

# VSS26 Sessions

Last updated: April 12, 2026 (subject to change)

## Day 1 – Monday, April 13, 2026

2:30pm— 6:30pm	<b>On-Site Check-In Opens</b>
3:00pm— 3:45pm	<b>Welcome &amp; World Energy Overview</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i>
4:00pm— 6:30pm	<b>Premium Exhibition Open</b> <b>Renaissance Circuit Begins</b> <b>Poster Gallery Open</b>
4:00pm— 5:00pm	<b>Solar + Farming Fireside Chat</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>Eric Bronson – James River Grazing, ASGA</i> <i>Cecile Keith Brown – Hope Haven</i> <i>Jess Gray – Gray's LAMBscaping, ASGA</i> <i>Rachel Henley – Virginia Farm Bureau</i> <i>Ashish Kapoor – Piedmont Environmental Council</i> <i>Joel Olsen – Sun Raised Foods</i>
5:00pm— 5:30pm	<b>Featured Speaker(s)</b> <i>Laura Thomas – City of Richmond, Director of the Office of Sustainability</i> <i>Todd Flowers – Dominion Energy, Director Generation Development</i>
4:30pm Poster Gallery	<b>Poster Conversations and Author Q&amp;A</b>
5:30pm— 6:30pm	<b>Networking Happy Hour</b> <i>Beverages &amp; hors d'oeuvres included.</i>  <i>Hosted by</i> 
6:30pm+	<b>After Hours Networking Event</b> <i>Bonus Networking   Off-site   Cash Bar(s)</i>



**Virginia Solar Summit**

Co-Hosted with:








Brought to you by:



## Day 2 – Tuesday, April 14, 2026

7:15am	<b>Doors &amp; Check-In Open</b>
7:30am— 8:30am Grand Ballroom	<b>Networking Breakfast</b> <i>Included with registration.</i> 
8:20am Grand Ballroom	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>Vince Maiden – State Energy Office Managing Director at Virginia Energy</i>  <i>Del. Rip Sullivan – Virginia House of Delegates</i>
8:45am Grand Ballroom	<b>Keynote(s) Session</b> <i>Josephus Allmond – Chief Energy Officer, Commonwealth of Virginia</i>
9:05am Grand Ballroom	<i>Mike Rolband – Director, Virginia DEQ</i> 
9:30am	<b>Exhibit Hall Opens</b>
9:45am Expo Hall	<i>Coffee &amp; Tea</i> 
10:00am Grand Ballroom	<b>Seizing the Agrivoltaics Opportunity to Stack Agriculture &amp; Energy in Symbiosis</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>Rachel Henley – Virginia Farm Bureau</i> <i>Ashish Kapoor – Piedmont Env. Council</i> <i>Delegate John Chilton McAuliff – Virginia's 30th District</i> <i>Joel Olsen – Sun Raised Foods</i>
10:00am Capital Ballroom	<b>Solar Siting Standards &amp; Permitting Brief</b> <i>Carrie Hearne – Commission on Electric Utility Regulation</i> <i>Juan Botero – Siting Resource Center</i> <i>Francis Hodsell – SolUnesco</i> <i>Tyson Utt – CEP Solar</i>
11:00am Grand Ballroom	<b>Mining the Sun: Field Notes from Leading Efforts to Leverage Solar for Renewal of Mine-Scared Land</b> <i>Austin deButts – TerraForm Power</i> <i>Caity Hines – Encore Renewable Energy</i> <i>Robin Lucey – Dominion Energy</i> <i>Vince Maiden – Virginia Energy</i>
11:00am Capital Ballroom	<b>Advancing Mitigation Requirements for Solar PBRs</b> <i>Lee Daniels – Virginia Tech</i> <i>Jonathan Rak – Virginia DEQ</i> <i>Amanda Scheps – Virginia Dept. of Forestry</i> <i>Ryan Stewart – Virginia Tech</i> <i>Ben Wojcicki – Virginia DEQ</i>
12:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Networking Lunch</b> <i>Included with registration.</i> 
12:30pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Lunch Feature</b> <i>Carlos Class – CEO, Goldi America</i>
1:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Solar &amp; Storage Development Policy Roundtable</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>Peter Anderson – Appalachian Voices</i> <i>Francesca Callicotte – TerraForm Power</i> <i>Diane Cherry – MAREC Action</i> <i>Carlos Class – Goldi America</i> <i>Carrie Hearne – Commission on Electric Utility Regulation</i> <i>Alec Ward – SEIA</i>
1:00pm Capital Ballroom	<b>Solar Grazing: Game-Changing Best Stewardship Practice to Bolster the Future of Farming</b> <i>Stacie Peterson – American Solar Grazing Association (ASGA)</i> <i>Eric Bronson – James River Grazing</i> <i>John Campbell – Ewe Graze</i> <i>Jess Gray – Gray's LAMBscaping</i> <i>Chad Raines – Key Farms</i> <i>Kevin Richardson – ASGA</i>
1:50pm Expo Hall	<i>Coffee, Tea &amp; Snacks</i> 
2:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Solar for the Rest of Us: Schools, Nonprofits and Individuals</b> <i>Ruth McElroy Amundsen – Norfolk Solar Solutions</i> <i>Mark Kronenthal – Community Solar Circle</i> <i>Ivy Main – Virginia Mercury</i> <i>Tony Smith – VA Distributed Solar Alliance</i>
2:00pm Capital Ballroom	<b>The Nitty-Gritty of Getting the Hard Work Done in the Nexus of Energy, Water and Agriculture</b> <i>Stacie Peterson – ASGA</i> <i>Angela Burke – Pivot Energy</i> <i>Ashish Kapoor – Piedmont Env. Council</i> <i>Teddy Pitsiokos – Piedmont Env. Council</i> <i>Allison Wickham – Siller Pollinator Co.</i>
3:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Vegetation Management in Virginia Needs the Very Best Practices</b> <i>Caitie Cyrus – ENGIE</i> <i>Amy Newkirk – ROW Range &amp; Bearing LLC</i> <i>Anthony Stephens – AES</i> <i>Wei Zhang – Tree Diaper</i>
3:00pm Capital Ballroom	<b>Unlocking People Power and Public Trust in Times of Social, Civic &amp; Economic Stress</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>Juan Botero – Siting Resource Center</i> <i>Miles Braxton – Okovate</i> <i>Angela Burke – Pivot Energy</i>
4:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Actual Solar + Farming in Focus: Short Films World Premiere, Q&amp;A</b> <i>with the American Solar Grazing Association</i> <i>Eric Bronson – ASGA</i> <i>Jess Gray – ASGA</i> <i>Scott Laeser – Rural Climate Partnership</i> <i>Stacie Peterson – ASGA</i> <i>Chad Raines – ASGA</i> <i>Kevin Richardson – ASGA</i>
4:30pm Poster Gallery	<b>Poster Conversations and Author Q&amp;A</b>
4:30pm— 6:30pm	<b>Exhibit Hall Double Happy Hours</b> <b>Daily Prize Draw at 6:00pm</b> <i>Beverages &amp; hors d'oeuvres included.</i>  <i>Hosted by</i> 
7:00pm	<b>Exhibit Hall Closes</b>
>>>	<i>Dinner On Your Own</i>
7:00pm+	<b>After Hours Networking Events</b> <i>Bonus Networking   Off-site   Cash Bar(s)</i>

## Day 3 – Wednesday, April 15, 2026

7:15am	<b>Doors &amp; Check-In Open</b>
7:30am— 8:30am Grand Ballroom	<b>Networking Breakfast</b> <i>Included with registration.</i> 
8:35am Grand Ballroom	<b>Solar's Conservation Potential in the Southeast: A Powerful Lifeline for Longleaf Pine?</b> <i>Judy Dunscomb – Senior Conservation Scientist, The Nature Conservancy</i>
9:05am	<b>Exhibit Hall Opens</b>
9:05am Grand Ballroom	<b>Stacking Crops &amp; Critters to Directly Benefit Agricultural Produce and Boost Farm Viability</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>Miles Braxton – Okovate</i> <i>Malik Middleton – Tharps Legacy Farm</i> <i>Val Newcomb – Urban Grid</i>
9:45am Expo Hall	<i>Coffee &amp; Tea</i> 
10:00am Grand Ballroom	<b>Community Solar 2.0: Virginia's Next Phase of Growth in Shared Solar</b> <i>Aaron Berryhill – Virginia Energy</i> <i>Nitzan Goldberger – New Leaf Energy</i> <i>Trieste Lockwood – Lockwood Strategies</i> <i>Abigail Thompson – Gentry Locke</i>
10:00am Capital Ballroom	<b>On-Campus Agrivoltaics Coming to the Commonwealth with Hands-On Learning for Future Farmers</b> <i>Dr. Neil Brown – VSU College of Agriculture</i> <i>Adam Fillius – Dominion Energy</i> <i>Greg Wolfson – Nevados</i>
11:00am Grand Ballroom	<b>Brightfield Redevelopment: Re-Repowering Brownfields &amp; Landfills with a New Productive Life with Solar</b> <i>Willie Barton – Dominion Energy</i> <i>Marion Dullea – Sun Tribe EPC</i> <i>Caity Hines – Encore Renewable Energy</i>
11:00am Capital Ballroom	<b>Roadmap to Realizing Community Resilience in Greater Virginia and Beyond</b> <i>Austin Counts – Appalachian Voices</i> <i>Callie Houghland – Virginia Energy</i> <i>Nicole Lee – Smart Home Solutions</i> <i>Dylan Taylor – Energy Right</i>
12:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Networking Lunch</b> <i>Included with registration.</i>
12:30pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Lunch Feature</b> 
1:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Grid &amp; Data Center Development Policy Roundtable</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>João Ferreira – University of Virginia</i> <i>Simon Glossop – Virginia Innovation Bank</i> <i>Trieste Lockwood – Lockwood Strategies</i> <i>Patrick Morand – Husch &amp; Blackwell</i> <i>Will Payne – Coalfield Strategies</i>
1:00pm Capital Ballroom	<b>Leveraging Energy Investment to Repair Local Food Systems Build Tangible, Tasty Community Benefits with Big Ripple Effects</b> <i>Stacie Peterson – ASGA</i> <i>Angie Burke – Pivot Energy</i> <i>Marcus Gray – Gray's LAMBscaping</i> <i>Chad Raines – Key Farms, ASGA</i> <i>Allison Wickham – Siller Pollinator Co.</i>
1:50pm Expo Hall	<i>Coffee, Tea &amp; Snacks</i> 
2:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Cattlevoltaics is Coming to the Commonwealth</b> <i>Josh Bennett – HUWA Enterprises</i> <i>Adam Fillius – Dominion Energy</i> <i>Marcus Gray – Gray's LAMBscaping</i> <i>Ashish Kapoor – Piedmont Env. Council</i>
2:00pm Capital Ballroom	<b>Strengthening Renewable Energy Policy Through Interagency Coordination &amp; Regulatory Actions</b> <i>Bettina Rayfield – Virginia DEQ</i> <i>Amber Foster – Virginia DEQ</i>
3:00pm	<b>Exhibit Hall Closes</b> <b>Daily Prize Draw at 4:30pm</b>
3:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Sizing Up to the Scale of Our Workforce Development Shortfall and Seizing Generational Career Opportunity</b> <i>Dan French – Virginia Solar Summit</i> <i>Charles Class – Goldi America</i> <i>Charmy Skelly – IBEW 666</i> <i>Remy Spangle – REPOWER Schools</i>
3:00pm Capital Ballroom	<b>How to Develop Ecovoltaic Projects &amp; Their Conservation Outcomes</b> <i>Jeff Lord – RWE</i> <i>Allison Wickham – Siller Pollinator Co.</i> <i>Greg Wolfson – Nevados</i>
4:00pm Grand Ballroom	<b>Peer-to-Peer Policy Action Huddle: Now What, Next Actions, and New Playbooks</b> <i>Diane Cherry – MAREC Action</i> <i>Carlos Class – Goldi America</i> <i>Carrie Hearne – Commission on Electric Utility Regulation</i> <i>Trieste Lockwood – Lockwood Strategies</i> <i>Stacie Peterson – ASGA</i> <i>Caitlin Vincent – SEIA</i>
4:30pm— 5:30pm	<b>Networking Happy Hour</b> <i>Beverages &amp; hors d'oeuvres included.</i>  <i>Hosted by</i> 
>>>	VSS26 Concludes
6:00pm+	<b>After Party Networking Event</b> <i>Bonus Networking   Off-site   Cash Bar(s)</i>