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July 1, 2020

New York State Energy Research and  
Development Authority  
ATT: Office of the President and CEO  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203-6399

**RE:** *Local Laws Opting out of the Exemption from Taxation of Solar or Wind Energy Systems by the  
Town of Fremont New York (Steuben County), in accordance with RPTL Section 487*  
Our File No.: F-9200-004

Dear Acting President Harris:

Enclosed is a copy of the Town of Fremont Local Law No. 2 of 2018 entitled "Rescinding Local Law 1 of 2008 and 2017, Governing Wind Energy Facilities in the Town of Fremont, Regulating Wind Energy Facilities in the Town of Fremont." This Local Law contains provisions opting out of the RPTL Section 487 tax exemption for certain wind energy systems and is being sent to you for filing in accordance with the provisions of RPTL Section 487. It was filed with the Department of State on September 24, 2018.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Town of Fremont Local Law No. 2 of 2019 entitled "Solar Photovoltaic Installations." This Local Law contains provisions opting out of the RPTL Section 487 tax exemption for certain Solar Energy Systems and is being sent to you for filing in accordance with the provisions of RPTL Section 487. It was filed with the Department of State on August 19, 2019.

If you have any questions about the enclosed, please contact our office at your earliest convenience.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

RICHARDSON, PULLEN & BUCK, P.C.

  
By: Seth D. Pullen

Enc.

cc: Emily Murray, Town Supervisor (via email)

# Local Law Filing

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

☐ County ☐ City ☒ Town ☐ Village  
(Select one)

of Fremont

(Steuben)

FILED  
STATE RECORDS

SEP 24 2018

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Local Law No. 2 of the year 2018

A local law Rescinding Local Law 1 of 2008 and 2017

(Insert Title)

Governing Wind Energy Facilities in the Town of Fremont

Regulating Wind Energy Facilities in the Town of Fremont

Be it enacted by the Town Board

(Name of Legislative Body)

of the

☐ County ☐ City ☒ Town ☐ Village  
(Select one)

of Fremont

as follows:

SEE COPY OF LOCAL LAW ANNEXED HERETO

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

**1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. 2 of 2018 of the ~~County~~ City (Town) ~~Village~~ of Fremont was duly passed by the Town Board on September 20 2018, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer\*.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ and was deemed duly adopted on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**3. (Final adoption by referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

\* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

**5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, became operative.

**6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

**(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)**

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph 1 above.

Susan M. Peck Susan M. Peck  
Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or  
officer designated by local legislative body

Date: 9/21/18

(Seal)

**A LOCAL LAW GOVERNING WIND ENERGY FACILITIES IN THE  
TOWN OF FREMONT**

Be hereby enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Fremont as follows:

**Section 1: Title**

This Local Law shall be known as the "Wind Energy Facilities Law of the Town of Fremont."

**Section 2:** The Table of Allowable Uses under Section 6.2 is amended to add the following:

**Section 6.2.5 Industrial Uses**

Wind Energy Generating Systems, allowed with a Special Use Permit in the AGR District

**Section 6.2.6 Accessory Uses**

Small Wind Energy Generating Systems, not exempted under Section 8.5(E), allowed with a Special Use Permit in the AGR District and LDR District.

Wind Measurement Tower, allowed with a Special Use Permit in the AGR District.

**Section 3:** Section 7.2.1, "Non-Regulated Uses" of the Town of Fremont Land Use Ordinance, hereby amended to read, in part, as follows:

- B. A facility (such as a transmission line) that can be built only after issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need by the NYS Public Service Commission, may be developed without a Permit, except for wind energy generating devices regulated by Section VIII of this Ordinance.

**Section 4:** The following Section VIII is hereby added Town of Fremont Land Use Ordinance to read in its entirety as follows:

**WIND ENERGY OVERLAY ZONE**

**§ 8.1 WIND ENERGY OVERLAY ZONE** The Town Board of the Town of Fremont hereby adopts the rules and procedures for creating Wind Energy Overlay Zones to promote the effective and efficient use of the Town's wind energy resource through wind energy conversion systems (WECS), and to regulate or prohibit the placement of such systems so that the public health, safety, and welfare will not be jeopardized.

## **§ 8.2 Authority.**

A. The Town Board of the Town of Fremont adopts this Section under the authority granted by:

1. Article IX of the New York State Constitution, § 2(c)(6) and (10).
2. New York Statute of Local Governments, § 10, (1), (6), and (7).
3. New York Municipal Home Rule Law, § 10 (1)(i) and (ii) and § 10 (1)(a)(6), (11), (12), and (14).
4. The supersession authority of New York Municipal Home Rule Law, § 10 (2)(d)(3).
5. New York Town Law, Article 16 (Land Use).
6. New York Town Law § 130(1)(Building Code), (3)(Electrical Code), (5)(Fire Prevention), (7)(Use of streets and highways), (7-a)(Location of Driveways), (11)(Peace, good order and safety), (15)(Promotion of public welfare), (15a)(Excavated Lands), (16)(Unsafe buildings), (19)(Trespass), and (25)(Building lines).
7. New York Town Law § 64(17-a)(protection of aesthetic interests) and (23)(General powers).

## **§ 8.3 Findings.**

A. The Town Board of the Town of Fremont finds and declares that:

1. Wind energy is an abundant, renewable, and nonpolluting energy resource of the Town and its conversion to electricity may reduce dependence on nonrenewable energy sources and decrease the air and water pollution that results from the use of conventional energy sources.
2. The generation of electricity from properly sited wind turbines, including small systems, can be cost effective, and in many cases existing power distribution systems can be used to transmit electricity from wind-generating stations to utilities or other users, or on-site consumption can be reduced.
3. Regulation of the siting and installation of wind turbines is necessary for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of neighboring property owners and the general public.
4. Wind Energy Facilities represent significant potential aesthetic impacts because of their large size, lighting, and shadow flicker effects.
5. If not properly regulated, installation of Wind Energy Facilities can create drainage problems through erosion and lack of sediment control for facility sites and access roads, and harm farmlands through improper construction methods.
6. Wind Energy Facilities may present a risk to bird and bat populations if not properly sited.

7. If not properly sited, Wind Energy Facilities may present risks to the property values of adjoining property owners.
8. Wind Energy Facilities are significant sources of noise, which, if unregulated, can negatively impact adjoining properties.
9. Construction of Wind Energy Facilities can create traffic problems and damage local roads.
10. Wind Energy Facilities can cause electromagnetic interference issues with various types of communications.

#### § 8.4 Definitions.

A. As used in this Section VIII, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

1. AGRICULTURAL OR FARM OPERATIONS — means the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation, and marketing of crops, livestock, and livestock products as a commercial enterprise, including a commercial horse boarding operation," as defined in New York Agriculture and Markets Law § 301 and "timber processing," as defined in subdivision fourteen of New York Agriculture and Markets Law § 301. Such farm operation may consist of one or more parcels of owned or rented land, which parcels may be contiguous or noncontiguous to each other.
2. EAF Environmental Assessment Form used in the implementation of the SEQRA as that term is defined in Part 617 of Title 6 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations.
3. RESIDENCE — means any dwelling suitable for habitation existing in the Town of Fremont on the date of a specific application is deemed completed, including seasonal homes, hunting camps, churches, Amish homes, hotels, hospitals, motels, dormitories, sanitariums, nursing homes, senior housing, schools or other buildings used for educational purposes. A residence may be part of a multi-dwelling or multipurpose building, but shall not include correctional institutions.
4. SOUND PRESSURE LEVEL — means the Equivalent Sound Level (Leq) or the average sound energy over time. Leq integrates fluctuating sound levels over a period of time to express them as a steady state sound level. Equivalent Sound Level is considered to be directly related to the effects of sound on people since it expresses the equivalent magnitude of the sound as a function of frequency of occurrence and time. The measurement of the sound pressure level can be done according to the International Standard for Acoustic Noise Measurement Techniques for Wind Generators (IEC 61400-11), or other accepted procedures.

5. **SMALL WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM ("Small WECS")** A wind energy conversion system consisting of a wind turbine, a tower, and associated control or conversion electronics, which has a rated capacity of not more than 100 kW and which is intended to primarily reduce on-Site consumption of utility power.
6. **SITE** - the parcel(s) of land where the Wind Energy Facility is to be placed. The Site could be publicly or privately owned by an individual or a group of individuals controlling single or adjacent properties. Where multiple lots are in joint ownership, the combined lots shall be considered as one for purposes of applying setback requirements. Any property which has a Wind Energy Facility or has entered into an agreement for said Facility or a setback agreement shall be considered as part of the Site.
7. **TOTAL HEIGHT** — The height of the tower and the furthest vertical extension of the WECS.
8. **WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM ("WECS")** — A machine that converts the kinetic energy in the wind into a usable form (commonly known as a "wind turbine" or "windmill").
9. **WIND ENERGY FACILITY** — Any Wind Energy Conversion System, including Small Wind Energy Conversion Systems, or Wind Measurement Tower, including all related infrastructure, electrical lines and substations, access roads, and accessory structures.
10. **WIND MEASUREMENT TOWER** — a tower used for the measurement of meteorological data such as temperature, wind speed, and wind direction.
11. **WIND ENERGY OVERLAY DISTRICT** — a district which encompasses part or parts of one or more underlying districts and that establishes requirements for Wind Energy Facilities.

#### § 8.5 Permits and ReLand Use Required.

- A. No Wind Energy Facility shall be constructed, reconstructed, modified, or operated in the Town of Fremont except in compliance with this Section.
- B. No WECS, except a Small WECS, shall be constructed, reconstructed, modified, or operated in the Town of Fremont, except in a Wind Energy Overlay District, pursuant to an application for reLand Use and for special use permit approved pursuant to this Section.

- C. No Wind Measurement Tower shall be constructed, reconstructed, modified, or operated in the Town of Fremont except pursuant to a Special Use Permit issued pursuant to this Section.
- D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, Special Use Permits for Wind Energy Facilities shall be issued by the Town Board.
- E. Exemptions. No permit or other approval shall be required under this Section for WECS utilized solely for agricultural operations in a state or county agricultural district, as long as the facility is set back at least one and a half times its Total Height from a property line, and does not exceed 120 feet in height. Towers over 120 feet in Total Height utilized solely for agricultural operations in a state or county agricultural district shall apply for a special use permit in accordance with this Section 7, but shall not require a height variance. Prior to the construction of a WECS under this exemption, the property owner or a designated agent shall submit a sketch plan or building permit application to the Town to demonstrate compliance with the setback requirements.
- F. This Section shall apply to all areas of the Town of Fremont.
- G. Transfer. No transfer of any Wind Energy Facility or Special Use Permit, nor sale of the entity owning such facility including the sale of more than 30% of the stock of such entity (not counting sales of shares on a public exchange), will occur without prior approval of the Town, which approval shall be granted upon written acceptance of the transferee of the obligations of the transferor under this Section, and the transferee's demonstration, in the sole discretion of the Town Board, that it can meet the technical and financial obligations of the transferor. No transfer shall eliminate the liability of the transferor nor of any other party under this Section unless the entire interest of the transferor in all facilities in the Town is transferred and there no outstanding obligations or violations.
- H. Notwithstanding the requirements of this Section, maintenance replacement of like-kind components may occur without Town Board approval when (1) there will be no increase in Total Height; (2) no change in the location of the WECS; (3) no additional lighting or change in facility color; and (4) no increase in noise produced by the WECS.

#### **§ 8.6 Applicability.**

- A. The requirements of this Section shall apply to all Wind Energy Facilities proposed, operated, modified, or constructed after the effective date of this Section.
- B. Wind Energy Facilities for which a required permit has been properly issued and upon which construction has commenced prior to the effective date of this Section, shall not be required to meet the requirements of this Section; provided, however, that:

1. Any such preexisting Wind Energy Facility which does not provide energy for a continuous period of twelve (12) months shall meet the requirements of this Section prior to recommencing production of energy.
  2. No modification or alteration to an existing Wind Energy Facility shall be allowed without full compliance with this Section.
  3. Any Wind Measurement Tower existing on the effective date of this Section shall be removed no later than twenty-four (24) months after said effective date, unless a Special Use Permit for said Wind Measurement Tower is obtained
- C. Wind Energy Facilities may be either principal or accessory uses: A different existing use or an existing structure on the same Site shall not preclude the installation of a Wind Energy Facility or a part of such facility on such Site. Wind Energy Facilities constructed and installed in accordance with this Section shall not be deemed expansions of a nonconforming use or structure.

#### **§ 8.7 Wind Energy Overlay District Rules.**

- A. Wind Energy Overlay District may be created in the Agricultural-Residential (AG-R) District only.
- B. Initial requests for Wind Energy Overlay Districts shall be submitted with applications for WECS Special Use Permits. No Wind Energy Overlay District may be initially created without specific requests for WECSs
- C. Once a Wind Energy Overlay District has been created, new WECSs or accessory structures or facilities may be added in that District by grant of a Special Use Permit pursuant to the requirements of this Section.

#### **§ 8.8 Applications for Wind Energy Conversion Systems Special Use Permits and Wind Energy Overlay District.**

- A. A joint application for creation of a Wind Energy Overlay District and Special Use Permit for individual WECS shall include the following:
  1. Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant. If the applicant is represented by an agent, the application shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the agent as well as an original signature of the applicant authorizing the representation.

2. Name and address of the property owner. If the property owner is not the applicant, the application shall include a letter or other written permission signed by the property owner (i) confirming that the property owner is familiar with the proposed applications and (ii) authorizing the submission of the application.
3. Address, or other property identification, of each proposed tower location, including Tax Map section, block, and lot number.
4. A description of the project, including the number and maximum rated capacity of each WECS.
5. A plot plan prepared by a licensed surveyor or engineer drawn in sufficient detail to clearly describe the following:
  - (a) Property lines and physical dimensions of the Site.
  - (b) Location, approximate dimensions, and types of major existing structures, including all residences, and uses on Site, public roads, and adjoining properties within five hundred (500) feet of the boundaries of the proposed Wind Energy Overlay Zone.
  - (c) Location and elevation of each proposed WECS.
  - (d) Location of all above ground utility lines on the Site or within one radius of the Total Height of the WECS, transformers, power lines, interconnection point with transmission lines, and other ancillary facilities or structures.
  - (e) Location and size of structures above 35 feet within a five-hundred-foot radius of the proposed WECS. For purposes of this requirement, electrical transmission and distribution lines, antennas, and slender or open lattice towers are not considered structures.
  - (f) The Land Use designation of the subject and adjacent properties as set forth on the official Town Land Use Map.
  - (g) Proposed boundaries of the Wind Energy Overlay Zone.
  - (h) To demonstrate compliance with the setback requirements of this Section, circles drawn around each proposed tower location equal to:
    1. One and a half times the tower height radius.
    2. Five-hundred foot radius.
    3. One-thousand foot radius.
  - (i) Location of residential structures within 1500 feet of each proposed tower. The distance from the center of the tower to any off-site residence within 1500 feet shall be noted.
  - (j) All proposed facilities, including access roads, electrical lines, substations, storage or maintenance units, and fencing.
6. Vertical drawing of the WECS showing Total Height, turbine dimensions, tower and turbine colors, ladders, distance between ground and lowest point of any blade, location of climbing pegs, and access doors. One drawing may be submitted for each WECS of the same type and Total Height.

7. Landscaping Plan depicting vegetation describing the area to be cleared and the specimens proposed to be added, identified by species and size of specimen at installation and their locations.
8. Lighting Plan showing any FAA-required lighting and other proposed lighting. The application should include a copy of the determination by the Federal Aviation Administration to establish required markings and/or lights for the structure, but if such determination is not available at the time of the application, no building permit for any lighted facility may be issued until such determination is submitted.
9. List of property owners, with their mailing addresses, within 2000 feet of the boundaries of the proposed Wind Energy Overlay Zone. The applicant may delay submitting this list until the Town Board calls for a public hearing on the application.
10. Decommissioning Plan: The applicant shall submit a decommissioning plan, which shall include: 1) the anticipated life of the WECS; 2) the estimated decommissioning costs in current US dollars; 3) how said estimate was determined; 4) the method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration; 5) the method, such by annual re-estimate by a licensed engineer, that the decommissioning cost will be kept current; and 6) the manner in which the WECS will be decommissioned and the Site restored, which shall include removal of all structures and debris to a depth of three feet, restoration of the soil, and restoration of vegetation (consistent and compatible with surrounding vegetation), less any fencing or residual minor improvements requested by the landowner. The Plan shall include the Decommissioning Bond required by this Section.
11. Complaint Resolution: The application will include a complaint resolution process to address complaints from nearby residents. The process may use an independent mediator or arbitrator and include a time limit for acting on a complaint.
12. An application shall include information relating to the construction/installation of the wind energy conversion facility as follows:
  - (a) A construction schedule describing commencement and completion dates; and
  - (b) A description of the routes to be used by construction and delivery vehicles, the gross weights and heights of those loaded vehicles.
13. Completed Part 1 of the Full EAF.

14. Applications for Special Use Permits for Wind Measurement Towers subject to this Section may be jointly submitted with the WECS.
15. For each proposed WECS, include make, model, picture, and manufacturer's specifications, including noise decibels data. Include Manufacturers' Material Safety Data Sheet documentation for the type and quantity of all materials used in the operation of all equipment including, but not limited to, all lubricants, and coolants.
16. If the applicant agrees in writing in the application that the proposed WECS may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, the Town Board shall issue a positive declaration of environmental significance.
17. If a positive declaration of environmental significance is determined by the SEQRA lead agency, the following information shall be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") prepared for a Wind Energy Facility. Otherwise, the following studies shall be submitted with the application:
  - (a) Shadow Flicker: The applicant shall conduct a study on potential shadow flicker. The study shall identify locations where shadow flicker may be caused by the WECSs and the expected durations of the flicker at these locations. The study shall identify areas where shadow flicker may interfere with residences and describe measures that shall be taken to eliminate or mitigate the problems.
  - (b) Visual Impact: Applications shall include a visual impact study of the proposed WECS as installed, which includes a computerized photographic simulation, demonstrating any visual impacts from strategic vantage points. Color photographs of each proposed Site accurately depicting the existing conditions shall be included. The visual analysis shall also indicate the color treatment of the system's components and any visual screening incorporated into the project that is intended to lessen the system's visual prominence. The Visual Impact Study will specifically detail impacts on the Land Conservation District created by this Ordinance.
  - (c) A fire protection and emergency response plan, created in consultation with the fire department(s) having jurisdiction over the proposed Zone.
  - (d) Noise Analysis: a noise analysis by a board certified acoustical engineer documenting the noise levels associated with the proposed WECS. The study shall document noise levels at property lines and at the nearest residence not on the Site (if access to the nearest residence is not available, the Town Board may modify this requirement). The noise analysis shall provide pre-existing ambient noise levels and include low frequency noise.

- (e) Property value analysis prepared by a NYS licensed appraiser in accordance with industry standards, regarding the potential impact of values of properties adjoining WECS Sites, including properties across public roads from the Site.
  - (f) An assessment of potential electromagnetic interference with microwave, radio, television, personal communication systems, and other wireless communication.
- 18. Tower design information sufficient to demonstrate compliance with wind-loading requirements.
  - 19. Analysis of potential ice-throwing and damage from blade throw impacts.
  - 20. A statement, signed under penalty of perjury, that the information contained in the application is true and accurate.

#### **§ 8.9 Application Review Process.**

- A. Applicants may request a pre-application meeting with the Town Board, or with any consultants retained by the Town Board for application review.
- B. Twelve copies of the application shall be submitted to the Town Clerk. Payment of all application fees shall be made at the time of application submission. If any variances are requested, variance application fees shall be paid at the time of the receipt of the application.
- C. Town staff or Town-designated consultants shall, within 30 days of receipt, or such longer time if agreed to by the applicant, determine if all information required under this Section is included in the application.
- D. If the application is deemed incomplete, the Town Board or its designated reviewer shall provide the applicant with a written statement listing the missing information. No refund of application fees shall be made, but no additional fees shall be required upon submittal of the additional information unless the number of WECSs proposed is increased.
- E. Upon submission of a complete application, including the grant of any application waiver by the Town Board, the Town Clerk shall transmit the application to the Town Board. The applicant shall post the completed application and any accepted environmental impact statements on the Internet. The application shall be referred to the Planning Board in accordance with this Ordinance.
- F. The Town Board shall hold at least one public hearing on the application. Notice shall be given by first class mail to property owners within 2000 feet of the boundaries of the proposed Wind Energy Overlay District, and published in the Town's official newspaper, no less than ten nor more than twenty days before any hearing, but, where any hearing is adjourned by the Town Board to hear additional comments, no further

publication or mailing shall be required. The applicant shall prepare and mail the Notice of Public Hearing prepared by the Town, and shall submit an affidavit of service. The assessment roll of the Town shall be used to determine mailing addresses.

- G. The public hearing may be combined with public hearings on any Environmental Impact Statement or requested variances.
- H. Notice of the project shall also be given, when applicable, to (1) the Steuben County Planning Board, if required by General Municipal Law 239-l and 239-m, and (2) to adjoining Towns under Town Law § 264.
- I. SEQRA Review. Applications for WECS are deemed Type I projects under SEQRA. The Town shall conduct its SEQRA review in conjunction with other agencies, and the record of review by said agencies shall be part of the record of the Town's proceedings. The Town may require an escrow agreement for the engineering and legal review of the applications and any environmental impact statements before commencing its review. At the completion of the SEQRA review process, if a positive declaration of environmental significance has been issued and an environmental impact statement prepared, the Town shall issue a Statement of Findings, which Statement may also serve as the Town's decision on the applications.
- J. Upon receipt of the report of the recommendation of the County Planning Board (where applicable), and the report of the recommendation of the Town Planning Board (where applicable), the holding of the public hearing, and the completion of the SEQRA process, the Town Board may approve, approve with conditions, or deny the applications, in accordance with the standards in this Section.

#### § 8.10 Standards for WECS.

- A. The following standards shall apply to all WECS and related infrastructure, unless specifically waived by the Town Board as part of a permit
  - 1. All power transmission lines from the tower to any building or other structure shall be located underground to the maximum extent.
  - 2. No television, radio, or other communication antennas may be affixed or otherwise made part of any WECS, except pursuant to the telecommunications provisions of the Town Land Use Code. Applications may be jointly submitted for WECS and telecommunications facilities.
  - 3. No advertising signs are allowed on any part of the Wind Energy

Facility, including fencing and support structures.

4. Lighting of tower. No tower shall be lit except to comply with FAA requirements. The use of Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (ADLS) or similar technology shall be used to minimize light pollution nuisance, along with bird and bat casualties. Minimum security lighting for ground level facilities shall be allowed as approved on the Site plan. Security lighting shall be designed to minimize light pollution, including the use of light hoods, low glare fixtures, and directing lights at the ground.
5. All applicants shall use measures to reduce the visual impact of WECSs to the extent possible. WECSs shall use tubular towers. All structures in a project shall be finished in a single, non-reflective matte finished color or a camouflage scheme. Individual WECSs within a Wind Energy Overlay Zone shall be constructed using wind turbines whose appearance, with respect to one another, is similar within and throughout the Zone, to provide reasonable uniformity in overall size, geometry, and rotational speeds. No lettering, company insignia, advertising, or graphics shall be on any part of the tower, hub, or blades.
6. The use of guy wires is prohibited.
7. No WECS shall be installed in any location where its proximity with existing fixed broadcast, retransmission, or reception antenna for radio, television, or wireless phone or other personal communication systems would produce electromagnetic interference with signal transmission or reception. No WECS shall be installed in any location along the major axis of an existing microwave communications link where its operation is likely to produce electromagnetic interference in the link's operation if it is determined that a WECS is causing electromagnetic interference, the operator shall take the necessary corrective action to eliminate this interference including relocation or removal of the facilities, or resolution of the issue with the impacted parties. Failure to remedy electromagnetic interference is grounds for revocation of the Special Use Permit for the specific WECS or WECSs causing the interference.
8. All solid waste and hazardous waste and construction debris shall be removed from the Site and managed in a manner consistent with all appropriate rules and regulations.
9. WECSs shall be designed to minimize the impacts land clearing and the loss of open space areas. Land protected by conservation easements shall be avoided when feasible. The use of previously developed areas will be given priority wherever possible.

10. The WECS shall be sited in a manner that minimizes significant negative impacts on animal species in the vicinity, particularly bird and bat species. Applicant must follow all NYS DEC regulations as well as FWS Regulations and guidelines.
11. WECS and related infrastructure shall be located in a manner consistent with all applicable state and Federal wetlands laws and regulations.
12. Storm-water run-off and erosion control shall be managed in a manner consistent with all applicable state and Federal laws and regulations.
13. The maximum Total Height of any WECS shall be 500 feet.
14. Construction will take place during the hours of 7am to 7pm Monday thru Friday with the exception of Holidays allowing for after-hour construction of turbine erection requiring special wind and temperature conditions not attainable during this time frame, this afterhours activity will be restricted to onsite construction only not causing additional construction traffic as a result. Exceptions may be granted by the Town Board.
15. Substations required to serve WECS are an Essential Public Service under this Land Use Code. Substations shall be screened from public view to the extent possible. Substations will follow the same noise regulations as WECS.
16. The Town of Fremont shall be named as an additional insured under the general liability policy of the applicant, the amount of which insurance shall be no less than an amount to be determined by the Town Board given the nature and scope of the project proposed by the applicant.
17. Any construction or ground disturbance involving agricultural land shall be done in accordance to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets' publication titled Guidelines for Agricultural Mitigation for Wind Power Projects.
18. Shadow Flicker- All WECS shall be modeled so Shadow Flicker is kept to a minimum. To establish this, all off site receptors will be subject to less than 20 hours per year. If the modeling during the project's design shows limits may be close or possibly exceeded, the WECS shall be equipped with a sensor with the ability to shut down during times of Shadow Flicker. All off site receptors and Roads over

10 hours per year shall be reviewed with the Town Board. Documentation shall be on file with the town with full modeling results and demonstration of compliance for all non-participating off-site receptors modeled to exceed the 20 hour threshold. The Town will not be held responsible for any accidents caused by Shadow Flicker across Town, County, and State Roads.

19. Ice Throw- The applicant shall install and utilize ice sensing/detection equipment. This equipment shall be warranted by the manufacturer and be able to trigger an ice warning alarm that can automatically shut down the turbine. The town will not be held responsible for any damages caused to persons, property or vehicles. Applicant shall furnish insurance for the life of the project.

20. Well Testing- The applicant will offer well testing to all non participating residences within 3500 feet of each WECS site. The applicant will send a letter explaining the project impact and a well test request form. The request form must be sent back to the applicant within 60 days. If the offsite receptor requests testing, the testing will take place six months before construction, during construction, 3 months after project completion, and every 3 years for the life of the project. The applicant will sign a Well Testing Agreement with the Town of Fremont. This agreement will define the types of tests to be conducted.

21. WECS and Project Certification- All WECS shall be type certified. No Prototypes shall be installed in the Town of Fremont. Project Certification must be performed by a qualified engineering firm. A copy of all certifications will be supplied to the Town of Fremont upon project completion.

#### **§ 8.11 Required Safety Measures.**

- A. Each WECS shall be equipped with both manual and automatic controls to limit the rotational speed of the rotor blade so it does not exceed the design limits of the rotor.
- B. If the property owner submits a written request that fencing be required, a six-foot-high fence with a locking portal shall be required to enclose each tower or group of

towers. The color and type of fencing for each WECS installation shall be determined on the basis of individual applications as safety needs dictate.

- C. Appropriate warning signs shall be posted. At least one sign shall be posted at the base of the tower warning of electrical shock or high voltage. A sign shall be posted on the entry area of fence around each tower or group of towers and any building (or on the tower or building if there is no fence), containing emergency contact information, including a local telephone number with 24 hour, 7 day week coverage. The Town Board may require additional signs based on safety needs.
- D. No climbing pegs or tower ladders shall be located closer than twelve (12) feet to the ground level at the base of the structure for freestanding single pole.
- E. The minimum distance between the ground and any part of the rotor or blade system shall be thirty (30) feet.
- F. WECSs shall be designed to prevent unauthorized external access to electrical and mechanical components and shall have access doors that are kept securely locked.
- G. Accurate maps of the underground facilities shall be filed with the town and with "Dig Safely New York (811)" Applicant must become a member of Dig Safely New York.

#### **§ 8.12 Traffic Routes.**

- A. Construction of WECS poses potential risks because of the large size construction vehicles and their impact on traffic safety and their physical impact on local roads. Construction and delivery vehicles for WECS and/or associated facilities shall use traffic routes established as part of the application review process. Factors in establishing such corridors shall include (1) minimizing traffic impacts from construction and delivery vehicles; (2) minimizing WECS related traffic during times of school bus activity; (3) minimizing wear and tear on local roads; and (4) minimizing impacts on local business operations. Permit conditions may require remediation during construction, limit WECS-related traffic to specified routes, and include a plan for disseminating traffic route information to the public, and all applicable state, county, and municipal highway authorities and superintendents whose roads are included in the WECS traffic routes plan. Notification to all applicable highway authorities and superintendents will include the number and type of vehicles and their size, their maximum gross weight, the number of round trips, and the dates and time periods of expected use of designated traffic routes.
- B. The applicant is responsible for remediation of damaged roads upon completion of the installation or maintenance of a WECS. A Road Use Agreement will be agreed upon and signed by the applicant and the Town Board before any construction takes place. A public improvement bond shall be posted prior to the issuance of any

building permit in an amount, determined by the Town Board, sufficient to compensate the Town for any damage to local roads.

- C. If the applicant uses any seasonal use highway in the off-season, it shall be solely responsible for the maintenance of said highway including but not limited to snow plowing. No act of maintenance on a seasonal use highway by an applicant shall be considered as Town maintenance of that highway for purposes of determining the seasonal use status of the highway. Applicant shall sign an agreement concerning maintenance of Seasonal Roads within the Town of Fremont.

### § 8.13 Setbacks for Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

- A. A Level Noise-The sound pressure level generated by a WECS shall not exceed 50 dBA  $L_{eq}(1hr)$  measured at all off-site property lines. The sound pressure shall not exceed 45 dBA  $L_{eq}(1hr)$  at the exterior walls of any off site residence. The annual nighttime average for non- participating residences will be 40 dBA  $L_{eq}(8hr)$ . The developer will install the lowest noise model available within the selected manufacture's options. The model selected will be type certified to an industry recognized standard. No aftermarket models/parts will be allowed, and no prototypes will be utilized without specific prior approval by the Town. The turbine will have serrated blades installed to reduce the overall noise impact. If an updated technology is available this will be brought to the Town for review.

Independent certification shall be provided before and after construction demonstrating compliance with this requirement.

- B. Low Frequency noise- The WECS shall not be operated so low frequency and infrasound sound adversely affects the habitability or use of any residence. In order to establish this, the applicant will follow the guide lines of the indoor standard of ANSI/ASA S2.71-1983 for vibration. The WECS shall not exceed 65 dBZ  $L_{eq}(1hr)$  at the exterior walls of an Off-Site Residence at 16 Hz, 31.5 Hz and 63 Hz.
- C. In the event audible noise due to WECS operations contains a steady pure tone, such as a whine, screech, or hum, the standards for audible noise set forth in subparagraph 1) of this subsection shall be reduced by five (5) dBA. A pure tone is defined to exist if the one-third (1/3) octave band sound pressure level in the band, including the tone, exceeds the arithmetic average of the sound pressure levels of the two (2) contiguous one third (1/3) octave bands by five (5) dBA for center frequencies of five hundred (500) Hz and above, by eight (8) dBA for center frequencies between one hundred and sixty (160) Hz and four hundred (400) Hz, or by fifteen (15) dBA for center frequencies less than or equal to one hundred and twenty-five (125) Hz.

- D. In the event the ambient noise level (exclusive of the development in question) exceeds the applicable standard given above, the applicable standard shall be adjusted so as to equal the ambient noise level. The ambient noise level shall be expressed in terms of the highest whole number sound pressure level in dBA, which is exceeded for more than five (5) minutes per hour. Ambient noise levels shall be measured at the exterior of potentially affected existing residences. Ambient noise level measurement techniques shall employ all practical means of reducing the effect of wind generated noise at the microphone. Ambient noise level measurements may be performed when wind velocities at the proposed project Site are sufficient to allow Wind Turbine operation, provided that the wind velocity does not exceed thirty (30) mph at the ambient noise measurement location.
- E. Any noise level falling between two whole decibels shall be the lower of the two.
- F. Each WECS shall be setback from Site boundaries, measured from the center of the WECS, a minimum distance of:
1. From Property Lines: 1.5 times the height of wind turbine to wing tip, in most upright position, or the selected turbine manufacturer's certified distance recommendations, whichever is greater, measured horizontally and perpendicular from a point at the center of turbine tower to nearest boundary property line.
  2. From Public Roads, Overhead Utilities Lines, Public and Utility Right-Of-Ways: 1.5 times the height of wind turbine to wing tip, in most upright position, or the selected turbine manufacturer's certified distance recommendations, whichever is greater, measured horizontally and perpendicular from a point at the center of turbine tower to the centerline of public road or highway.
  3. From Residences: 1500 feet from the nearest off-site residence existing at the time of application, or the selected turbine manufacturer's certified distance recommendations, whichever is greater, measured horizontally perpendicular from a point at the center of the tower to the nearest point of such residence. Applicant must furnish names of all residences within 2000 feet.
  4. 100 feet from state-identified wetlands. This distance may be adjusted to be greater or lesser at the discretion of the reviewing body, based on topography, land cover, land uses, and other factors that influence the flight patterns of resident birds.
  5. Other Wind Energy Facility structures and improvements shall comply with the underlying Land Use district regulations.

6. From Communication Towers: 1.1 times the height of wind turbine to wing tip, in most upright position, the selected turbine manufacturer's certified distance recommendations, or the distance set by NYPSC, whichever is greater, measured horizontally and perpendicular from a point at the center of turbine tower to the nearest point of communication tower, positioned not to disrupt signals / magnet fields from either shadow, flicker, reflection, scattering, radiation or blockage.

#### **§ 8.14 Noise and Setback Easements; Variances**

- A. In the event the noise levels resulting from a WECS exceed the criteria established in this Section, or a setback requirement is not met, a waiver is hereby granted from such requirement where the adjoining owner's property is considered part of the Site.

1. Written consent from the affected property owners shall be obtained stating that they are aware of the WECS, noise, shadow flicker and/or setback limitations imposed by this Section, and that they wish to be part of the Site as defined herein, and that consent is granted to (1) allow noise and/or shadow flicker levels to exceed the maximum limits otherwise allowed or (2) allow setbacks less than required; and
2. In order to advise all subsequent owners of the burdened property, the consent, in the form required for an easement, shall be recorded in the County Clerk's Office describing the benefited and burdened properties. Such easements shall be permanent and may not be revoked without the consent of the Town Board, which consent shall be granted upon either the completion of the decommissioning of the benefited WECS in accordance with this Section, or the acquisition of the burdened parcel by the owner of the benefited parcel or the WECS.
3. In any case where written consent is not obtained, and therefore a property is not part of the Site, a variance from the Board of Appeals shall be required.
4. Every waiver agreement or change thereto with participating residents shall be provided by the developer to the Town. The amount of compensation for signing the agreement should be redacted from the documents.

#### **§ 8.15 Creation of Wind Energy Overlay Districts and Issuance of Special Use Permits.**

- A. Upon completion of the review process, the Town Board shall, upon consideration of the standards in this Section and the record of the SEQRA review, issue a written decision setting forth the reasons for approval, conditions of approval, or disapproval.
- B. If approved, the Town Board will direct the Town Clerk to modify the Official Map to reflect the creation of the Wind Energy Overlay Districts, and authorize Town staff to issue a Special Use Permit for each WECS upon satisfaction of all conditions for said Permit, and direct the building inspector to issue a building permit, upon compliance with the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and the other conditions of this Section.
- C. The decision of the Town Board shall be filed within five days in the office of the Town Clerk and a copy mailed to the applicant by first class mail.
- D. If any approved WECS is not substantially commenced within two years of issuance of the permit, the special use permit shall expire.

#### **§ 8.16 Abatement.**

- A. If any WECS remains non-functional or inoperative for a continuous period of one year, the applicant agrees that, without any further action by the Town Board, it shall remove said system at its own expense. Removal of the system shall include at least the entire above ground structure, including transmission equipment and fencing, from the property. This provision shall not apply if the applicant demonstrates to the Town that it has been making good faith efforts to restore the WECS to an operable condition, but nothing in this provision shall limit the Town's ability to order a remedial action plan after public hearing.
- B. Non-function or lack of operation may be proven by reports to the Public Service Commission, NYSERDA, or by lack of income generation. The applicant shall make available (subject to a non-disclosure agreement) to the Town Board all reports to and from the purchaser of energy from individual Wind Energy Conversion Systems, if requested necessary to prove the WECS is functioning, which reports may be redacted as necessary to protect proprietary information.
- C. Decommissioning: The applicant, or successors, shall continuously maintain an irrevocable letter of credit from a NYS licensed financial institution payable to the Town of Fremont. This fund will be used for the sole purpose of removing non-functional towers and appurtenant facilities for the period of the life of the facility. This fund will be determined by a qualified independent engineer chosen by the Town of Fremont and paid by applicant in escrow. The fund will be adjusted every five years to meet inflation. This shall be in place 90 days prior to the construction.

#### **8.17 Limitations on Approvals; Easements on Town Property.**

- A. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to give any applicant the right to cut down surrounding trees and vegetation on any property to reduce turbulence and increase wind flow to the Wind Energy Facility. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed a guarantee against any future construction or Town approvals of future construction that may in any way impact the wind flow to any Wind Energy Facility. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Facility operator or owner to acquire any necessary wind flow or turbulence easements, or rights to remove vegetation.
- B. Pursuant to the powers granted to the Town to manage its own property, the Town may enter into noise, setback, or wind flow easements on such terms as the Town Board deems appropriate, as long as said agreements are not otherwise prohibited by state law or this Section.
- C. During the review process, the Town Board shall meet with the applicant to review each WECS site. All WECS modeling will be reviewed and a written plan will be supplied to the town for any areas that are out of compliance.

#### **§ 8.18 Testing Fund; Permit Revocation.**

- A. Testing fund: A Special Use Permit shall contain a requirement that the applicant fund periodic noise testing by a qualified independent third-party acoustical measurement consultant, which may be required as often as every two years, or more frequently upon request of the Town Board in response to complaints by neighbors. The scope of the noise testing shall be to demonstrate compliance with the terms and conditions of the Special Use Permit and this Section and shall also include an evaluation of any complaints received by the Town. The Town Board may require an immediate halt of the WECS if they are out of compliance with the local law.
- B. Operation: A WECS shall be maintained in operational condition at all times, subject to reasonable maintenance and repair outages. Operational condition includes meeting all noise requirements and other permit conditions. Should a WECS become inoperable, or should any part of the WECS be damaged, or should a WECS violate a permit condition, the owner or operator shall immediately stop the WECS until the repairs are made.
- C. Notwithstanding any other abatement provision under this Section, and consistent with § 8.16 and § 8.18(B), if the WECS is not repaired or made operational or brought into permit compliance after said notice, the Town may, after a public

meeting at which the operator or owner shall be given opportunity to be heard and present evidence, including a plan to come into compliance, (1) order either remedial action within a particular timeframe, or (2) order revocation of the Special Use Permit for the WECS and require the removal of the WECS within 90 days. If the WECS is not removed, the Town Board shall have the right to use the security posted as part of the Decommission Plan to remove the WECS.

- D. For non-participating landowners modeled to be above 42 dBA  $L_{eq}(1hr)$  at the exterior wall of their residence, Developer will communicate the sound impact and provide a good neighbor agreement to the landowner. Developer will make good faith efforts to sign a good neighbor agreement; however there is no obligation for the landowner to sign the good neighbor agreement. 180 days before construction, developer shall provide the town with a final model and list of all non-participants that are modeled over 42 dBA  $L_{eq}(1hr)$ .
- E. The project operator must provide weekly detailed reports on each complaint by non-participating land owners to the Town. The reports shall include the nature of complaint, initial steps taken to mitigate the problem, on site testing data including SCADA data for weather / wind speeds and NRO mode 30 days before testing and during the testing periods. If the problem persists after 120 days, the Town may enlist an independent acoustician for further testing. This will be paid for by the applicant.

### **Wind Measurement Towers**

#### **§8.20. Wind Site Assessment.**

The Town Board acknowledges that prior to construction of a WECS, a wind Site assessment is conducted to determine the wind speeds and the feasibility of using particular Sites. Installation of Wind Measurement Towers, also known as anemometer ("Met") towers, shall be permitted as Special Use in the Agricultural-Residential (AR1) Use Zone and the Transitional Use Zone.

#### **§ 8.21. Applications for Wind Measurement Towers.**

An application for a Wind Measurement Tower shall include:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant. If the applicant is represented by an agent, the application shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the agent as well as an original signature of the applicant authorizing the representation.
2. Name, address, and telephone number of the property owner. If the property owner is not the applicant, the application shall include a letter or other written permission signed by the property owner (i) confirming that the property owner is familiar with the proposed applications and (ii) authorizing the submission of the application.
3. Address of each proposed tower Site, including Tax Map section, block, and lot number.
4. Site plan
5. Decommissioning Plan, based on the criteria in this Section for WECS, including a security bond or cash for removal.

#### **§8.22- Standards for Wind Measurement Towers.**

- A. The distance between a Wind Measurement Tower and the property line shall be at least 1.5 times the Total Height of the tower. Sites can include more than one piece of property and the requirement shall apply to the combined properties. Exceptions for neighboring property are also allowed with the consent of those property owners.
- B. Special Use permits for Wind Measurement Towers may be issued by the Town Board for a period of up to two years. Permits may be renewed if the Facility is in compliance with the conditions of the Special Use Permit.

## Small Wind Energy Conversion Systems

### § 8.30. Purpose and intent.

The purpose of this Section is to provide standards for small wind energy conversion systems designed for on-site home, farm, and small commercial use, and that are primarily used to reduce on-site consumption of utility power. The intent of this Section is to encourage the development of small wind energy systems and to protect the public health, safety, and community welfare.

### § 8-31. Permitted Areas.

Small Wind energy systems may be permitted in any Land Use district upon issuance of a Special Use Permit.

### § 8.32. Applications.

A. Applications for Small WECS special use permits shall include:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant. If the applicant will be represented by an agent, the name, address, and telephone number of the agent as well as an original signature of the applicant authorizing the agent to represent the applicant.
2. Name and address of the property owner. If the property owner is not the applicant, the application shall include a letter or other written permission signed by the property owner (i) confirming that the property owner is familiar with the proposed applications and (ii) authorizing the submission of the application.
3. Address of each proposed tower Site, including Tax Map section, block, and lot number.
4. Evidence that the proposed tower height does not exceed the height recommended by the manufacturer or distributor of the system.
5. A line drawing of the electrical components of the system in sufficient detail to allow for a determination that the manner of installation conforms to the Electric Code.
6. Sufficient information demonstrating that the system will be used primarily to reduce on-site consumption of electricity.
7. Written evidence that the electric utility service provider that serves the proposed Site has been informed of the applicant's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned electricity generator, unless the applicant does not plan, and so states so in the application, to connect the system to the electricity grid.
8. A visual analysis of the Small WECS as installed, which may include a computerized photographic simulation, demonstrating the visual impacts from nearby strategic vantage points. The visual analysis shall also indicate the color treatment of the system's

components and any visual screening incorporated into the project that is intended to lessen the system's visual prominence.

### § 8.33. Development Standards.

All small wind energy systems shall comply with the following standards. Additionally, such systems shall also comply with all the requirements established by other sections of this Section that are not in conflict with the requirements contained in this section.

1. A system shall be located on a lot a minimum of one acre in size, however, this requirement can be met by multiple owners submitting a joint application.
2. Only one small wind energy system tower per legal lot shall be allowed, unless there are multiple applicants, in which their joint lots shall be treated as one lot for purposes of this Section.
3. Small Wind energy systems may be used primarily to reduce the on-Site consumption of electricity.
4. Tower heights may be allowed as follows:
  - (a) 65 feet or less on parcels between one and five acres.
  - (b) 120 feet or less on parcels of five or more acres.
  - (c) The allowed height shall be reduced if necessary to comply with all applicable Federal Aviation Requirements, including Subpart B (commencing with Section 77.11) of Part 77 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations regarding installations close to airports.
5. The maximum turbine power output is limited to 100 kW.
6. The system's tower and blades shall be painted a non-reflective, unobtrusive color that blends the system and its components into the surrounding landscape to the greatest extent possible and incorporate non-reflective surfaces to minimize any visual disruption.
7. The system shall be designed and located in such a manner to minimize adverse visual impacts from public viewing areas (e.g., public parks, roads, trails). To the greatest extent feasible a small wind energy system:
  - a. Shall not project above the top of ridgelines.
  - b. If visible from public viewing areas, shall use natural landforms and existing vegetation for screening.
  - c. Shall be screened to the maximum extent feasible by natural vegetation or other means to minimize potentially significant adverse visual impacts on neighboring residential areas.
8. Exterior lighting on any structure associated with the system shall not

be allowed except that which is specifically required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

9. All on-site electrical wires associated with the system shall be installed underground except for "tie-ins" to a public utility company and public utility company transmission poles, towers and lines. This standard may be modified by the decision-maker if the project terrain is determined to be unsuitable due to reasons of excessive grading, biological impacts, or similar factors.
10. The system shall be operated such that no disruptive electromagnetic interference is caused. If it has been demonstrated that a system is causing harmful interference, the system operator shall promptly mitigate the harmful interference or cease operation of the system.
11. At least one sign shall be posted on the tower at a height of five feet warning of electrical shock or high voltage and harm from revolving machinery. No brand names, logo, or advertising shall be placed or painted on the tower, rotor, generator, or tail vane where it would be visible from the ground, except that a system or tower's manufacturer's logo may be displayed on a system generator housing in an unobtrusive manner.
12. Towers shall be constructed to provide one of the following means of access control, or other appropriate method of access:
  - a. Tower-climbing apparatus located no closer than 12 feet from the ground.
  - b. A locked anti-climb device installed on the tower
  - c. A locked protective fence at least six feet in height that encloses the tower.
13. Anchor points for any guy wires for a system tower shall be located within the property that the system is located on and not on or across any above-ground electric transmission or distribution lines. The point of attachment for the guy wires shall be enclosed by a fence six feet high or sheathed in bright orange or yellow covering from three to eight feet above the ground.
14. Construction of on-site access roadways shall be minimized. Temporary access roads utilized for initial installation shall be re-graded and re-vegetated to the pre-existing natural condition after completion of installation.
15. To prevent harmful wind turbulence from existing structures, the minimum height of the lowest part of any horizontal axis wind turbine blade shall be at least 30 feet above the highest structure or tree within a 250 foot radius. Modification of this standard may be made when the applicant demonstrates that a lower height will not jeopardize the safety of the wind turbine structure.

16. All small wind energy system tower structures shall be designed and constructed to be in compliance with pertinent provisions of the Uniform Building Code and National Electric Code.

17. All small wind energy systems shall be equipped with manual and automatic overspeed controls. The conformance of rotor and overspeed control design and fabrication with good engineering practices shall be certified by the manufacturer.

#### **8.34. Standards.**

A Small Wind Energy System shall comply with the following standards:

1. Setback requirements. A Small WECS shall not be located closer to a property line than one and a half times the Total Height of the facility.
2. Noise. Except during short-term events including utility outages and severe wind storms, a Small WECS shall be designed, installed, and operated so that noise generated by the system shall not exceed the 45 decibels (dBA), as measured at the closest neighboring inhabited dwelling.

#### **§ 8.35. Abandonment of Use.**

- A. Small WECS which is not used for twelve (12) successive months shall be deemed abandoned and shall be dismantled and removed from the property at the expense of the property owner. Failure to abide by and faithfully comply with this section or with any and all conditions that may be attached to the granting of any building permit shall constitute grounds for the revocation of the permit by the Town.
- B. All Small WECS shall be maintained in good condition and in accordance with all requirements of this section.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **§8.40. Fees.**

A. There shall be non-refundable Application fees as follows:

1. Wind Energy Overlay Zone: \$500 per zone.
2. WECS Special Use Permit: \$100 per megawatt of rated maximum capacity.
3. Wind Measurement Towers: \$20 per vertical foot per tower.
4. Wind Measurement Tower Special Use Permit renewals: \$200 per Wind Measurement Tower.

5. Small WECS: \$200.
6. The cost of all legal notices and mailings shall be assessed to the applicant.

B. Building Permits.

1. The Town believes the review of building and electrical permits for Wind Energy Facilities requires specific expertise for those facilities. Accordingly, the permit fees for such Facilities shall be increased by administrative costs which shall be \$100 per permit request, plus the amount charged to the Town by the outside consultant hired by the Town to review the plans and inspect the work. In the alternative, the Town and the applicant may enter into an agreement for an inspection and/or certification procedure for these unique facilities. In such case, the Town and the applicant will agree to a fee arrangement and escrow agreement to pay for the costs of the review of the plans or certifications, or to conduct inspections as agreed by the parties.
2. The applicant shall, prior to the receipt of a building permit, demonstrate that the proposed facility meets the system reliability requirements of the New York Independent System Operator, or provide proof that it has executed an Interconnection Agreement with the New York Independent System Operator and/or the applicable Transmission Owner.

- C. Nothing in this Section shall be read as limiting the ability of the Town to enter into Host Community agreements with any applicant to compensate the Town for expenses or impacts on the community. The Town shall require any applicant to enter into an escrow agreement to pay the engineering and legal costs of any application review, including the review required by SEQRA.

- D. The Town Board may amend these fees, by resolution after a properly noticed public hearing.

**§ 8.41. Tax Exemption.**

The Town hereby exercises its right to opt out of the Tax Exemption provisions of Real Property Tax Law §487, pursuant to the authority granted by paragraph 8 of that law.

**8.42. Enforcement; Penalties and remedies for violations.**

- A. In addition to the Code Enforcement Officer, the Town Board may appoint such Town staff or outside consultants as it sees fit to enforce this Section.
- B. Any person owning, controlling, or managing any building, structure, or land who shall undertake a wind energy conversion facility or wind monitoring tower in violation of this Section or in noncompliance with the terms and conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this Section, or any order of the enforcement officer, and any person who shall assist

in so doing, shall be guilty of an offense and subject to a fine of not more than \$350 or to imprisonment for a period of not more than fifteen days, or subject to both such fine and imprisonment for a first offense, for a Second offense (both within a period of five years), a fine not less than \$350 nor more than \$700, or imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both, and for a Third or more offense (all of which occurred within five years), a fine not less than \$700 nor more than \$1000, or imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both. Every such person shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each week such violation shall continue. The town may institute a civil proceeding to collect civil penalties in the amounts set forth herein for each violation and each week said violation continues shall be deemed a separate violation.

- C. In case of any violation or threatened violation of any of the provisions of this Section, including the terms and conditions imposed by any permit issued pursuant to this Section, in addition to other remedies and penalties herein provided, the Town may institute any appropriate action or proceeding to prevent such unlawful erection, structural alteration, reconstruction, moving, and/or use, and to restrain, correct, or abate such violation, to prevent the illegal act.

#### **Section 5: Severability**

Should any provision of this Local Law be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Local Law as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so decided to be unconstitutional or invalid.

#### **Section 6: Effective Date**

This Local Law shall be effective upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law.

#### **Section 7: Law**

This Local Law shall rescind Local Law #1 of the year 2008- "Governing Wind Energy Facilities in the Town of Fremont" and the Local Law #1 of 2017- "Amendment to local Law #1 of 2008.

# Local Law Filing

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

☐ County ☐ City ☒ Town ☐ Village  
(Select one)

of Fremont (Steuben)

FILED  
STATE RECORDS

AUG 19 2019

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Local Law No. 2 of the year 2019

A local law Solar Photovoltaic Installations  
(Insert Title)

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the  
(Name of Legislative Body)

☐ County ☐ City ☒ Town ☐ Village  
(Select one)

of Fremont as follows:

See Attached

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

**1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. 2 of 2019 of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of Fremont was duly passed by the Town Board (Name of Legislative Body) on August 13 20 19, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer\*.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (Name of Legislative Body) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ and was deemed duly adopted (Elective Chief Executive Officer\*) on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**3. (Final adoption by referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (Name of Legislative Body) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. (Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

**4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved) (Name of Legislative Body) (repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

\* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

**5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)**

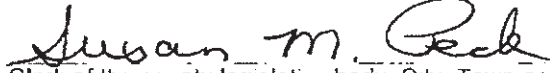
I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, became operative.

**6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

**(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)**

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph 1\_\_\_\_ above.



Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

(Seal)

Date: 8/16/19

New York State Department of State

Division of Corporations, State Records  
and Uniform Commercial Code  
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave.  
Albany, New York 12231-0001

## Local Law Filing

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**(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)**

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underling to indicate a new matter.

**Town of Fremont**

**Local Law No. 2 of the year 2019**

**SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS**

## Table of Contents

|                                                                            |                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1 Purpose</b>                                                           | <b>4</b>                     |
| <b>2 Authority</b>                                                         | <b>4</b>                     |
| <b>3 Applicability</b>                                                     | <b>4</b>                     |
| <b>4 Definitions</b>                                                       | <b>4</b>                     |
| <b>5 General Requirements for all Solar Power Generation Installations</b> | <b>7</b>                     |
| 5.1 Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations                       | 7                            |
| 5.2 Tier 1 Scale Solar Power Generation Installations                      | 7                            |
| 5.2.1 Roof Pitch                                                           | 7                            |
| 5.2.2 Parallel to the roof                                                 | Error! Bookmark not defined. |
| 5.2.3 Highest point                                                        | 7                            |
| 5.2.4 Glare                                                                | 8                            |
| 5.3 Tier 2 and Tier 3 Scale Solar Power Generation Installations           | 8                            |
| 5.3.1 Site Plan Review and Application                                     | 8                            |
| 5.3.2 Required Site Plan Documentation                                     | 8                            |
| 5.3.3 Site Approval Process                                                | 9                            |
| 5.4 Site Control                                                           | 10                           |
| 5.5 Operation and Maintenance Plan                                         | 10                           |
| 5.6 Utility Notification                                                   | 10                           |
| 5.7 Dimension and Density Requirements                                     | 11                           |
| 5.7.1 Setbacks                                                             | 11                           |
| 5.7.2 Height Restrictions                                                  | 11                           |
| 5.7.3 Lot Coverage                                                         | 11                           |
| 5.7.4 Appurtenant Structures                                               | 11                           |
| 5.8 Design Codes and Standards                                             | 11                           |
| 5.8.1 Codes                                                                | 11                           |
| 5.8.2 Installer Qualifications                                             | 11                           |
| 5.8.3 Lighting                                                             | 11                           |
| 5.8.4 Signage                                                              | 12                           |
| 5.8.5 Utility Connections                                                  | 12                           |

|       |                                                              |    |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 5.8.6 | Buffering.....                                               | 12 |
| 6     | Safety and Environmental Standards .....                     | 12 |
| 6.1   | Emergency Services .....                                     | 12 |
| 6.2   | Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts .....        | 12 |
| 6.3   | Security Access .....                                        | 12 |
| 6.4   | Monitoring and Maintenance .....                             | 13 |
| 6.4.1 | Solar Photovoltaic Installation Conditions .....             | 13 |
| 6.4.2 | Annual Inspections.....                                      | 13 |
| 6.4.3 | Modifications.....                                           | 13 |
| 7     | Transfer of ownership .....                                  | 13 |
| 8     | Severability .....                                           | 13 |
| 9     | Violations .....                                             | 13 |
| 10    | Opt out of Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) 487 .....            | 14 |
| 11    | Decommissioning & Removal Requirements .....                 | 14 |
| 12    | Effective Date .....                                         | 15 |
| 13    | Appendix A: Tables for Height, Setback and Parcel Size ..... | 15 |
| 14    | Appendix B: Decommissioning Plans Requirements .....         | 17 |

## 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this local law is to address new Tier 1 (small scale) and Tier 2 or Tier 3 (large scale) solar photovoltaic installations by providing standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations.

The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the construction, operation, and/or repair of Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

## 2 AUTHORITY

This Solar Energy Local Law is adopted pursuant to Town of Fremont Land Use Law #1 of 2005, adopted May 10, 2005, Road Use Law and Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, which authorizes the Town of Fremont to adopt zoning provisions that advance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the community, and, in accordance with the law of New York State "to make provision for, so far as conditions may permit, the accommodation of solar energy systems and equipment and access to sunlight necessary therefore."

## 3 APPLICABILITY

This section applies to Tier 2 or Tier 3 ground-mounted and Tier 1 roof or ground mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

- A. The requirements of this Local Law shall apply to all Solar Energy Systems permitted, installed, or modified in Town of Fremont after the effective date of this Local Law, excluding general maintenance and repair.
- B. Solar Energy Systems constructed or installed prior to the effective date of this Local Law shall not be required to meet the requirements of this Local Law.
- C. Modifications to an existing Solar Energy System that increase the Solar Energy System area by more than five percent [5%] of the original area of the Solar Energy System (exclusive of moving any fencing) shall be subject to this Local Law.
- D. All Solar Energy Systems shall be designed, erected, and installed in accordance with all applicable codes, regulations, and industry standards as referenced in the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code ("Building Code"), the NYS Energy Conservation Code ("Energy Code"), and the Town of Fremont Code.

## 4 DEFINITIONS

**BUILDING-INTEGRATED SOLAR ENERGY (BIPV) SYSTEM:** A combination of Solar Panels and Solar Energy Equipment integrated into any building envelope system such as vertical facades, semitransparent skylight systems, roofing materials, or shading over windows, which produce electricity for onsite consumption.

**BUILDING PERMIT:** A construction permit shall be issued by an authorized building inspector. The building permit evidences that the project is consistent with the state and federal building codes as well as local zoning laws.

**DAY(S):** Day or Days are calendar days unless specifically noted.

**COMMUNITY SOLAR ARRAYS:** Centralized solar facilities owned by a group of individuals who receive credits on their electricity bills for the power produced. Members of an array are residential and commercial customers of the utility partner offering the program.

**GLARE:** The effect by reflections of light with intensity sufficient as determined in a commercially reasonable manner to cause annoyance, discomfort, or loss in visual performance and visibility in any material respects.

**GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM:** A Solar Energy System that is anchored to the ground via a pole or other mounting system, detached from any other structure that generates electricity for onsite or offsite consumption.

**HEIGHT:** The height of a solar collector is calculated as perpendicular from the ground to the highest point.

**NET-METERING:** A billing arrangement that allows solar customers to get credit for excess electricity that they generate and deliver back to the grid so that they only pay for their net electricity usage at the end of each billing cycle.

**ON-SITE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION:** A solar photovoltaic installation that is constructed at a location where other uses of the underlying property occur.

**PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS:** A solar energy system that produces electricity by use of semiconductor devices, called photovoltaic cells that generate electricity whenever light strikes them.

**POWER PURCHASING AGREEMENT (PPA):** An electricity power agreement is a contract between two or more parties, one of which agrees to generate electricity (the seller) and the other(s) who is looking to purchase electricity (the buyer). The PPA defines all the commercial terms for the sale of electricity between the two parties, including when the project will begin commercial operation, schedule for delivery of electricity, payment terms, and termination.

**RATED NAMEPLATE CAPACITY:** The maximum rated output of electric power production of the Photovoltaic system in Direct Current (DC).

**ROOFTOP OR BUILDING MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM:** A solar collector mounted on top of the structure of a roof either as a flush mount system or as modules fixed to frames.

**SITE PLAN REVIEW:** review by the Site Plan Review Authority to determine conformance with local zoning laws.

**SITE PLAN REVIEW AUTHORITY:** For purposes of this local law, Site Plan Review Authority refers to the Fremont Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) or body of local government designated as such by the municipality.

**SOLAR ACCESS:** Space open to the sun and clear of overhangs or shade including the orientation of street and lots to the sun to permit the use of active and / or passive solar energy systems on individual properties.

**SOLAR COLLECTOR:** A solar photovoltaic cell, panel, or array, or solar hot air or water collector device, which relies upon solar radiation as an energy source for the generation of electricity or transfer of stored heat.

**SOLAR EASEMENT:** An easement recorded pursuant to New York Consolidated Law Real Property Law 335-b, the purpose of which is to secure the right to receive sunlight across real property of another for continued access to sunlight necessary to operate a solar collector.

**SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM:** The components and subsystems required to convert solar energy into electric energy suitable for use. The term includes, but is not limited to, Solar Panels and Solar Energy Equipment. The area of a Solar Energy System includes all the land inside the perimeter of the Solar Energy System, which extends to any interconnection equipment. A Solar Energy System is classified as a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 Solar Energy System as follows:

- A. Tier 1 Solar Energy Systems include the following: a. Roof-Mounted Solar Energy Systems and b. Building-Integrated Solar Energy Systems with name plate capacity of less than 25 kWAC,
- B. Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems include Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems with a total surface area of all solar panels on the lot of up to [4,000] square feet and that generate up to [110]% of the electricity consumed on the site over the previous [12] months,
- C. Tier 3 Solar Energy Systems are systems that are not included in the list for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Solar Energy Systems.

**FREMONT TOWN BOARD:** The board charged with enforcing the zoning laws.

## **5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SOLAR POWER GENERATION INSTALLATIONS**

### **5.1 Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations**

The construction and operation of solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming part of a solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code.

A Building Permit shall be required for installation of all Solar Energy Systems. Issuance of permits and approvals by the Reviewing Board for Tier 2 and Tier 3 solar photovoltaic installation shall include review pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act [ECL Article 8 and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 ("SEQRA")].

Town of Fremont Local laws including but not limited to the following:

- Land Use Law No. 1 2005
- Current Road Use Agreement

### **5.2 Tier 1 Scale Solar Power Generation Installations**

Rooftop Mounted systems are permitted outright in all zoning districts and require building and electrical permits.

Permits for Roof-Mounted Solar Energy Systems shall include equipment specifications and/or product sheets for all photovoltaic panels, electrical components, mounting systems, and inverters that are to be installed on a rooftop.

Rooftop mounted solar collector installations must be accompanied with a letter or drawing from the Fremont Code Enforcement Officer verifying the structural integrity of the structure on which the collector is being mounted.

#### **5.2.1 Solar Panels on Pitched Roofs**

For aesthetic purposes, solar panels on pitched roofs shall not exceed eight [8] inches between the roof surface the highest edge of the system and shall be installed parallel to the roof surface on which they are mounted or attached.

#### **5.2.2 Solar Panels on Flat Roofs**

For aesthetic purposes solar panels on flat roofs shall not extend above the top of the surrounding parapet, more than- two [2] feet above the flat surface of the roof, whichever is higher

For the avoidance of doubt Roof-Mounted Solar Energy Systems height limitations are provided in Appendix A - Table 1: Height Requirements.

### 5.2.3 Glare

All Solar Panels shall have anti-reflective coating(s).

## 5.3 Tier 2 and Tier 3 Scale Solar Power Generation Installations

### 5.3.1 Site Plan Review and Application

Ground-mounted Tier 2 and Tier 3 large scale solar photovoltaic installations with 25 kW or larger of rated nameplate capacity shall undergo Site Plan Review by the Site Plan Review Authority prior to construction, installation or modification as provided in this section.

No Tier 2 or Tier 3 -scale ground mounted large solar photovoltaic array shall be installed on a designated wetland as defined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or other governing body.

No Tier 2 or Tier 3 large scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic array shall be installed on Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) as defined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or other governing body.

Ground-Mounted solar collector installations are to be mounted to an appropriate weather resistant accessory structure *designed or manufactured for this specific application.*

### 5.3.2 Required Site Plan Documentation

Pursuant to the Site Plan Review Process, the project applicant shall provide a site plan that includes the following documents:

- A. Name, address, phone number and signature of the applicant, and all co-applicant or property owners, if any,
- B. The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project applicant,
- C. Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site.
- D. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures,
- E. Property Operation and Maintenance Plan that describes continuing photovoltaic maintenance and property upkeep, such as mowing and trimming,
- F. Erosion and sediment control and storm water management plans prepared to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation standards, if applicable, and to such standards as may be established by the Site Plan Review Authority,
- G. A preliminary equipment specification sheet that documents all proposed solar panels, significant components, mounting systems, and inverters that are to be installed. A final equipment specification sheet shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit,

- H. Name, address, and contact information of proposed or potential system installer and the owner and/or operator of the Solar Energy System. Such information of the final system installer shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit,
- I. Blueprints or drawings of the solar photovoltaic installation signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the State of New York showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures,
- J. A one-line or three-line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices,
- K. Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the PV panels, mounting system, and inverter,
- L. Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site,
- M. An operation and maintenance plan,
- N. Zoning district designation for the parcel(s) of land comprising the project site (submission of a copy of a zoning map with the parcel(s) identified is suitable for this purpose,
- O. Proof of liability insurance,
- P. A public outreach plan, including a project development timeline, which indicates how the project proponent will meet the required site plan review notification procedures and otherwise inform abutters to the site and the community,
- Q. A decommissioning plan signed by the owner and/or operator of the Solar Energy System shall be submitted by the applicant, addressing the following:
  - 1. The cost of removing the Solar Energy System.
  - 2. The time required to decommission and remove the Solar Energy System any ancillary structures.
  - 3. The time required to repair any damage caused to the property by the installation and removal of the Solar Energy System.

The Site Plan Review Authority may waive documentary requirements as it deems appropriate.

### 5.3.3 Site Approval Process

The site approval process is subject to a public hearing to hear all comments for and against the application. The Site Plan Review Authority of the Town of Fremont shall have a notice printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Fremont at least five [5] days in advance of such hearing. Applicants shall have delivered the notice by first class mail to adjoining landowners or landowners within two hundred [200] feet of the property at

least ten [10] days prior to such a hearing. Proof of mailing shall be provided to the Site Plan Review Authority at the public hearing

Upon closing of the public hearing, the Site Plan Review Authority shall take action on the application within sixty two [62] days of the public hearing, which can include approval, approval with conditions, or denial. The 62-day period may be extended upon consent by both the Site Plan Review Authority and applicant.

#### **5.4 Site Control**

The project proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed solar photovoltaic installation. B. Underground Requirements. All on-site utility lines shall be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility, with the exception of the main service connection at the utility company poles, with new easements and right-of-way.

Vehicular paths within the site shall be designed to minimize the extent of impervious materials and soil compaction.

Signage: 1) No signage or graphic content shall be displayed on the Solar Energy Systems except the manufacturer's name, equipment specification information, safety information, and 24-hour emergency contact information. Said information shall be depicted within an area no more than [8] square feet. 2) As required by National Electric Code (NEC), disconnect and other emergency shutoff information shall be clearly displayed on a light reflective surface. A clearly visible warning sign concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.

All Solar Panels shall have anti-reflective coating(s).

Lighting of the Solar Energy Systems shall be limited to that minimally required for safety and operational purposes and shall be reasonably shielded and downcast from abutting properties.

Removal of existing trees larger than six [6] inches in diameter should be minimized to the extent possible.

#### **5.5 Operation and Maintenance Plan**

The project proponent shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.

#### **5.6 Utility Notification**

No Tier 2 or Tier 3 scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed until evidence has been given to the Site Plan Review Authority that the utility company that

operates the electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

## **5.7 Dimension and Density Requirements**

### **5.7.1 Setbacks**

For Tier 2 or Tier 3 scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, front, side and rear setbacks are defined in Table 2: Tier 2 and 3 Parcel Line Setback Requirements in Appendix A.

### **5.7.2 Height Restrictions**

The maximum height of photovoltaic installations shall not exceed 20 feet when oriented at maximum tilt.

### **5.7.3 Lot Coverage**

The total coverage of all buildings, and structures on a lot, including photovoltaic mounted installations, shall not exceed fifty percent [50%] of the lot coverage. The lot size is further defined in Table 3 - Tier 2 and 3 Lot Size Requirements in Appendix A.

### **5.7.4 Appurtenant Structures**

All appurtenant structures to Tier 2 or Tier 3 large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking, solar access, and building coverage requirements. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever reasonable, structures should be shaded from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

## **5.8 Design Codes and Standards**

### **5.8.1 Codes**

All scale solar photovoltaic systems must be constructed to comply with the New York State Building, Fire, and Electric Code, as amended.

All wiring must comply with the National Electric Code, most recent edition, as amended and adopted by New York State.

### **5.8.2 Installer Qualifications**

All systems must be installed by a qualified commercial solar installer as defined by this ordinance

### **5.8.3 Lighting**

Lighting of solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Where feasible, lighting of the solar photovoltaic

installation shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

#### **5.8.4 Signage**

Signs on large- scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall comply with a municipality's sign law. A sign consistent with a municipality's sign law shall be required to identify the owner and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number.

Solar photovoltaic installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar photovoltaic installation.

#### **5.8.5 Utility Connections**

Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Site Plan Review Authority, shall be made to place all utility connections from the solar photovoltaic installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

#### **5.8.6 Buffering**

Buffering may be required and shall be designed and located in order to prevent obstruction to solar access and reflective glare toward any inhabited buildings on adjacent properties and roads.

### **6 SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS**

#### **6.1 Emergency Services**

The Tier 2 and Tier 3 scale solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the local fire chief. Upon request the owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

#### **6.2 Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts**

Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

#### **6.3 Security Access**

All large scale solar photovoltaic installations are to have a complete six (6) foot high perimeter fence suitable to withstand environmental conditions. The access gate shall remain locked with a fireman's lockbox coordinated with all local fire chief(s). All buildings and equipment shall be non-accessible to the public.

## **6.4 Monitoring and Maintenance**

### **6.4.1 Solar Photovoltaic Installation Conditions**

The Tier 2 and Tier 3 scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the local Fire Chief and Emergency Medical Services. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the solar photovoltaic installation and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way. The fencing shall be cleared of vegetation that could compromise its long-term integrity.

### **6.4.2 Annual Inspections**

An annual inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer per the New York State Building Code will be required.

### **6.4.3 Modifications**

All material modifications to a solar photovoltaic installation made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the Site Plan Review Authority.

## **7 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP**

If there is a transfer of ownership of the solar array or its lease to the new owners will advise the Town of Fremont. In addition, the new owners shall comply with all original conditions and be responsible to bring the solar array current with regulations in place at the time of the same or lease transfer.

## **8 SEVERABILITY**

The provisions of this local law are declared to be severable, and if any section, subsection, sentence or clause or part thereof is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional in a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of any remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or part of this local law.

## **9 VIOLATIONS**

- A. The owner or general agent of a building or premises of land where violation of any provision of this Local Law has been committed or shall exist, or the lessee or tenant of an entire building, or entire premises or land where such violation has been committed or shall exist, or the owner, general agent, lessee or tenant of any part of the building or premises or land in which such violation has been committed or shall exist, or the general agent, architect, builder, contractor or any other person who commits, takes part or assists in any such violation or who maintains any building or premises or land or any part thereof in which any violation shall exist, shall be guilty of a violation/offense and subject to a minimum fine of Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$350.00) or imprisonment for a period of not more than 10 days or both and in addition may be ordered to pay all costs and expenses including fees and expenses of attorneys and engineers and other experts involved in the enforcement hereof.

- B. Every such person, firm, company, corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Company or other entity shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each week such violation, disobedience, omission, neglect or refusal shall continue from the expiration of the period stated in the Notice to Remedy. Each week's continued violation shall constitute a separate additional violation.
- C. In addition, the Town authorities shall have such other remedies as are provided by law to restrain corrects or abates any violation of this Local Law, and the violator shall be liable to the Town of Fremont for a civil penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each violation.

## **10 REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW (RPTL) 487**

The Town of Fremont is opting out of the RPTL 487 for all Solar Energy Systems.

## **11 DECOMMISSIONING & REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS**

Any Tier 2 or Tier 3 scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with this Section of this local law shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than one hundred and fifty [150] days after the date of discontinued operations. The owner or operator shall notify the Site Plan Review Authority by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal.

Decommissioning of the Tier 2 or Tier 3 scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation will include the disconnection of the Solar Facility from the electrical grid and the removal of all Solar Facility components, including:

- A. Photovoltaic (PV) modules, panel racking and supports,
- B. Inverter units, substation, transformers, and other electrical equipment,
- C. Access roads, wiring cables, communication tower, perimeter fence; and,
- D. Concrete foundations. This decommissioning plan is based on current best management practices and procedures.

Decommissioning Plan Requirements are found in Section 10 Appendix C.

Decommissioning shall consist of:

- A. Physical removal of all large- scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.

- B. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.
- C. Stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion.
- D. The Site Plan Review Authority may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.
- E. Final inspection of the site by the Town of Fremont Code Enforcement Officer upon completion of the Decommissioning

Letter of Credit for the decommissioning / removal:

The operator of an installation and the owner of the real property on which such installation is located shall be jointly and separately liable for all costs and expenses to the Town incurred during and relating to the removal of an installation

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Town may require a Letter of Credit for all Tier 2 and Tier 3 ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation in the case that the landowner and/or the project developer fail to remove the system, in specified amount to cover decommissioning costs, payable in one hundred and fifty one [151] days after the date of discontinued operations.

The Letter of Credit amount will be based cost of removing the on Section 5.3 3.G a of the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation and must be continuously renewed or replaced to remain effective until obligations under the decommissioning plan are met.

## 12 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall become effective upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

## 13 APPENDIX A: TABLES FOR HEIGHT, SETBACK AND PARCEL SIZE

The height of systems will be measured from the highest natural grade below each solar panel.

|                                   | Tier 1 Roof-Mounted | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>Zoning District</b>            |                     |        |        |
| Low Density Residential (LDR)     | 2' above roof       | 10'    | 15'    |
| Land Conservation (LC)            | --                  | --     | --     |
| Agricultural / Residential (AG-R) | 2' above roof       | 15'    | 15'    |

**Table 1: Height Requirements**

Key:  
--: Not Allowed

| Zoning District                   | Ground-Mounted |      |      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------|------|
|                                   | Front          | Side | Rear |
| Low Density Residential (LDR)     | 100'           | 100' | 100' |
| Land Conservation (LC)            | --             | --   | --   |
| Agricultural / Residential (AG-R) | 100'           | 100' | 100' |

**Table 2: Tier 2 and 3 Parcel Line Setback Requirements**

Key:  
--: Not Allowed

| Zoning District                   | Solar Energy Systems |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Low Density Residential (LGR)     | ≥ 5 acres            |
| Land Conservation (LC)            | --                   |
| Agricultural / Residential (AG-R) | ≥ 5 acres            |

**Table 3: Tier 2 and 3 Lot Size Requirements**

Key:  
--: Not Allowed

## 14 APPENDIX B: DECOMMISSIONING PLANS REQUIREMENTS

A minimum the following items must be addressed in decommissioning plans requirements that are presented to the Site Plan Review Authority prior to the issuing of a Special Permit and shall be included in any third-party agreements.

- Defined conditions upon which decommissioning will be initiated (i.e., end of land lease, no operation for 12 months, prior written notice to facility owner, etc.).
- Removal of all nonutility owned equipment, conduit, structures, fencing, roads, and foundations.
- Restoration of property to condition prior to solar development.
- The timeframe for completion of decommissioning activities.
- Description of any agreement (e.g., lease) with landowner regarding decommissioning.
- The party responsible for decommissioning.
- Plans for updating the decommissioning plan.
- Before final electrical inspection, provide evidence that the decommissioning plan was recorded with the Register of Deeds.