

Planning & Zoning Office
Community Development
County of Pulaski, VA
143 Third Street, NW, Suite 1
Pulaski, Virginia 24301
T (540) 980-7710
F (540) 980-7717
Pulaskicounty.org



Planning & Zoning Frequently Asked Questions for Solar Farms

- 1) **What is a Solar Farm?** In the Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) a solar farm is defined as; “A single installation or a combination of solar installations from multiple parcels, in which photovoltaic solar panels are installed, as a combined project, in order to generate electricity with the primary purpose of utility scale generation and distribution of electricity. Includes the equipment customary and incidental to utility generation, including electrical storage, transmission and power conditioning equipment, along with associated site elements required for access, site protection and power distribution on a utility scale.”
- 2) **Are solar farms and utility scale solar the same thing?** Both types of terminology refer to the same type of energy production. Power is generated from solar arrays with the intent to sell this electricity to the power grid to be used by the utility for use by the public.
- 3) **What zoning permit is needed to install a solar farm?** Solar Farms are allowed in Conservation, Agriculture, Light Industrial, Industrial, Planned Industrial and Planned Unit Development Zone Districts with the issuance of a Special Use Permit from the Board of Supervisors. They are not allowed in Residential or Commercial zone districts.
- 4) **How does someone apply for a Special Use Permit to install a solar farm?** The applicant submits detailed information about the project and a site plan referencing the general layout of the project, along with the Special Use Permit application form, to the Planning Office. The Planning Office places the item on the agenda for the Planning Commission Meeting. A public hearing occurs for the Planning Commission and prior to this public hearing, adjacent landowner letters along with the newspaper notice are used to inform the public about the date and time of the meeting. After the Planning Commission meeting/public hearing the project proceeds to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation to either recommend or not recommend approval of the project. A Public Hearing and a meeting are then scheduled for the Board of Supervisors. At this time, adjacent landowners and the newspapers are notified of the meeting date and time so that they can comment on the project. The Board of Supervisors votes on the project and the approval or disapproval is given back to the applicant.
- 5) **Where can I find more information about permitting solar farms in Pulaski County?** The Planning & Zoning Department is available to assist you Monday-Friday from 8 A:M to 5 P:M. Call 540-980-7710 or email mquesenberry@pulaskicounty.org. The [Pulaski County Solsmart Webpage](#) has general information about both residential solar projects and solar farm facts, including links to other resources.