



VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE

March 24, 2023

Pittsylvania County

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to amend the solar ordinance to add new restrictions on the "Utility Scale Solar Energy Facility" section on March 21st. The restrictions include increasing the buffer distance between solar facilities from 1 to 5 miles and limiting project density to no more than 2% of total acreage within a single zoning district (for example, A1). The proposal includes an exception for projects affiliated with the Berry Hill Megasite. Based on current siting of utility-scale solar projects in the county, these revisions leave little space for new projects in the county. [Watch more here.](#)

Halifax County

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended changing the zoning ordinance to allow revenue sharing for solar projects 5 MW or smaller at a meeting on March 21st. The ordinance change, if passed by the Board of Supervisors would allow revenue sharing of up to \$1,400 per MW, for community solar sized projects as allowed under 2022 [legislation](#). [Read more here.](#)

Town of Halifax

Town Council rejected the rezoning of the proposed Crawford Road Solar facility, a 5 MW project on Tuesday, March 14. This vote upheld a recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny an application by developers to rezone the parcel from residential to manufacturing (the only zone where commercial solar facilities are allowed). [Read more here.](#)

Amherst County

The Planning Commission voted against recommending an SUP for 400-acre Piney River solar project developed by Energix. The Board of Supervisors will likely consider the matter at their meeting on April 18. [Read more here.](#)

Franklin County

The Board of Supervisors postponed a decision on a siting agreement for a 4 MW solar facility developed by Constitution Solar. The absence of the Boone District Supervisor resulted in a 3-3 tie vote. A siting agreement is currently being negotiated between Constitution Solar and the County. [Read more here.](#)

Henry County

The Board of Zoning Appeals approved an SUP for a 20 MW, 180-acre project developed by Energix at a meeting on March 2nd. The SUP includes 8 additional conditions that the project must meet, including panels be put on one side of a "Southern Connector Corridor" and to require sound proofing of construction equipment. [Read more here.](#)