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## **Solar to Save Cabell County Libraries More than \$1.2 Million**

### Power Purchase Agreement with Solar Holler Will Bring Solar Panels to Seven Locations

Cabell County, WV - March 14, 2024 - Today, West Virginia based solar energy installer and developer, Solar Holler, announced a project that could save Cabell County Libraries more than \$1.2 million over the next 25 years. The agreement includes plans to install 853 solar panels on seven different libraries across the county, for a combined system size of 371 kW. Projections indicate the seven systems will produce a total of 434,782 kWh of clean energy per year.

Dan Conant, Founder and CEO of Solar Holler, emphasized the importance of this project and others like it saying, "Public libraries play a pivotal role in building healthy communities, particularly in low-income areas. From day one, Solar Holler has prioritized projects that save money for organizations like this-- those working to improve the lives of Appalachians. We're really happy that our work can contribute to the preservation of these important community pillars."

While the potential for significant cost savings inspired the libraries to explore solar solutions, ultimately the decision to do it was both financially and environmentally motivated. Not only does the move reduce the libraries' reliance on traditional fossil fuel power sources, but it promises to generate long-term savings that can be redirected toward maintaining critical services for the community.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Solar Holler to bring solar energy to seven libraries in Cabell County." said Breana Roach Bowen, Executive Director of Cabell County Public Library

“This project will have many long-term benefits for the Cabell County Public Library and the communities we serve. In addition to having more affordable power and being more energy efficient, going solar will save the library thousands of dollars yearly. We are excited to put that money back into the community through library resources and programming.”

This transition to solar is made possible by Power Purchase Agreements that were legalized in West Virginia by the 2021 legislature. The structure allows for a business or nonprofit organization, such as Cabell County Libraries, to realize the benefits of solar without the upfront capital investment. Under this structure, developers like Solar Holler own the system and assume the responsibility of designing, developing, permitting, operating, and maintaining it for the 25 year lifetime of the PPA. In return, Cabell County Libraries agrees to purchase the energy generated by the solar panels at a predetermined rate (10 - 20% lower than the rate they pay their utility), providing them with a predictable and affordable source of clean energy.

Power Purchase Agreements, coupled with incentives for tax exempt entities introduced as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, are making solar more attainable than ever before for nonprofits and public institutions like Cabell County Libraries.

“As a Benefit Corporation, Solar Holler takes great pride in these types of partnerships,” said Conant. “We’re looking forward to expanding our work with providers of essential services, like libraries, schools, and municipalities, to help pave the way to a just and equitable energy future in Appalachia.”

Solar Holler has been steadfastly committed to advocating for the support and empowerment of non-profit organizations. Through dedicated philanthropic efforts, Solar Holler collaborates with various non-profits to provide sustainable energy solutions to underserved populations. Their unwavering dedication to ensuring they receive the support and assistance they deserve highlights Solar Holler's deep-rooted commitment to social responsibility.

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Solar Holler is bringing the next generation of energy production to our ancient mountains, and strengthening our communities with union employment. Solar Holler relentlessly pursues innovative approaches that bring solar within reach of all Appalachians, starting

with low-interest financing options with no upfront cost. Solar Holler has helped dozens of businesses, nonprofits, and churches, and thousands of homes go solar across West Virginia, southern Ohio, western Virginia, western Maryland and eastern Kentucky.