



**VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE**  
**July 21, 2023**

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**Solar | Amherst County**

Energix has revised its Special Use Permit application for Piney River Solar, a 50 MW, 300 acre facility, to reduce the amount of land used for the project. The application was previously pulled in May in order to revise the layout, which was originally more than 400 acres across 2 parcels. [Read more here.](#)

**Solar | Augusta County**

On July 6, the Board of Zoning Appeals voted to approve a Special Use Permit for a 3 MW, 25 acre facility developed by RWE Clean Energy. The plans include a grazing area for sheep within the project. [Read more here.](#)

**Solar | Halifax County**

On August 15, the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Hillandale Solar, a 102 MW, 737.56 acre facility developed by Strata Clean Energy. Part of this facility will also be located in Pittsylvania County. Separately, according to the County Zoning Administrator, Strata has expressed interest in bringing several more small-scale projects to the county. [Read more here.](#)

**Policy | Hanover County**

On July 20, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to discuss a draft solar policy, which has the stated purpose of providing guidance on the siting and design recommendations for solar installations within the county. The Planning Commission is seeking comments from county residents before the August 10 joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors. [Read more here](#) and [here](#). [Watch more here.](#)

**Ordinance | Henry County**

On July 12, the Planning Commission voted to recommend revisions to the solar ordinance that place a 1% acreage cap for large scale solar in the county. This 1% is equivalent to 2,445 acres. The previous ordinance already limited solar to 2.5% of the acreage in a 5-mile radius. [Read more here](#) (Subscription Required).

**Comprehensive Plan | Nottoway County**

On July 20, the Board of Supervisors voted to pass the Comprehensive Plan. The updated version touches on solar development urging planners to "consider safe development of solar and wind energy," and suggests setting a limit for total kilowatt production, setting restrictions on which zoning districts will allow solar, setting minimum and maximum lot sizes for utility-scale solar, setting requirements for setbacks, and requiring pollinator habitats and wildlife corridors. Additionally, the plan recommends setting limits on what percentage of prime agricultural soil a parcel with a solar facility may include. [Read more here.](#)

**In Other News**

RWE recently signed eight Power Purchase Agreements with Dominion with respect to 7 solar projects in the state, totaling more than 300 MW. The projects are located in the counties of Suffolk (Pleasant Hill Solar, 20 MW; Switchgrass Solar, 69 MW), Halifax (Watlington Solar, 20 MW), Wythe (Wythe County Solar, 75 MW), Chesterfield (360 Solar, 52 MW), Westmoreland (Groves Solar, 15 MW), and Rockingham (Harrisonburg Solar, 15 MW). [Read more here.](#)

*Any questions, or news for us to cover? Contact us. Jared Burden, [jburden@greenehurlocker.com](mailto:jburden@greenehurlocker.com)*