



Arlington Public Schools Ink Solar PPA Contract

by Rick Keller



Almost 81% of Arlington Public Schools' (APS) carbon footprint comes from its use of electricity. That will change beginning in 2019 as Sun Tribe Solar of Charlottesville begins to install the first of almost 7,000 solar photovoltaic panels that are part of power purchase agreement (PPA) with APS.

The initial agreement puts panels on five schools, include the new

Alice Fleet Elementary which is being constructed as another net-zero school in Arlington, opening in the fall of 2019. The other locations receiving solar will be Tuckahoe Elementary School, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Kenmore Middle School and Washington-Lee High School. APS manages thirty-nine buildings and the contract allows for additional sites to be added.

Currently, Wakefield High School has both photovoltaic solar and geothermal systems that were added to the facility. Taylor Elementary has had a geothermal system for decades. Discovery Elementary is a net-zero school with both solar and geothermal systems.

The way this power purchase agreement (PPA) works is that the installation and solar equipment costs are borne by the contractor. APS then pays the company for the power generated (instead of the regional power company). The exact per kW hour charge was not yet available at the time of this article, but the amount will be below the current electricity rate paid by the school system and is fixed for the length (25 years) of the contract. APS energy intensity trended up in FY2018. The energy cost savings this initiative will free funds for other priorities.

You can read the full APS press release on the PPA at <https://www.apsva.us/post/aps-signs-agreement-to-bring-solar-power-to-five-more-schools/>

To view the contract and the information on the first five schools that will receive solar use the following links:

[Executed Comprehensive Agreement](#)
[Lease – Alice West Fleet Elementary School](#)

Lease – Jefferson Middle School

Lease – Kenmore Middle School

Lease – Tuckahoe Elementary School

Lease – Washington-Lee High School

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