

Grant Funding for Sustainability Initiatives

More Than Energy:

Sparking Sustainability Initiatives Beyond the Panel

Helping local governments, public schools, and non-profit organizations easily and affordably switch to solar energy is the cornerstone of the RVA Solar Fund, a partnership of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, Secure Futures, LLC, and three other local and national non-profits. But the opportunities extend far beyond the panels themselves. Grant funds awarded by the Community Foundation may support sustainability initiatives in the classroom, pay for staff time to support the transition to solar, kick-start community outreach initiatives around renewable energy, and even pay for roof repairs and energy audits.

Solar in the Classroom | Onsite solar can enrich science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) classrooms with a “real world” sustainability example, providing a hands-on and timely way to make environmental concepts compelling and understandable. Our partner, the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED) will provide core [curriculum resources](#) for all educational institution grantees. Additional teacher training, classroom supplies, and curriculum development are eligible uses of grant funds.

Funding Sustainability Locally

- Grants for teacher training and curriculum development
- Supporting local government or non-profit sustainability programs
- Energy audits and efficiency upgrades
- Public outreach and education

Support for Sustainability Coordinators | Sustainability coordinators for public school systems, local governments, or non-profit organizations routinely confront more needs than resources. RVA Solar Fund grants can support the expansion and implementation of community education, renewable energy, teacher training, and similar activities. Website development, program materials, and staff time associated with these programs are all eligible for grant funding.

Funding for Time, Effort, and Admin | Managing the transition to solar energy is designed to be as seamless as possible, but all worthwhile initiatives do involve staff time and expertise, from facilities managers to grant writers and budget managers. The RVA Solar Fund respects the real time and talents of local government, school system, and non-profit professionals and allows reasonable staff time to be included in grant expenditures.

Grant Amounts | Grant amounts will vary based on the amount of solar installed through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Grant amounts will vary from \$4,000 to \$100,000 depending on the scope of the grant application. Grantees will have entered into solar power purchase agreement with Secure Futures, a Virginia-based solar developer that will fund, install, own, and operate an estimated \$12 million in solar installations on Grantee rooftops and/or land areas as part of the RVA Solar Fund.

For More Information | Additional information can be obtained from info@RVASolarFund.org. Fact sheets on *Budget Impacts and Benefits*, *Grant Funding for Sustainability Initiatives*, and *News for Facilities Managers* are also available.