



VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE

March 31, 2023

Brunswick County

The Board of Supervisors, on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, amended the Solar Ordinance. The amendment clarifies that the acreage cap on solar development relates to the area under PV panel coverage, as opposed to the total acreage of the parcel subject to the CUP. [Read more here.](#)

Culpeper County

The Board of Supervisors voted to approve the 2023 [Comprehensive Plan](#). The Plan addresses utility-scale energy systems, creating general guidelines as well as noting that “The construction of these facilities at a utility-scale creates potentially disruptive land use changes in the County ... This concern resulted in the creation and implementation of a Utility-Scale Solar Facility Development Policy while the County continues to work further in adopting new Zoning Ordinance amendments that will address this unique land use.” [Read more here.](#)

Fairfax County

After the Virginia Supreme Court rejected the County’s 2021 updates to the zoning code, the County has reverted to using the 1978 code. The [2021 version](#) sought to reflect modern trends in land use and development, introducing a category on solar power facilities. [Read more here.](#)

James City County

The Board of Supervisors denied a proposal for the 4.75 MW, 6 acre Hill Pleasant Farm solar project developed by Pivot Energy. Supervisors at the meeting also called for the development of a policy on solar projects. The County has approved three utility scale solar projects in the past. [Read more here.](#)

Lunenburg County

The Planning Commission is to hold public hearings on the proposed Wheelhouse Farm solar facility on Thursday, April 6. Palladium Energy has submitted a CUP application for a 60 MW, 676 acre project. The CUP says that the revenue share will produce \$1,400 per MW per year, increasing by 10% every 5 years. The project would generate over \$5 million for the County over its 40 year lifespan. [Read more here.](#)

Montgomery County

Pivot Energy has requested an SUP to construct Fortheringay Farm, a 35 acre solar project. The Board of Supervisors took no action on the proposed plan at their meeting. This would be the first major solar project in the County. [Read more here.](#)

Patrick County

The Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the 2021 Comprehensive Plan, allowing the Planning Commission to analyze whether the citing of a solar facility is in conformity with the Comprehensive Plan. This amendment is already being met with community resistance. [Read more here.](#)