



## **SOLAR POWERS PCPS, DRIVING SAVINGS AND LOCAL EMPLOYMENT**

Looking to save money and upgrade its aging roofs on various school buildings, Powhatan County Public Schools (PCPS) partnered with local solar energy developer, Sun Tribe Solar, to bring clean, cost-effective energy to the school district. The rooftop solar arrays totaling approximately 2.5 megawatts of clean energy capacity have already been installed at four schools, including Flat Rock Elementary School, Pocahontas Elementary School, and Powhatan Elementary School, and Powhatan Middle School.

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

- **2.5MW** solar energy
- **4** public schools
- **\$3M** in LCPS savings

After a competitive procurement process, the solar projects were awarded to Sun Tribe and financed through a power purchase agreement (PPA). The PPA arrangement saved PCPS from covering upfront costs on the retrofitting projects. Instead, Sun Tribe tapped private capital to fund the solar projects, selling the solar energy generated back to the school district at a rate well below what they typically pay for electricity.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

*Hailing from Virginia, developer Sun Tribe Solar employs several PCPS alumni, including the project's manager, who was able to show students, first-hand, the possibilities of a career in clean energy.*

Over the project's 35-year contract, PCPS is expected to save more than [\\$3 million](#) in total energy cost savings, helping the locality to reinvest in its schools and lower the tax burden for local residents. A portion of the project's installation at Powhatan Elementary School was also completed during the pandemic, helping to keep a steady stream of local employment during the crisis.

## **SUPPORT MORE PROJECTS LIKE THESE**

Making the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar refundable, supporting increased access to advanced energy for local governments, and providing funding to increase resilience and deploy more distributed energy resources can bring more projects like this to Virginia.