

Data Dictionary for Virginia Solar Project Database

Provided by Virginia Solar Initiative, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at UVA

Current as of 11/3/2024

Data Point	Working Definition	Source(s) Of Data
Data ID	Unique identifier assigned to each project by UVA. Projects that span multiple localities will be assigned a unique Data ID for each locality that reviewed the project.	Weldon Cooper Center at UVA
Locality	Jurisdiction having authority over local land use permitting; in other words, the name of the town, city, county where the project is proposed. Only one locality per project record; if more than one locality is permitting a project, the additional localities will each be given a project record. The additional localities will be listed under "Additional Localities".	Local permit documents, DEQ
Additional Localities	Name of additional localities if project required land use permitting from multiple localities.	Local permit documents, media, other reliable sources
Project Name	Project name at the time of local permitting.	Local permit documents, EIA, DEQ, SCC
Project Phases	Project name of phase(s) associated with the (parent) project	Local permit documents, DEQ
Alternative Names	Other names the project has/is known by.	Local permit documents, EIA, SCC, DEQ, PJM, media, other reliable sources
Parent/Child Project	Data ID of projects affiliated with the project. A parent project is a large project that encompasses smaller, independently recorded or permitted projects (child project), such as when a project has several phases.	Local permit documents, DEQ, SCC, EIA, UVA
Owner/Developer at Local Action	Name of the project developer/owner at the time of local action. This is not the property owner unless the developer, applicant, and property owner are the same entity.	Local permit documents, media
Latest Nameplate Capacity per Local Action (MW AC)	Latest permitted maximum nameplate electrical generation by megawatts in AC, per local application and/or permit amendment.	Local permit documents, media, other reliable sources
Phase MW (in AC)	Megawatts associated with that particular phase of a project, reported in AC	Local permit documents, DEQ, SCC, EIA
Local Permit Status	Description of the status of the local zoning permit application that would enable the project (e.g., Rezoning, 2232 review, Siting Agreement, Conditional or Special Use Permit, or Special Exception). "Approved/Amended" is applied when a project was approved, but was supplanted by a new project application (as opposed to an amendment of the existing permit). "NA" is applied when the project is a child/phase of a parent project and permitting history is applied to the parent project. "NA" could also be applied to a parent project if the child/phases applied individually for local permitting.	Local permit documents, DEQ, media, other reliable sources

Best Available Project Acreage	Acreage assigned by UVA based on best available information provided in local permit documents, or other verified sources. Preference is to record "project acreage" as reported by locality. There is no single or universal definition of "project acreage." If "project acreage" is not reported, "best available acreage" will be determined based on a triage of the following: "in-fence", then "lease", then "parcel", then "under panel" acreages. In the event acreage is not reported by the locality, the nameplate capacity was multiplied by 9 to estimate the best available project acreage. 9 acres/MW used based on average MW/acres of DEQ solar applications.	Weldon Cooper Center at UVA
Virginia Region	Regions are defined using the Weldon Cooper Center Demographics Research Group's eight regions for the Commonwealth of Virginia. These regions have been developed based on communities' shared demographic, social, economic and geographic characteristics. These were the defined regions used to evaluate results of the Virginia Solar Survey.	Weldon Cooper Center at UVA
Location Description	Exact address if available, or description of the location with respect to towns, roads, and other features.	Local application documents (public hearing notice)
Date of Final Action	This is the final date of action on a project application. It may be the date of planning commission (in the event of 15.2-2232 review only), Board/Council (SUP, CUP, Special Exception, Siting agreement, appeal), or applicant action (withdrawn). This date does not reflect any subsequent amendments to the primary application.	Local application documents (meeting minutes)
Siting Agreement Executed?	Captures whether an executed siting agreement has been verified (state code 15.2-2316.7). Projects before legislation effective date in 2020 were not required to have a siting agreement NOI or negotiations. Negotiated voluntary payment agreements and community benefit agreements are not captured here.	Local application documents, Virginia Energy
Date- Siting Agreement Executed	If executed, this is the date the siting agreement was authorized to be executed by the local authority	Local application documents, Virginia Energy
Siting Agreement Link	Link to executed version of siting agreement (if not signed, this is the version approved by the local authority in the public hearing.)	Local application documents, Virginia Energy
DEQ Permit Number	Permit tracking number assigned by DEQ	DEQ Renewable Energy Project Status: https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-project-status
SCC Certificate Number	Certificate number assigned by the State Corporation Commission for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)	SCC
Shared Solar Program- Enrolled (Dominion)	This datapoint captures whether the project is officially enrolled in Dominion's shared solar program (MW have been allotted to subscriber organization.)	Dominion Shared Solar Program : https://www.dominionenergy.com/virginia/renewable-energy-programs/shared-solar-program

Energy Storage Onsite?	Is the solar facility proposed to be colocated with an on-site battery energy storage facility?	PJM, DEQ, local permit application
Energy Storage Capacity (MW)	If battery proposed onsite, the total capacity in MW of the battery energy storage system.	Local permit application, PJM, DEQ, media and other reliable sources
PJM Queue #	Queue number assigned by PJM; matched to local project by UVA based on best available information.	PJM Queue, Serial Service Request: https://www.pjm.com/planning/service-requests/serial-service-request-status
EIA- Plant ID	Project ID assigned by EIA; matched to local project by UVA based on best available information.	EIA (EIA updates their data monthly)
EIA- Operating Status	Current plant operating status according to the EIA. See EIA for their definitions.	EIA (EIA updates their data monthly)
EIA- Project Status	Detailed project development status according to the EIA. See EIA for their definitions.	EIA (EIA updates their data monthly)