: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Question 5.1.1. Does your comprehensive plan or policies adopted by reference speak to any of the following topics: <i>Sustainability goals</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, adopted	47	43.1%
No, but we are in the process of updating to include	14	12.8%
No, but we are contemplating adding it in next revision cycle	15	13.8%
No, no current plans to include	22	20.2%
Not Sure	11	10.1%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 5: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Question 5.1.2. Does your comprehensive plan or policies adopted by reference speak to any of the following topics: <i>Renewable/Clean Energy</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, adopted	30	27.5%
No, but we are in the process of updating to include	14	12.8%
No, but we are contemplating adding it in next revision cycle	24	22.0%
No, no current plans to include	31	28.5%
Not Sure	10	9.2%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 5.1.3. Does your comprehensive plan or policies adopted by reference speak to any of the following topics: <i>Greenhouse gas emissions, carbon reduction strategies</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, adopted	19	17.4%
No, but we are in the process of updating to include	8	7.4%
No, but we are contemplating adding it in next revision cycle	17	15.6%
No, no current plans to include	52	47.7%
Not Sure	13	11.9%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 5: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Question 5.1.4. Does your comprehensive plan or policies adopted by reference speak to any of the following topics: <i>Community disaster preparedness and energy resiliency</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, adopted	20	18.4%
No, but we are in the process of updating to include	14	12.8%
No, but we are contemplating adding it in next revision cycle	22	20.2%
No, no current plans to include	34	31.2%
Not Sure	19	17.4%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 5.2. Does your comprehensive plan prioritize general areas or types of lands that are preferred for utility scale solar energy generation facilities?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	18	16.5%
No	76	69.7%
Other (Please explain)	15	13.8%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 5: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Question 5.3. (If response to Q5.2 = Yes; n= 18) What are the characteristics of the land identified? Choose all that apply.		
	Number of Selections	Percent
Previously-disturbed land, brownfields, coal-impacted lands including Abandoned Mine Lands	7	18.9%
Industrial land	6	16.3%
Agricultural land	10	27.0%
Land adjacent or within a certain proximity to existing electric infrastructure/grid	10	27.0%
Commercial timber land	2	5.4%
Other	2	5.4%
Total	37	100.0%

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.1. Does your locality have a zoning ordinance or UDO (unified development ordinance)?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	100	91.7%
No	9	8.3%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 6.2. (If response to Q6.1 = Yes) Does your locality's ordinance provide a clear regulatory pathway for approval of distributed generation solar projects?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	48	44.0%	48.0%
No	38	34.9%	38.0%
Not Sure	14	12.8%	14.0%
Response Total	100	91.7%	100.0%
Not Included	9	8.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.3. (If response to Q6.3= Yes) Is the regulatory pathway for approval of distributed generation solar projects an administrative approval process?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	19	17.4%	39.6%
No	23	21.1%	47.9%
Not Sure	1	0.9%	2.1%
Other (Please explain)	5	4.6%	10.4%
Response Total	48	44.0%	100.0%
Not Included	61	56.0%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.4. (If response to Q6.1 = Yes)			
Does your locality's ordinance provide a clear regulatory pathway for approval of utility scale solar facilities?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	56	51.4%	56.0%
No	23	21.1%	23.0%
Not sure	7	6.4%	7.0%
Not applicable because our locality is too small or developed to accommodate any utility scale solar projects	14	12.8%	14.0%
Response Total	100	91.7%	100.0%
Not Included	9	8.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.5. (If response to Q6.4 = Yes; n = 56) What regulatory pathway(s) are used for approval of utility scale solar projects? Check all that apply:		
	Number of Selections	Percent
With a conditional use permit, special use permit, special exception permit	53	76.8%
By-right in certain districts	11	15.9%
In an overlay district	1	1.5%
In a floating district	2	2.9%
Other	2	2.9%
Total	69	100.0%

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.6. (If response to Q6.5 = With a conditional use permit, special use permit, special exception permit; n= 53) In which types of districts is a conditional use permit/special use permit/special exception an approval pathway for utility scale solar? Choose all that apply:

	Number of Selections	Percent
Agricultural/Rural	47	40.2%
Residential	10	8.5%
Civic/Institutional	5	4.3%
Commercial	19	16.2%
Manufacturing/Industrial	26	22.2%
Floating Zone or Overlay District	5	4.3%
Other	5	4.3%
Total	117	100.0%

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.7. (If response to Q6.4 = Yes)			
Is the dual-use of agriculture and solar photovoltaics (agrivoltaics) allowed in non-agricultural districts?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	20	18.4%	35.7%
No	25	22.9%	44.7%
Not sure	11	10.1%	19.6%
Response Total	56	51.4%	100.0%
Not Included	53	48.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

Question 6.8. (If Q6.4 = No)			
Is your locality actively working towards adding a clear regulatory pathway for utility scale solar facilities to the ordinance?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	8	7.3%	34.8%
No	11	10.1%	47.8%
Not sure	4	3.7%	17.4%
Response Total	23	21.1%	100.0%
Not Included	86	78.9%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.9. (If Q6.8 = Yes) What regulatory pathways is/are your locality adding for utility scale solar? Choose all that apply:		
	Number of Selections	Percent
By-right in certain districts	3	27.3%
With a conditional use permit/special use permit/special exception in specific districts	7	63.6%
In an overlay district	1	9.1%
Total	11	100.0%

Question 6.10. Has your locality adopted a solar ordinance?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	41.3%
We are in the process of adopting a solar ordinance	10	9.2%
No	43	39.4%
Not sure	1	0.9%
Other (Please explain)	10	9.2%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.11. (If Q6.10 = Yes or We are in the process of adopting a solar ordinance; n= 55)

Which of the following solar applications does/will your solar ordinance address? Choose all that apply:

	Number of Selections	Percent
Residential	36	23.1%
Commercial, Institutional	33	21.2%
Agricultural generators	18	11.5%
Shared or Community solar	15	9.6%
Utility scale solar	51	32.7%
Not sure	1	0.6%
Other	2	1.3%
Total	156	100.0%

SECTION 6: ZONING

Question 6.12. (If Q6.10 = Yes or We are in the process of adopting a solar ordinance; n= 55)
Does it, or will it, address any of the following? Check all that apply:

	Number of Responses	Percent
Provisions for generally accepted national standards for solar panels	28	10.2%
Provisions for generally accepted national standards for battery storage technologies for solar photovoltaic	16	5.8%
Property line setbacks	52	18.9%
Vegetated buffers or screening	49	17.8%
Erosion & sediment control	46	16.7%
Agricultural lands	30	10.9%
Decommissioning Plan requirements above and beyond state code requirements	45	16.4%
Agrivoltaics	6	2.2%
Other	3	1.1%
Total	275	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.1. Has your locality considered or reviewed one or more economic impact analyses relating to solar development? (This includes economic impact analyses created internally by your locality.)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	37	33.9%
No	55	50.5%
Not sure	17	15.6%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.2. How important are DIRECT economic impacts (e.g., tax revenue, revenue share or siting agreement proceeds) in your recommendation to approve or deny a utility scale solar application?		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all important	7	6.4%
Slightly important	15	13.8%
Moderately important	26	23.9%
Very important	31	28.4%
No response	5	4.6%
Not sure	25	22.9%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.3.1. How important are each of the INDIRECT economic impacts listed below in your recommendation to approve or deny a utility scale solar application:

Generation of local construction jobs

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all important	18	16.5%
Slightly important	25	22.9%
Moderately important	21	19.3%
Very important	16	14.7%
No response	3	2.8%
Not sure	26	23.8%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.3.2. How important are each of the INDIRECT economic impacts listed below in your recommendation to approve or deny a utility scale solar application:
Increased revenue and demand for local businesses and services during construction and decommissioning

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all important	18	16.5%
Slightly important	24	22.0%
Moderately important	24	22.0%
Very important	12	11.0%
No response	3	2.8%
Not sure	28	25.7%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.3.3. How important are each of the INDIRECT economic impacts listed below in your recommendation to approve or deny a utility scale solar application: <i>Increased revenue and demand for local businesses and services</i>		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all important	16	14.7%
Slightly important	25	22.9%
Moderately important	19	17.4%
Very important	16	14.7%
No response	4	3.7%
Not sure	29	26.6%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

**Question 7.3.4. How important are each of the INDIRECT economic impacts listed below in your recommendation to approve or deny a utility scale solar application:
*Financial benefits to the property owner leasing their land to the solar developer***

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all important	26	23.8%
Slightly important	29	26.6%
Moderately important	10	9.2%
Very important	10	9.2%
No response	5	4.6%
Not sure	29	26.6%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 7.4. How familiar are you with new legislation which makes changes to the current Machinery and Tools (M&T) tax exemption for solar projects and introduces a revenue share option for projects over 5MW? (VA Code 58.1-2636)

	Frequency	Percent
Not at all	41	37.6%
Slightly familiar	29	26.6%
Moderately familiar	21	19.3%
Very familiar	13	11.9%
No response	5	4.6%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.5. Has your locality evaluated the potential economic impacts of adopting a revenue share assessment ordinance as opposed to using the default M&T/real estate tax rate?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	29	26.6%
No	53	48.6%
Not sure	27	24.8%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 7.6. Has your locality used SolTax, a free, online computational tool to help localities analyze potential revenues under both the M&T/real estate tax rate and revenue share assessment models?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	13.8%
No	63	57.8%
Not sure	31	28.4%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.7. Has your locality adopted or is in the process of adopting a revenue share ordinance?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, adopted	7	6.4%
Yes, in the process of adopting	9	8.3%
No	65	59.6%
Not sure	28	25.7%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Question 7.8. Effective July 1, 2021, Virginia localities are authorized by HB1919 (§ 15.2-958.3:1) to establish, by ordinance, a green bank to promote investment in solar and other clean energy technologies in that locality. To what extent is your locality considering establishing a green bank?		
	Frequency	Percent
Not at all: we did not know about the authorizing legislation and/or are unfamiliar with what a green bank is.	38	34.9%
Not actively: we are aware of green banks and the authorizing legislation, but we are not actively pursuing establishing one.	22	20.2%
Actively: we have had/are having discussions about potentially establishing a green bank.	2	1.8%
Not sure if this is being considered at this time.	47	43.1%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 8: ENERGY STORAGE

Question 8.1. Does your locality have policies or codes that address large or utility scale (front of the meter) energy storage as an allowable use?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	18.3%
No	68	62.4%
Not sure	21	19.3%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 8.2. (If response to Q8.1 = Yes) Does your locality require emergency preparedness plans for utility scale battery storage projects?			
	Frequency	Total Percent (including non-respondents)	Valid Percent (of localities that responded)
Yes	10	9.2%	50.0%
No	10	9.2%	50.0%
Response Total	20	18.4%	100.0%
Not Included	89	81.6%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 8: ENERGY STORAGE

Question 8.3. Does your locality have any actively permitted large or utility scale energy storage projects?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	6.4%
No	95	87.2%
Not sure	7	6.4%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 8.4. <i>(If response to Q8.3 = Yes; n= 7)</i> What type(s) of actively permitted large scale energy storage projects does your locality have? Choose all that apply.		
	Number of Selections	Percent
Lithium Ion Batteries	5	62.5%
Not sure	2	25.0%
Other	1	12.5%
Total	8	100.0%

SECTION 8: ENERGY STORAGE

Question 8.5. Are there any large or utility scale energy storage projects proposed or planned in your locality?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	28	25.7%
No	64	58.7%
Not sure	17	15.6%
Total	109	100.0%

Question 8.6. (If response to Q8.5 = Yes) Are the proposed project(s) standalone energy storage or tied in with a solar project (solar+storage)?			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Standalone energy storage	14	12.8%	50.0%
Solar + storage	7	6.4%	25.0%
Not Sure	4	3.7%	14.3%
Other (Please describe)	3	2.8%	10.7%
Response Total	28	25.7%	100.0%
Not Included	81	74.3%	N/A
Total	109	100.0%	N/A

SECTION 8: ENERGY STORAGE

Question 8.7. (If response to Q8.5 = Yes; n= 28)

What type of energy storage projects are proposed or planned? Choose all that apply, if known.

	Number of Selections	Percent
Lithium Ion Batteries	12	41.4%
Not sure	16	55.2%
Other	1	3.4%
Total	29	100.0%

Question 8.8. To what extent has your locality considered solar + storage as a resiliency tool?

	Frequency	Percent
Our locality has not considered microgrids as a resiliency tool	70	64.2%
Our locality is considering policies to allow and/or promote microgrids as a resiliency tool	10	9.2%
Our locality has already adopted policies that allow and/or promote microgrids as a resiliency tool	2	1.8%
Not sure	27	24.8%
Total	109	100.0%

SECTION 9: COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION (URBANICITY)

Question 9.3. Of the following choices, how would you characterize your locality?		
	Frequency	Percent
Urban	19	17.4%
Suburban	10	9.2%
Rural	49	45.0%
Combination (Please describe)	30	27.5%
Other (Please describe)	1	0.9%
Total	109	100.0%