



VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE

SUMMER SOLAR ROUNDUP

NEW SOLAR ORDINANCES AND POLICIES

Fluvanna County

On October 16, the Board of Supervisors will vote on the new solar ordinance, which requires rezoning to a new S-1 district and an SUP for utility-scale projects (over 2 MW). The ordinance includes a 500-acre project size limitation and a county-wide acreage cap of 3% or around 5,400 acres, as well as a development limit of 1% of acreage per electoral district. Additionally, the mandatory setbacks range from 375 to 1,000 feet. The Planning Commission approved the draft ordinance at their September 10 meeting, but recommended the Board revisit the setback requirements. . [READ MORE.](#)

Grayson County

On June 13, the Board of Supervisors approved amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance to deal with solar and wind interest. The new zoning regulations limit solar projects to 500 acres with 65% panel coverage, as well as impose a density restriction (3% in 5-mile radius) and 2-mile radius restriction between projects. [READ MORE.](#)

Mecklenburg County

On September 9, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution asking the Planning Commission to consider removing solar from the county's zoning ordinance or setting the county-wide acreage cap at the current project acreage . [READ MORE.](#)

King William County

On September 23, the Board of Supervisors approved changes to the solar ordinance to limit projects to 1,000 acres and impose a 3% county-wide acreage cap, as well as add provisions related to battery storage systems. [READ MORE.](#)

Nottoway County

The county continues to work on changes to its solar ordinance, now proposing a 50-acre under panel or 5 MW limitation, rather than the previously proposed 40-acres. Another change gives the Board of Supervisors discretion to make exceptions to the setback requirements.. [READ MORE.](#)

Cumberland County

The Board of Supervisors adopted a new energy policy and lifted the temporary moratorium on solar applications in August. [READ MORE.](#)

Halifax County

At their August meeting, the Board of Supervisors lifted the moratorium on reviewing solar applications that went into effect in March. The Board is now considering whether revisions to its solar ordinance are necessary. . [READ MORE.](#)

Northumberland County

On October 17, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on changes to the solar ordinance that will prohibit solar facilities within 0.75 miles of tidal waters.. [READ MORE.](#)

Augusta County

On September 25, Staff presented the Board of Supervisors with several amendments to the solar ordinance related to decommissioning which will likely be considered soon. [READ MORE.](#)



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PROJECTS APPROVED

Isle of Wight County

The first half of AES' 240 MW Sycamore Cross project was approved last month when the Board of Supervisors voted 6-2 to approve the project's CUP, against the Planning Commission's recommendation for denial. [READ MORE.](#)

In August, the Board approved Pivot Energy's 3 MW Elk Development project, also overturning the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the CUP. [READ MORE.](#)

Augusta County

On October 3, the Board of Zoning Appeals approved the Fishersville Solar project, a 3 MW project developed by RWE. Due to changes made to the zoning ordinance last year, this will likely be the last solar project approved in the area. [READ MORE.](#)

Amherst County

New Leaf's 5 MW Ebenezer Road community solar project was approved in August, the first approved under the new ordinance limiting solar facilities to 50 acres under panel. [READ MORE.](#)

Prince Edward County

CEP's Piney Grove Solar project was approved in June and the siting agreement was approved in July. [READ MORE.](#)

PROJECTS DENIED

Hanover County

On September 25, the Board of Supervisors denied a CUP for Strata Clean Energy's North Anna River Solar project, a 72 MW facility proposed near Beaverdam. [READ MORE.](#)

Orange County

In August, the Board of Supervisors rejected BayWa r.e.'s CUP request for the 80 MW Sunfish Solar project, as well as a \$20 million siting agreement. [READ MORE.](#)

Augusta County

In July, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-1 to deny AES's Augusta Solar project a CUP and also declined to overturn the Planning Commission's 2232 denial. This was the project's second chance before the Board. [READ MORE.](#)

Isle of Wight County

Pivot Energy's 3 MW Old Stage Highway project was denied an CUP at the same meeting where Sycamore Cross was approved. [READ MORE.](#)

Dinwiddie County

In August, the Board of Supervisors denied a rezoning request for the Flowers Solar project, developed by Greenvolt Power and Actualize Solar, following the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the rezoning and CUP request in July. Dinwiddie requires solar projects to rezone the site to a SED district before the CUP will be considered. [READ MORE.](#)



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PROJECTS DENIED

Surry County

AES is appealing the Planning Commission’s unanimous June 26 vote that found the Sycamore Cross project to be not substantially in accord with Comprehensive Plan. Surry requires 2232 approval before the Board of Supervisors will consider a CUP application. The Board was scheduled to hear the appeal at its meeting last week. [READ MORE.](#)

Washington County

In July, Catalyst Energy Partners withdrew its 262 MW Wolf Hills Solar project after the Planning Commission voted to deny the project’s SEP. [READ MORE.](#)

Patrick County

Energix pulled the plug on both of its solar projects in Patrick County in August: the 12 MW Fairy Stone Solar project and the 13.2 MW Muscato Solar project. [READ MORE.](#)

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Sussex County

On October 24, the Board of Supervisors will consider a CUP request for RWE’s 150 MW Big Pine Solar project. [READ MORE.](#)

Henry County

On October 23, the Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on two New Energy Equity community solar projects. [READ MORE.](#)

OTHER NEWS

Agrivoltaics

Dominion is pairing solar and agricultural at two of its projects. Sheep were brought to Hampton Roads and bee hives to Black Bear Solar Farm. [READ MORE HERE AND HERE.](#)

Work Begins in Cumberland

Two years after being approved, construction is scheduled to begin on two Borrego solar sites in Cumberland. [READ MORE](#)

Henry County Energy Action Plan

Henry County Board of Supervisors adopted a new Energy Action Plan in August, which sets a goal of transitioning 40% of the county’s electricity to clean energy sources. The plan lists streamlining solar facility permitting as a high priority action item, however the Board commented that it has no intention of amending the solar ordinance to be less restrictive. [READ MORE](#)



Have a tip to share? Contact us.

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