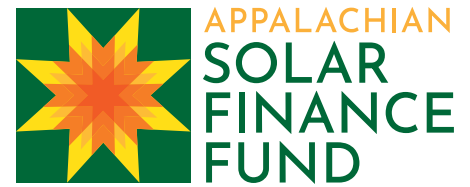


2022 SFF Impact Report



The Appalachian Solar Finance Fund (SFF) is powering a new energy future across Central Appalachia.

This regional financial and technical assistance program catalyzes solar development in the region's coal-impacted communities. The SFF provides competitive sub-grant awards for solar projects on nonprofit and public institutions and technical assistance to help local businesses go solar.

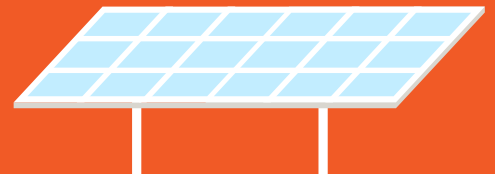
The resulting projects create jobs, support the growth of local solar enterprises, attract investment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and retain wealth in communities hard hit by the decline in the region's coal economy.

In its first year in operation, the SFF has awarded funding to four nonprofit youth education institutions, two county public school systems, a public library, a municipal government, a community event facility, a local independent grocery store, an animal shelter, a community farm, three faith institutions, two child advocacy and treatment facilities, and two local nonprofits providing support services to low-income and unhoused people.

And we're just getting started!

Year One Highlights:

- ✓ **\$478,000** in funding pledged
- ✓ **19** sub-grants and technical assistance contracts awarded
- ✓ **28** coal-impacted communities supported
- ✓ **5** Central Appalachian states served
- ✓ **\$8.8 Million** in private and public investment leveraged
- ✓ **4.3 Megawatts** of new solar energy deployed
- ✓ **\$13.6 Million** in energy costs saved



SOLAR COLLABORATION AT WORK



The SFF partnered with Invest Appalachia to develop a suite of flexible, risk- and cost-absorbing **Appalachian Clean Energy Credit Enhancements (ACECE)**. This program will help leverage large-scale repayable investment into promising solar projects that face financing obstacles unique to our region.



The SFF collaborated with Mountain Empire Community College and Southwest Virginia Community College to develop and launch the **Southwest Virginia Solar Workforce Accelerator**, a local jobs training pipeline. This innovative initiative is funded by the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) to increase opportunities for employment and diversify the economic base in the VCEDA region.



The first cohort of Southwest Virginia Solar Workforce Accelerator apprentices helped to complete SFF-supported solar installations at public schools in Wise and Lee Counties, Virginia. Some of these apprentices have advanced to full-time employment with a local solar installation company, while others are pursuing further education. This **replicable and scalable model for local workforce development** lays the groundwork for similar programs throughout Central Appalachia and beyond.



As a member of the southern West Virginia-based **ACT Now Coalition's RePower Appalachia Initiative**, the SFF serves as a coordinating hub for regional development of a renewable energy industry cluster. This work will train the region's next generation of energy workers, develop a pipeline of "shovel-ready" solar projects, and de-risk private investment in Central Appalachia's solar energy sector.

SFF AWARDEES SHINE BRIGHT

Wise & Lee County Public Schools, VA

- \$125,000 in SFF funding support and \$75,000 for paid apprenticeships via the Southwest Virginia Solar Workforce Accelerator
- 3.27 MW solar deployed at 11 public schools
- \$6,855,000 total investment
- \$11,500,000 lifetime cost savings



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV

- \$14,064 in SFF funding support
- 31-kW rooftop solar array
- \$57,276 total investment
- \$64,000 lifetime cost savings
- "The Solar Finance Fund grant really did serve as a catalyst for our congregation to go solar. The process has not been overly arduous; it has been very easy each and every step of the way. It really did make a huge difference for us." – Pastor Tony Setley



Good Works, Inc., Athens, OH

- \$8,250 in SFF funding support
- 11-kW rooftop solar array
- \$31,755 total investment
- \$40,574 lifetime cost savings
- This local nonprofit operates one of the oldest rural homeless shelters in Ohio and coordinates various volunteer and donation programs serving senior citizens, at-risk populations, and people with disabilities.



The SFF is a project of:



THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

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Learn more, support our work, and apply for financial and technical assistance at solarfinancefund.org.

