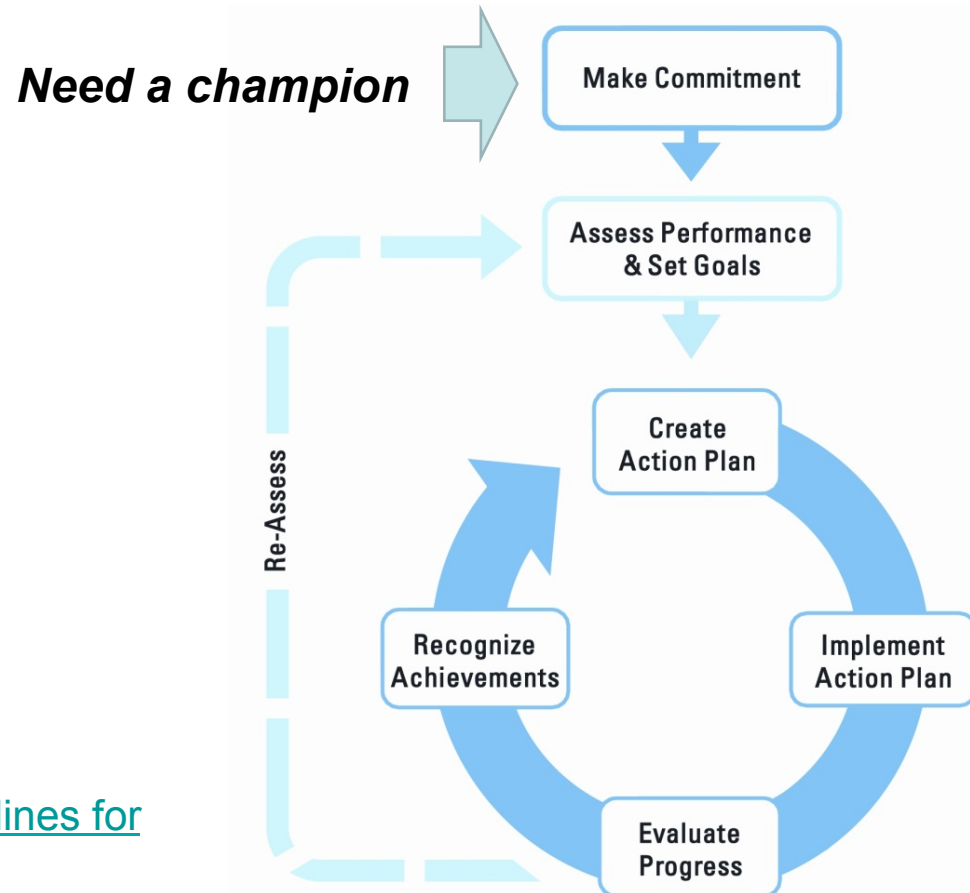


# **Arlington's Energy & Climate Action Journey, featuring our Community Energy Plan 2007 - present**

John Morrill, Energy Manager  
Arlington County, Virginia  
September 16, 2020



# Program management plan fundamental to success



Source:  
[EPA ENERGY STAR Guidelines for Energy Management](#)

## Arlington's Journey

- 2007 – Set a goal (10% drop in greenhouse gas emissions in government operations by 2012, from 2000 baseline)
- 2010 – Launched effort to create a Community Energy Plan (*de facto* climate action plan)
- 2012 – Exceeded 10% emissions cut goal for government operations
- 2013 – Community Energy Plan adopted as part of Comprehensive Plan
- 2016-17 – Realization the County was *ahead* of Community Energy Plan goals
- 2019 – Community Energy Plan revision completed with *more ambitious* goals
- 2020 – Sign agreement for off-site renewable electricity to satisfy ambitious CEP goals for County operations



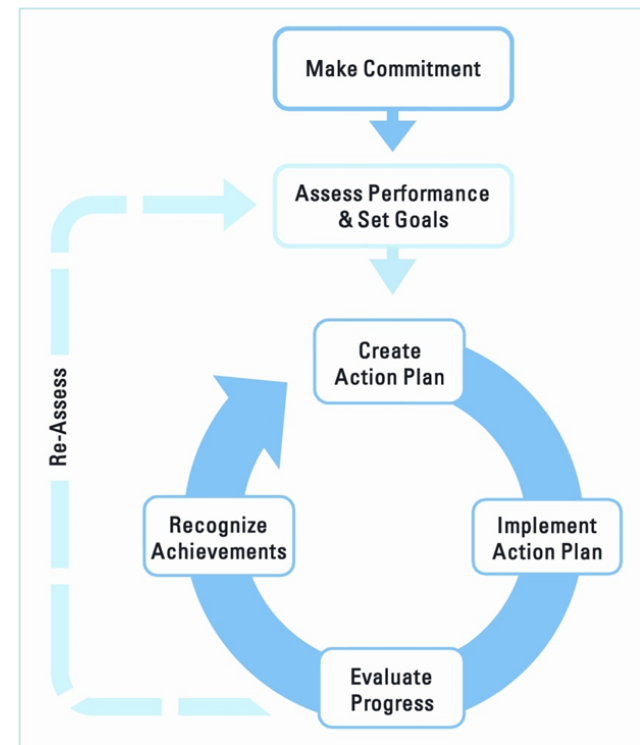
## Community Energy Plan process

- 2009 – Completed greenhouse gas emission inventory for whole community (for years 2000, 2007)
- 2010 – Board Chair convened a broad stakeholder Task Force to advise staff and consultants
- 2013 – Community Energy Plan adopted by the County Board as Element of the Comprehensive Plan
  - Focus was improved energy efficiency, some renewables
- 2014-17 Realization the energy world (and Virginia) were changing rapidly
  - Cheap natural gas meant demise of coal
  - Renewable technologies *much* less expensive
  - Transformative energy efficiency technologies (e.g. LEDs)
  - Electrification of transportation



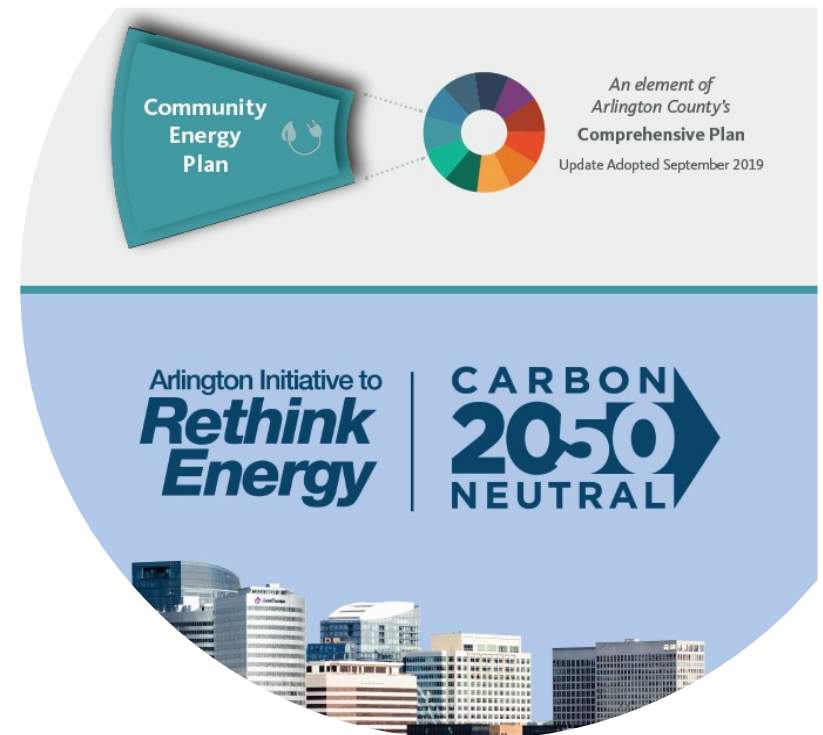
## Community Energy Plan process

- 2018 – New greenhouse gas emission inventory for whole community (2016, and updated 2012)
- 2018 – New energy modeling for *revised* Community Energy Plan
- 2018-19 – Stakeholder engagement while staff and consultants prepared revision
- 2019 – Community Energy Plan revision completed with *more ambitious* goals
  - Carbon neutrality by 2050
  - No longer interested in incremental gains in fossil energy use
  - Widespread decarbonization of electricity
  - Electrification of transportation



# Community Energy Plan

- Revised Community Energy Plan calls for carbon neutral community by 2050
- Policy goal: 50% renewable electricity for *government operations* by 2022; 100% renewable by 2025
- Policy goal: 100% renewable electricity for *entire community* by 2035
- September 2019
  - Arlington’s revised Community Energy Plan
  - Governor Northam’s Executive Order for 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2035
  - Amazon announces acceleration of corporate climate pledge; order for 100,000 electric delivery vehicles



# Resources for Localities

- Informal exchange with neighbors and regional planning organizations
- National organizations [ICLEI](#), [USDN](#)
- New resource database for localities by [Virginia Energy Efficiency Council](#)



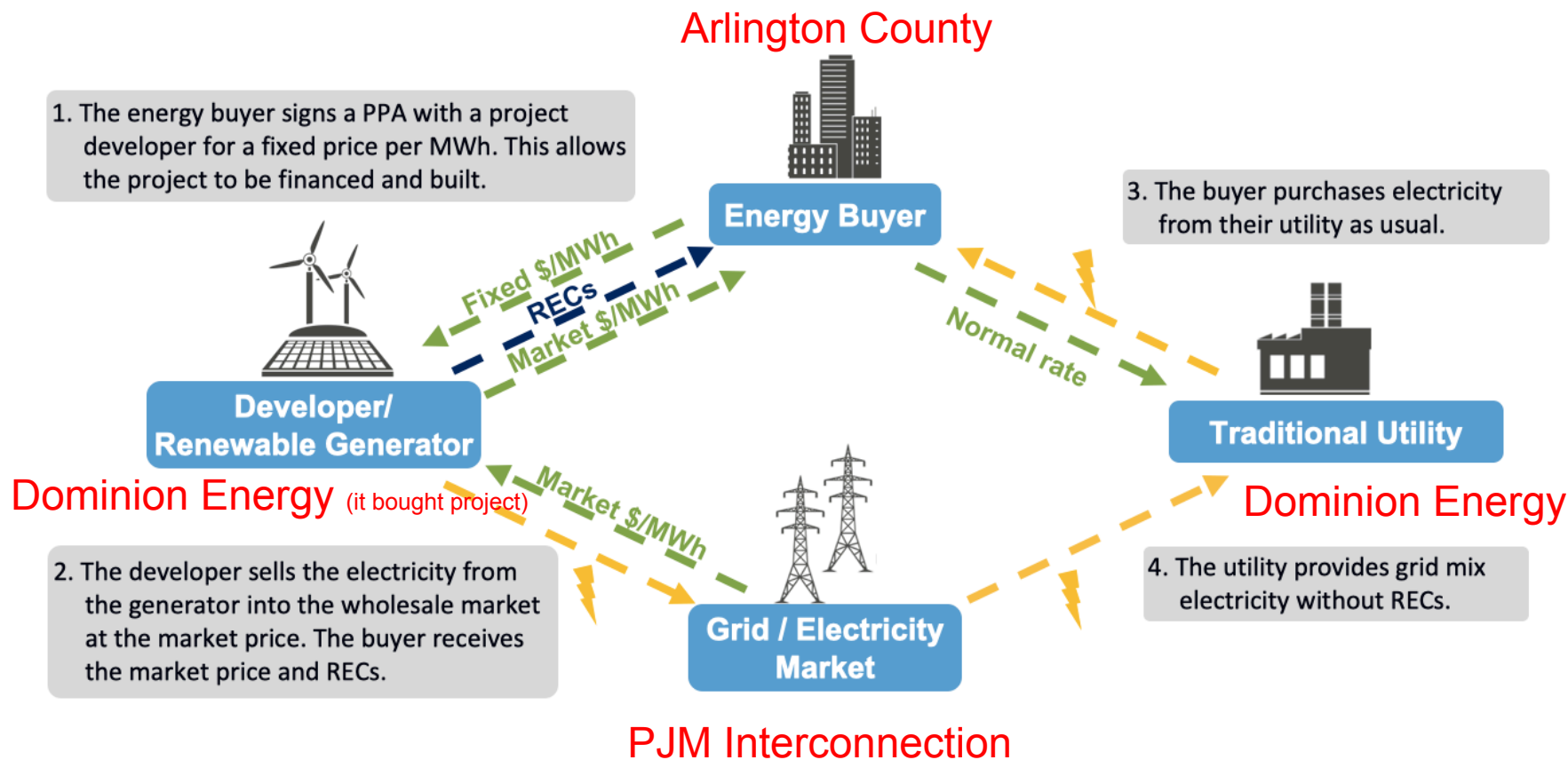




**Questions?**



# How a VPPA Works



Generic illustration by <https://cityrenewables.org/vppa/>, this project's labels added in blue text

# The Solar Farm Project

- Located in Pittsylvania County, VA
- Land size: 1,500 acres
- Project capacity: 120 MW<sub>peak</sub>
- Lead customer: Amazon\*
- County share: up to 38 MW<sub>peak</sub>
- Arlington's portion will offset 90% of the County's annual electricity use (government operations)
- Now under construction
- Operational Date: Q3 2022
- Contract Term: 17 years



\* Two separate contracts with Dominion. We know we did not get the same deal as Amazon, but we have very different situations.