



COUNTY OF AMHERST



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The Board of Supervisors Passes Solar Ordinance

During their October 6, 2020 public hearing, the Board of Supervisors discussed and passed a Solar Ordinance allowing solar generating facilities within the County. At the request of the Supervisors, Community Development staff and the County Attorney's Office worked diligently on the ordinance. The proposed ordinance went before the Planning Commission in September of this year. After reviewing the language, the Planning Commission made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Solar generation facilities have been proposed all over the Commonwealth for years, but they have not been permitted in Amherst County. However, over the last few years, the General Assembly made several changes to state code that makes them more useful and beneficial.

The new ordinance allows for three types of solar generating facilities; small, agricultural, and utility scale. In most cases, small scale and agricultural solar facilities can produce solar energy for their own use without obtaining special permission from the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Utility-scale solar facilities will go before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to ensure that they do not have an unwanted impact on neighboring properties.

More information about the Solar Ordinance can be found in the September 6, 2020 Board of Supervisors Agenda: <https://amherstcova.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1672&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>

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