



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Virginia Solar and Wind Energy Stakeholder Engagement Public Kickoff Meeting

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July 10, 2018

# Welcome and Introductions

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For online participants, all materials for this meeting can be found online at

[http://merid.org/VA\\_Solar\\_Energy.aspx](http://merid.org/VA_Solar_Energy.aspx)



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# Agenda

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- 10:00 am**      **Welcome, introduction, agenda review**  
*Tim Mealey, Meridian Institute*
- 10:10 am**      **Overview of the Proposed Virginia Solar and Wind Energy Stakeholder Engagement Process**  
*Tim Mealey, Meridian Institute*
- Opportunity for Q&A on the general design of the process
- 10:40 am**      **Feedback on Proposed Key Questions for Each Topic**  
*All meeting participants*
- Net energy metering
  - Pilot programs for community solar
  - Options for corporate clean energy procurement targets
  - Impediments to siting new renewable energy projects
- 12:00 pm**      **Adjourn**



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# About Meridian Institute

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- **Our mission** – We help people solve complex and controversial problems, make informed decisions, and implement solutions that improve lives, the economy, and the environment.
- **How we accomplish our mission** – We design and manage collaborative processes. As a neutral third-party, we bring people together who understand the issues and have a stake in their resolution. Our work leads stakeholder to take actions that make a difference.
- **Who we are** – We are a US-based nonprofit organization with offices in Washington, DC, and Dillon, CO. We were founded in 1997 and currently have 40 staff in these two offices and remote locations across the US and elsewhere.



# Core Values & Attributes

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- Impartiality, integrity, inclusiveness, and respect for differences are foundations of our organizational culture and work.
- We bring objectivity, trusted relationships across diverse sectors, and two decades of experience to our work as process experts and strategic advisors.
- We take pride in bringing these values and attributes to every project we undertake.



# Relevant Experience

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- Resilient Power Project
- Low-Carbon Fuels Advisory Council
- Clean Energy Technologies Pathways Workshop
- Colorado Smart Grid Task Force
- Advanced Energy Economy Strategy Meeting
- United States Climate Action Partnership
- Hydraulic Fracturing Forum
- Virginia Listening Sessions for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Body
- Exploring Opportunities to Enhance Virginia's Regional Food System

For more information on our relevant experience, visit  
[http://merid.org/en/VA\\_Solar\\_Energy/Meridian\\_Qualifications.aspx](http://merid.org/en/VA_Solar_Energy/Meridian_Qualifications.aspx)



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# Legislative Mandate

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SB 966: Each Phase I or Phase II Utility shall investigate potential improvements to:

- net energy metering programs as provided under § 56-594 of the Code of Virginia,
- potential improvements to the pilot programs for community solar development as provided under § 56-585.1:3 of the Code of Virginia,
- expansion of options for customers with corporate clean energy procurement targets, and
- impediments to the siting of new renewable energy projects.

SB966: Each such utility shall include interested stakeholders in the investigation of such issues and the development of proposed legislation and shall issue a report of its findings to the Governor, the State Corporation Commission, and the Chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor by November 1, 2018.



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# Meridian's Role

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- Meridian Institute is conducting this statutorily required stakeholder engagement process under contract with Dominion Energy Services, Inc.
- Meridian is serving as an independent not-for-profit contractor.
- We are actively consulting with representatives of the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as with Dominion and other key stakeholders to determine how to best meet the statutory requirements.
- We welcome your input into the design and implementation of the process we are about to describe.



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# Solar and Wind Energy Stakeholder Engagement Process

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The process will have three major stakeholder engagement components:

- Public Kickoff Meeting
- Stakeholder Group Meetings (July – August 2018)
- Public Forum (August 22, 2018)

At the conclusion of the process, Meridian will develop a final report summarizing feedback gathered at the stakeholder group meetings and the public forum. This report will be shared with the Governor's office and all participants, and will be posted online.



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# Stakeholder Group Meetings

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- The stakeholder engagement process will include a series of meetings during July and August 2018 organized by stakeholder categories.
- When you registered to express interest in the process you are asked to identify a stakeholder category. Meridian will use the information from the registration as a tool to create groupings of stakeholders.
- There will likely be at least one meeting that will be open to people who have not affiliated with a stakeholder category.



# Stakeholder Groups

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Meridian has tentatively identified the following list of stakeholder categories.

- Solar industry and advocacy organizations;
- Organizations representing other energy sources
- Environmental and environmental justice organizations
- Business associations
- Historic preservation and land use organizations
- Affordable housing and community development organizations
- Local governments (recently added)
- Other? (please provide suggestions)



# Questions Guiding Stakeholder Group Meetings

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- Meridian has identified draft questions that are intended to serve as a guide for discussions on each of the four topic areas specified in SB966, including:
  - Net energy metering
  - Pilot programs for community solar
  - Options for corporate clean energy procurement targets
  - Impediments to siting new renewable energy projects



# Solar Net Metering Questions

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1. How are you/your organization affected by net metering rules in Virginia? (participant, provider of distributed generation, ratepayer, etc.)
2. What aspects of net metering work well in Virginia and why do they work well?
3. What aspects of net metering do not work well in Virginia, why do they not work well, and what suggestions do you have for improving net metering?



# Pilot Programs for Community Solar Development Questions

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1. How are you/your organization affected by the Community Solar pilot program in Virginia? (participant, installer, ratepayer, etc.)
2. What aspects of the community solar pilot program are working well so far and why are these aspects working well?
3. What aspects of the community solar pilot program are not working well, why is it not working well, and what suggestions do you have for how the pilot program can be improved?



# Customers with Corporate Clean Energy Procurement Targets Questions

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1. What is Virginia doing right in terms of providing corporate customers with ways to meet their clean energy procurement targets?
2. What aspects of this program are not working well, why is it not working well, and what suggestions do you have for how to improve these programs?



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# Siting of New Renewable Energy Projects Questions

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1. What is Virginia doing right regarding the siting of renewable energy projects and what do you think of the approach?
2. Do you believe there are impediments to siting renewable energy projects in the Commonwealth and, if so, what are they, and do you have suggestions for addressing the impediments?





# General Discussion of the Stakeholder Engagement Process

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- Any questions regarding the three core components
  - Kickoff Meeting
  - Stakeholder Group Meetings
  - Public Forum
- Stakeholder Categories
- Other comments related to the overall design

*(Feedback on the proposed framing of the questions for the stakeholder sessions will follow general feedback.)*



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# Discussion on the Questions for Stakeholder Group Meetings

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- Solar Net Metering Programs
- Pilot Programs for Community Solar
- Expansion of Options for Customers with Corporate Clean Energy Procurement Targets
- Impediments to the Siting of New Renewable Energy Projects



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# Adjourn

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Thank you for attending the Kickoff Meeting.  
For more information, a copy of this presentation, and  
updates on the process, please visit  
[http://merid.org/VA\\_Solar\\_Energy.aspx](http://merid.org/VA_Solar_Energy.aspx)

Feel free to contact:  
Tim Mealey ([tmealey@merid.org](mailto:tmealey@merid.org)) or  
Kiera Givens ([kgivens@merid.org](mailto:kgivens@merid.org))

For more information about Meridian Institute,  
please visit [www.merid.org](http://www.merid.org)

