



VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE
October 2, 2023

Solar | Amherst County

On September 21, the Planning Commission voted for the second time to recommend denial of a Special Use Permit for Piney River Solar, a 50 MW, 300 acre facility developed by Energix. In March, the Planning Commission first voted to recommend denying the project, after which Energix revised its plans in order to scale down the scope of the project, including reducing the panel array area by 175 acres. [Read more here.](#)

Solar | Botetourt County

On September 26, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve a Special Exception Permit for Solar Star Buchanan 2, a 4.5 MW, 17 acre facility developed by TotalEnergies. The Board unanimously approved the permit, after the project was praised for helping a multi-generation farm continue its use of its property for agriculture. [Read more here.](#)

Solar Policy | Buckingham County

On September 11, the Board of Supervisors voted to amend the solar policy (not a binding ordinance) to provide guidelines for the siting, development, operations and decommissioning of solar facilities. Among these changes is a 7,500 acre cap of fenced areas of all solar facilities. This is approximately 2% of the acreage in the county. The county currently has three facilities approved and one under consideration, totaling 1,603 acres that count towards the cap. [Read more here.](#)

Solar | Clarke County

On October 6, the Planning Commission will hold a hearing on a Special Use Permit for a 50 MW, 400 acre site developed by Horus Virginia I LLC and on Audley Farm, an up-to 100 MW, 450 acre facility developed by Urban Grid. As noted in the [September 19 Newsletter](#), the Planning Commission recently held a work session to start the process of potentially amending the ordinance in response to the Board's resolution to put in place a moratorium, although staff has indicated this will not be a hurried process. It has been suggested that the moratorium push arose in reaction to a particular SUP application. [Read more here.](#)



Solar | Halifax County

Tonight, the Board of Supervisors will meet to consider whether Hillandale Solar 737 acre facility developed by Strata Clean Energy, is “substantially in accord” with the Comprehensive Plan of the county under VA Code 15.2-2232. (60 MW of the project are in Halifax County and 42 MWs are in Pittsylvania County.) At a September 19th meeting, the Planning Commission voted to recommend a denial of the project. If the project clears the 2232 hurdle, the Board may vote on whether it will be issued a conditional use permit. The Supervisors would also vote on the siting agreement for Hillandale Solar, which would generate \$9.8 million for the county over the course of 30 years. [Read more here](#) and [here](#).

Solar Ordinance | Town of Halifax

On September 27, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend amendments to the Town code which would allow medium and small scale solar facilities to operate within Town limits. Under the amended ordinance, developers can build solar generation facilities up to 5 MW in residential R-1 Zones with a Special Use Permit. [Read more here](#).

Battery Storage | Henrico County

On September 18, Dominion Energy filed with the State Corporation Commission to propose the 11 MW Darbytown Storage Pilot Project, a battery storage project that will test two new technologies and alternatives to lithium-ion batteries. The program will be located at the existing Darbytown Power Station in the county. [Read more here](#) and [here](#).

*GreeneHurlocker marks the 20th edition of this newsletter. Comments? Ideas?
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