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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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## **Virginia Department of Energy issues a Request for Proposals for Residential Solar Installation in Wise County**

**BIG STONE GAP, VA-** Solar will soon be available to Wise County homeowners. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for companies interested in financing and installing solar on low to moderate income housing.

In partnership with the Virginia Clean Advisory Board and the Clean Energy States Alliance, Virginia Energy plans to use the results of how this RFP is executed to plan for a Low to Moderate Income Solar Loan and Rebate fund. The results will also provide a look at energy savings to those that receive an installation.

“Virginia Energy prides itself on energy savings we’ve seen across the Commonwealth through our various programs,” **said Director John Warren.** “This opportunity will help lower energy bills for residents. Solar is an important piece in Virginia Energy’s economic development efforts in southwest Virginia and we hope to see new companies and new jobs as a result.”

Companies interested should submit their financing proposals through [eVA](#). Maximizing federal, state and local renewable energy incentives, as well as leveraging private investments, is encouraged for those interested. This RFP includes \$460,000 in federal funds from Virginia Energy for the residential solar. That includes actual installations on single family, owner-occupied homes and homeowner education. Proposals will be accepted through August 2nd.

Wise County was selected in part due to their Gold designation from SolSmart which means the locality is “solar ready”. The county also holds over 3,000 low to middle income homes that could be considered for this solar program. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s data, that many homes have a solar capacity of 23 megawatts.

Details of how to be a part of the program will be announced after a proposal is chosen.