

Promoting the Use of Native Pollinators at Virginia's Solar Installations



Solar Development in Virginia

- In the past 3 years, DEQ has received applications for solar projects totaling 4200+ MW on more than 42,500 acres
- Current:
 - 9 projects operational
 - Almost 7,000 acres
 - 320 MW in operation
- Huge increase in the rate of projects (80 MW in 2015; 120 MW in 2016; 426 in 2017; and, 230 so far in 2018)
- Significant future growth expected

RFP: Ecological Responsible and Pollinator-Smart Virginia Solar Industry

- Task 1: Assess the “[Virginia Solar Site Pollinator/Bird Habitat Scorecard](#)” and the “[Virginia Solar Site Native Plant Finder](#)”
- Task 2: Develop comprehensive manual for developers (site selection, site planning, performance monitoring, vegetation maintenance, retrofitting existing sites, data tracking and asset management, keys to success)
- Task 3: Develop monitoring plan to assess outcomes of the planting

- Task 4: Develop full business plan to launch a native plant materials (plants/seed) industry in Virginia
- Task 5: Collaboration with organizations that might pursue the business plan

