

**URBANA SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNTY SUPPORT A
TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES
FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, The City of Urbana has resolved to work towards 100% renewable energy by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2040 community-wide; and

WHEREAS, The City of Urbana has long expressed an interest in promoting renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, including them as objectives in its 2005 Comprehensive Plan, and incorporating renewable energy into Urbana's Climate Inheritance Resolution and Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, The City of Urbana has minimal language in the zoning ordinance that regulates building- or ground-mounted solar energy systems; and

WHEREAS, The existing regulations can be restrictive and have discouraged development of solar energy systems; and

WHEREAS, The City of Urbana has exhausted most no/low cost, low-hanging-fruit options for reducing carbon pollution; and

WHEREAS, Council Goals adopted in 2022 include expanding green infrastructure within the community; and

WHEREAS, The Sustainability Advisory Commission appreciates the efforts put forth by Planning staff and the Zoning Administrator to more accurately reflect the nature of solar energy systems and their operation in our community in the Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, The Sustainability Advisory Commission advises and makes recommendations pertaining to local environmental sustainability and climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE URBANA SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

The Sustainability Advisory Commission concurs with the "best practices" approach put forth by the American Planning Association, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the

Midwest Renewable Energy Association regarding zoning of solar arrays.

Section. 2.

The Sustainability Advisory Commission advises the Mayor and City Council to support a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to establish guidelines for solar energy systems.

The Sustainability Advisory Commission supports permitting solar arrays as a principal use in the AG-Agricultural Zoning District and as a special use in business, industrial, conservation/recreation/education districts and higher-intensity residential districts.

The Sustainability Advisory Commission further supports the establishment of guidelines for accessory solar energy systems, and to allow them in all zoning districts.

The Sustainability Advisory Commission would recommend approval of the text amendment as presented in Plan Case 2425-T-21: an application by the Urbana Zoning Administrator to amend the Urbana Zoning Ordinances with changes to Article II (Definitions), Article V(Use Regulations), and Article VI (Development Regulations), and other relevant sections, to facilitate solar energy system installation.

PASSED by the Sustainability Advisory Commission this ____ day of _____, 2022.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTENTIONS: _____

Stacy Gloss, Chair