



## **RESOLUTION #10-02-2023**

**APPLICATION for AMENDMENT TO FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** to amend Chapter 11, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies of the 2007 Franklin County Comprehensive Plan pertaining to renewable energy. The purpose of the amendment is to amend strategy 36.0a to have no more than 1,500 cumulative acres occupied by utility scale solar projects throughout the County (Case # A-01-23-0001).

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Supervisors did propose to amend Chapter 11 (Utilities) of the 2007 Franklin County Comprehensive Plan for Solar Facilities, and

**WHEREAS**, after due legal notice as required by Section 15.2-2204/2205 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors did hold public hearings on January 10, 2023 and February 21, 2023, respectively, at which time all parties in interest were given an opportunity to be heard, and

**WHEREAS**, after full consideration, the Franklin County Planning Commission recommended **APPROVAL** of amending Chapter 11 (Utilities) of the County's Comprehensive Plan for Solar Facilities; finding that the public necessity, health and safety, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice would be achieved by this amendment, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors in adopting this resolution expressly adopts, ratifies, affirms, and concurs in the action of the Planning Commission stated above, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Virginia, that it hereby **APPROVES** to amend Chapter 11 (Utilities) of the County's Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

### **Objective:**

- 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** Avoiding impact of solar facilities and wind turbines on available farmland, including prime farmland and farmland of statewide significance. **To help minimize the impact, the County desires to have no more than 1,500 cumulative acres of leased area occupied by utility scale solar projects throughout the County.**
- 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 be located within Designated Growth Areas (DGA).
- 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of the Planning Commission and the Franklin County Zoning Administrator and that the Clerk be directed to reflect this action to APPROVE the Comprehensive Plan amendment.

This resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2023.

On the motion by Supervisor Lorie Smith to approve the requested amendments, and seconded by Supervisor Tommy Cundiff, said motion was APPROVED by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Carter, Cundiff, Smith, Tatum  
NAYES: R. Mitchell, N. Mitchell  
ABSENT: Thompson

\* Roll call vote was taken \*

  
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Madherleyn Torres, Clerk  
Franklin County Board of Supervisors



3/3/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date