

The Town Board has had a moratorium on large scale solar installations and has been mulling over legislative modifications for over a year now. We are only a few months away from the opportunity for commercial solar installations to take advantage of the 30% Federal tax incentive. For that, they must have received bills for construction by July 1, as I understand it. As the months go by, the likelihood for a successful installation dwindle. The current proposed law is highly unlikely to be passed, and it makes me wonder why it is even being proposed. I think it would be a much better use of time to work up a law that manages solar installations (not bans them) to the degree it could actually pass a vote. Here are some of my points regarding **Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 300 - Solar Power Generation Systems & Facilities (2026)**.

### **Background:**

Energy use continues to rise in our country and the only solution to climate change mitigation, while maintaining our standard of living, is to migrate from fossil fuels to electricity that is generated without the use of fossil fuels. We need to all be part of the solution. If every town, and every resident does nothing, we are all in for a bad future. However, if we all chip in, we can change the future.

### **Who are we caring about?**

It appears that the primary focus of all this regulation is to keep solar farms from being seen at all, and therefore (imagined) to reduce property values.

- 1) Where is the data to show a decrease in home value when a (barely visible) solar farm is nearby?
- 2) Do we care at all about the many, many thousands of people who will be displaced as the oceans rise?
- 3) Do we care that we are continuing to heat the earth to the point drastic environmental changes will change the course of nature?
- 4) Do we care that burning fossil fuels causes air pollution right now that is known to lead to disease and death in humans?

### **Viewpoint**

The Town of Yorktown has many ugly sights. Just walk into Town on the North County Trailway, and see the Town Garage, all the equipment on the roof of Uncle Giuseppe's, and other unsightly rooftops and equipment.



Apparently, that is seen as “OK” by the Town Board, but a solar panel on a flat roof must be hidden from sight, according to the proposed (and prior) legislation. This is absolutely wrong,

and biased and unfair. Why can people put above ground propane tanks on their property and not shield or bury them, but solar panels must be out of sight? It is clear the visual aspect is not the heart of the matter. Clean power is being targeted unfairly, and, meanwhile it is a great tenant and neighbor.

Solar farms have no traffic, no air pollution, no noise, no load on our schools. They pay their taxes, and offer residents cheaper, cleaner power. Why are they being targeted?

**Regulate and manage. Don't make it impossible.**

Rather than providing helpful, and constructive guidelines, the Town of Yorktown continues to add constraints to challenge even the best of solar planners. I think good setbacks, and good evergreen tree screening makes sense. But why regulate what percentage of property can have solar panels, and then add the vacant space between panels as part of that 50% coverage rule. That rule is unfair and uncaring.

**Vacant land in Yorktown is zoned residential**

We all know that essentially all the vacant land in Yorktown is zoned residential. That, alone should not be the basis for whether solar farms are allowed. It is biased and results in a ban on new development. I am all for commercial and residential rooftops having solar, but we are continuing to build in Yorktown, and no rooftop solar is being included or required.

**BESS – why not think about the changing technology**

Battery storage, initially, had some issues. Plain lithium-ion batteries can be a hazard when burning, and there is some chance that they will. However, new, safer batteries (lithium-ion-phosphate, for example) are available and are markedly better. In the future, solid state batteries will offer great potential and claim essentially no risk of fire. The town should not blanketly deny that we need energy storage, and safe chemistries and designs can be utilized, either now, and even more so, in the future. I recommend not banning all BESS.

In summary, this energy and environmental crisis must be treated with a sense of caring, and a sense of urgency. I have seen neither. I ask that the Board convene, and hammer out a regulation that is NOT a ban, and properly, and fairly manages solar growth in our community.

Sincerely and caringly,

Robert L DeAngelis