



NEWS RELEASE

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Vienna zip code rises to top for solar installations in Northern Virginia

Since 2014 the 22180 zip code has accounted for more residential solar energy system installations through the Solarize NOVA program than any other zip code in the region. Twenty-nine homes in the 22180 zip code, almost exclusively composed of Town of Vienna residents, have installed solar over the past five years. Throughout Northern Virginia, 305 solar contracts have been implemented, meaning that solar system installation in Vienna's zip code accounts for almost 10% of the region.

"We've put a lot of effort into this," says Susan Stillman, chair of the Town of Vienna's Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC). The CSC has promoted the regional Solarize program in Vienna through community forums and marketing materials. "I'm really pleased to see that we've risen above."

Solarize NOVA, which is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and managed by the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP), is a community-based outreach initiative to bring solar power to homes and businesses throughout Northern Virginia. NVRC and LEAP partner with local governments and others to bring well negotiated contracts with vetted vendors to regional residents each spring.

"Local governments have long led the way in innovation in Virginia," says NVRC Executive Director Bob Lazaro. "This is just another shining example of how regionalism and localities working together make a positive difference.

"Our thanks to the Town of Vienna team and a super group of citizen volunteers," he adds. "It does make a difference. It is something to proud of."

Stillman reports that interest in solar energy appears to be gaining momentum as prices continue to drop and a federal tax credit, while less than it once was, remains available.

"There's more interest in solar all the time," she says, adding: "Solarize NOVA really simplifies the process of going solar as they do the hard work of vetting installers and negotiating prices, which effectively garners a group discount."

The next Solarize NOVA program will kick off in the spring.