



Legislation Text

File #: 21-2195, **Version:** 1

Subject

Request approval to hold the 2021 Solarize NOVA program

EXPLANATION AND SUMMARY :

The Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC) brought Solarize NOVA, a solar purchasing program, to Vienna residents and businesses beginning in 2015. The CSC would like to continue to offer Solarize NOVA in 2021. Council originally adopted the Solarize NOVA resolution on February 23, 2015. Solarize NOVA is an initiative of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and the nonprofit Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP). Solarize NOVA is a one-stop shop for residents to learn more about solar power options for homes and businesses and helps facilitate installation and financing of these private projects. The 2021 program will run from April 12-June 30.

Participants in the program start by filling out an online web form at SolarizeNOVA.org. Participants are then provided free satellite assessments to determine a property's suitability for solar. Suitable participants provide electric bills to LEAP, which begins the sizing and design process. Solar installers will use this information to provide proposals and quotes for installation.

The CSC will participate in a Solarize NOVA virtual information session and outreach campaign to provide interested participants with additional information and answer any community questions. Since 2015, 36 Solarize contracts have been signed in Vienna for more than 300 kW of power.

Benefits of the program include:

- free solar satellite assessments
- bulk discounted solar system pricing
- fixed EV charger pricing
- qualified local solar installers
- community workshops and support
- a great investment in clean energy.

Strategic Plan Initiative: *Vienna is an environmentally sustainable community.*

Departmental Recommendation : The public works director recommends Council approval to offer the Solarize NOVA program during spring 2021.

Finance Recommendation :

Purchasing Recommendation :

Town Attorney Recommendation : Town Council may approve the Town's continued participation in the Solarize NOVA program in its discretion.

Town Manager's Recommendation : I recommend the Town Council approve the Solarize NOVA program for spring 2021 and authorize staff and the CSC to move forward with implementation, as presented.

Cost and Financing: N/A

Account Number: N/A

Decision Needed by This date: 04/12/2021.

PROPOSED/SUGGESTED MOTION

"I move to approve the Solarize NOVA program for spring 2021 and authorize staff and the CSC to move forward with implementation."

Or

Other action deemed necessary by Council.