

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, VIRGINIA PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
AMENDMENT DRAFT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 8, 2022. ADDITIONAL REVISIONS PROPOSED JUNE 21, 2022,  
PREPARED FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PUBLIC HEARING, JULY 19, 2022.**

## **Public Utilities**

**Goal:** Develop and implement a long range countywide utility infrastructure plan which assures equitable level of access for all County citizens including but not limited to water, sewer, solid waste, telecommunications, electrical power, television access, broadband access, and natural gas that supports and complements the County's long range plan for transportation, residential, commercial and industrial development; and community facilities. This plan will also be consistent with the County's plan for environmental quality and the Commonwealth's goals for renewable energy.

**Objective:**

- 28.0** Develop water service to key industrial, commercial, and residential sites in the County.

**Strategies:**

- 28.0a** Develop a community facilities plan for public water extensions countywide, to include potential service areas and enhance provision of fire flow, detailing service areas, potential costs, timing, and funding sources.
- 28.0b** Transfer new and existing privately owned water systems to public ownership where appropriate and feasible.
- 28.0c** Connect existing systems to the countywide public water system source as the distribution system is extended.

**Objective:**

- 29.0** Distribute the Smith Mountain Lake sources contracted through the Bedford County Public Service Authority (PSA) to designated service areas countywide; develop a county-owned Smith Mountain Lake water withdrawal and treatment plant as a complementary source; contract links with other regional sources as appropriate to extend public water countywide and to other localities.

**Strategies:**

- 29.0a** Continue to strengthen the County's Public Works Department while investigating the possibility of forming a new PSA or expanding the existing Ferrum Water and Sewer Authority to provide water and sewer services.

**Objective:**

- 30.0** Development and implement a Long Range Utility Plan for Sewer Service that supports the County's future land use plan.

**Strategies:**

- 30.0a** Develop a community facilities plan for public sewer development that incorporates realistic development goals and objectives, timing, funding sources, and technology appropriate to the initiation of public sewer service in target areas.
- 30.0b** Develop guidelines for County acceptance of new sewer systems.
- 30.0c** Consider the development of regulations for County oversight of new sewer systems meeting all state and local design, construction, expansion, and sustainability standards.
- 30.0d** Reserve Areas for On–Site Sewage Disposal: Investigate the development of regulations to require that all new building lots (including single family residential) dependent on on–lot sewage disposal have an adequate drainfield reserve area.
- 30.0e** Consider expanding the existing mandatory septic tank pumpout program to include maintenance and apply to all parcels within the County.
- 30.0f** Develop guidelines for the County’s subdivision ordinance to determine when a new subdivision will be required to install sewer and water treatment systems in lieu of individual septic systems and wells.

**Objective:**

- 31.0** Ensure the long term capability of the County to dispose of solid and hazardous waste.

**Strategies:**

- 31.0a** Solid Waste Disposal: Continue to update and implement the long term management plan to ensure the effective operations of the new landfill or other disposal options.
- 31.0b** Solid Waste Collection: Review and recommend where improvements may be made to the County solid waste collection system.
- 31.0c** Recycling: Continue to update and implement a cost-effective strategy to meet all mandated requirements.
- 31.0d** Hazardous Waste: Develop a plan and implement procedures for the disposal of household hazardous waste.
- 31.0e** Litter Control and Beautification: Continue to implement a cost-effective effort to control litter at solid waste collection sites and to landscape public areas for lowcost maintenance and enhancement of the County’s image as a livable community.

**Objective:**

- 32.0** Provide countywide cellular service.

**Strategies:**

- 32.0a** Conduct service area, customer base studies in conjunction with service providers to determine those areas that have inadequate service.
- 32.0b** Conduct meetings with staff, citizens, and cellular providers to develop a strategy promoting countywide service.

**Objective:**

- 33.0** Investigate establishing a natural gas distribution network in Franklin County.

**Strategies:**

**33.0a** Cooperate with natural gas service companies in developing service proposals and routes.

**33.0b** Work with neighboring entities to create opportunities to expand natural gas service into Franklin County.

**Objective:**

**34.0** Provide adequate electrical power for the present and future needs of the County in a manner that is compatible with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Strategies:**

**34.0a** Review future transmission line and substation locations well in advance of construction and ensure compatibility with community growth and visual character.

**34.0b** Encourage the conservation of energy by promoting existing educational programs and best practices.

**Objective:**

**35.0** To develop broadband internet opportunities for the citizens of the entire County.

**Strategies:**

**35.0a** Identify new technology opportunities and encourage their implementation to provide the maximum coverage throughout the County.

**35.0b** Encourage the adoption and use of new technologies as they become available.

**Objective:**

~~**36.0** To promote the use of residential, commercial, and utility scale renewable energy in a way that balances the development of large acreages with the policies of the Comp Plan.~~

**36.0** To promote the use of residential, commercial, and utility scale renewable energy in the way of solar generator facilities and wind turbines while minimizing the impact of such facilities on Franklin County's view shed and the County's natural, agricultural, scenic, tourism, and cultural resources.

**Strategies:**

~~**36.0a** To encourage the use of local renewable energy resources, including appropriate applications for wind and solar facilities.~~

~~**36.0b** Promote sustainable building design and management practices to serve current and future generations.~~

~~**36.0c** Assist local businesses to lower financial and regulatory risks and improve their economic, community, and environmental sustainability.~~

~~**36.0d** Promote Agrivoltaics (APV) for farmers to still use the area of their land where solar facilities are located to farm.~~

~~**36.0e** Encourage utility scale solar facilities to locate on sites otherwise less suited for development.~~

~~**36.0f** Protect existing businesses from incompatible uses and development.~~

- 36.0a Avoiding impact of solar facilities and wind turbines on available farmland, including prime farmland and farmland of statewide significance.
- 36.0b Solar facilities should be screened from all public rights-of-way and all adjacent properties.
- 36.0c Solar facilities should not visually impact scenic and cultural resources, including the view shed from residential areas and event venue spaces.
- 36.0d Promote sustainable building design and management practices to serve current and future generations.
- 36.0e Assist local businesses to lower financial and regulatory risks and improve their economic, community, and environmental sustainability.
- 36.0f Promote Agrivoltaics (APV) for farmers to still use the area of their land where solar facilities are located.
- 36.0g Solar facilities should not generally be located within Designated Growth Areas (DGAs)
- 36.0h Proposed project shall be evaluated for compliance with the most recently adopted Solar Energy Facility Siting Policy document to assist the County in making substantial accord determination under Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia. This policy shall serve as guidance for County staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to evaluate whether the proposal is in substantial accord with the Comprehensive Plan.