



VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE

SOLAR

Augusta County

On May 14, the Planning Commission voted 6-1 to again deny an application for AES's Augusta Solar project. The project original came before the county in 2019 and was rejected by the Board of Supervisors in a 4-3 vote. AES then downsized the project, from 125 MW on 2,700 acres to 90 MW on 1,600 acres, and resubmitted its application last year. At the public hearing, 24 speakers commented on the project – 14 against and 10 in favor. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR ORDINANCE

Cumberland County

On June 3, the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission held a Joint Energy Policy Workshop to discuss and finalize a new Energy Facilities Policy. The policy provides guidance for the siting, development, operations and decommissioning of energy generating facilities in Cumberland County that require a Conditional Use Permit. A public hearing on the draft policy before the Planning Commission will be held on July 15, 2024. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR

Fauquier County

On May 16, the Planning Commission found that Bealton Solar Center, a 14 MW, 93-acre proposed solar project developed by Sun Tribe, was substantially in accord with the county's Comprehensive Plan. The next step for Bealton Solar Center is to submit its special exception permit application. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR ORDINANCE

Fluvanna County

On June 5, the Board of Supervisors held a joint work session with the Planning Commission to hear from Dominion, the Virginia Department of Energy, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Virginia Farm Bureau in connection with the anticipated solar ordinance amendments. Topics covered by the speakers included stormwater control, siting agreements, and decommissioning. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR ORDINANCE

Greensville County

On June 3, the Board of Supervisors voted to remove Utility Scale Solar Projects as an approved use in the A-1 zoning districts and to remove Utility Scale Solar Projects from the county's comprehensive plan. The County has already approved five solar projects, which will be permitted to move forward. The Board of Supervisors left a small carve-out to permit Utility Scale Solar if it is co-located with and provided power solely to a business or industrial facility. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR

Halifax County

On June 3, the Board of Supervisors voted to deny conditional use permits for two Bluewave Solar sites, Opossum Branch and Ashcake Creek, each a 4.99 MW project. The projects were considered despite the recent moratorium being placed on solar applications because the public hearings had already been scheduled. The Board was split in its decision, with proponents stating that the site would have no negative visual impacts and opponents citing concerns about solar density in the area. Both permits were ultimately denied in 5-3 votes. [READ MORE.](#)



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Isle of Wight County

On May 28, the Planning Commission held public hearings to discuss two proposed solar projects. The first project presented by Sycamore Cross Solar was a 220 MW project located on 2,000 acres. The second project proposed by Moonlight Solar was a 44MW project located on 523 acres. The Planning Commission denied both CUP applications. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR ORDINANCE

Louisa County

On June 3, The Board of Supervisors voted on a recommendation from the Planning Commission to reduce the acreage cap on solar developments from the current 3% cap (9,800 acres) to a 2% cap (6,343 acres). The motion failed 4-3 and the 3% cap remains in place. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR

Roanoke County

On June 4, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on New Leaf Energy's proposed Reed Road Solar 1 project, a 4 MW, 36-acre solar farm. The project is meant to participate Appalachian Power's new shared solar program. The public hearing will be continued on August 6, 2024 and the new public hearing date before the Board of Supervisors is August 20, 2024. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR

Stafford County

On June 4, the Board of Supervisors decided to waive the one-year restriction on resubmitting a conditional use permit application after a denial for this project and allow Enon Road Solar to re-apply early. The initial application was denied on October 4, 2023, despite receiving approval from the Planning Commission and support from county staff. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR

Sussex County

On June 3, the Board of Supervisors held a special meeting with the Planning Commission to consider Blackwater Solar's rezoning, CUP, and siting agreement. The project includes 600 MW of solar and 400 MW of battery storage. Strong public opposition to the facility was led by the local organization Stop Sussex Solar. Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-2 to deny the CUP. [READ MORE.](#)

SOLAR ORDINANCE

Washington County

On June 11, the Board of Supervisors approved updates to, the county's solar ordinance, which include adding requirements for siting agreements, decommissioning plans, financial surety, and revenue share. The changes were proposed in anticipation of a special use permit application by Catalyst Energy for Wolf Hills Solar, a 250 MW, 1,800-acre project. [READ MORE.](#)



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