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## **OAQDA Approves Three Solar Facilities as Part of Ohio's \$20 Million Solar Generation Fund**

COLUMBUS – During today's Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) board meeting, the Authority approved three solar facilities, which will receive financial assistance under the state's Solar Generation Fund. The facilities include Hardin Solar Energy in Hardin County and Vinton Solar Energy LLC in Vinton County.

Hardin Solar Energy is a 300-megawatt (MW) solar project that is being developed in two phases, comprised of Hardin Solar I, LLC and Hardin Solar II, LLC. Vinton Solar Energy is a 125-MW solar project. Both are owned by Invenergy, a leading privately held, global developer and operator of sustainable energy solutions.

“As a result of House Bill 128, the Authority acted to review and approve the applications for these facilities, which will join three other solar projects as part of the Solar Generation Fund,” said Christina O’Keeffe, executive director of OAQDA. “We look forward to supporting these solar facilities as part of the growing renewable energy industry in the state of Ohio.”

Previously approved solar projects participating in the program include Highland Solar (Highland County), Hillcrest Solar (Brown County), and Willowbrook Solar I, LCC (Highland and Brown Counties).

All approved facilities must report to the Authority the number of megawatt hours (MWh) of generation produced in order to receive the solar energy credits of nine dollars per MWh. The Authority oversees the unique labeling and tagging process associated with the Solar Generation Fund program for each facility, as well as the solar facilities' quarterly generation reporting for verification. The total annual funding is \$20 million.

The Solar Generation Fund, which previously was named The Nuclear and Renewable Generation Program, was reconfigured by the General Assembly with the passage of House Bill 128. The legislation extended the application deadline to March 1, 2020 that allowed the solar facilities to remain eligible for financial assistance through the program that runs until the end of 2027.

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*The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA), which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply and go beyond clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, OAQDA has worked to improve air quality by supporting businesses, creating jobs and improving communities while enhancing the health and safety of all Ohioans. To date, OAQDA has awarded more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit [ohioairquality.org](http://ohioairquality.org).*