



Town of Lexington
PLANNING BOARD

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SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS
Draft for Review on 09.09.2020

MOTION: That the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Lexington be amended as follows, where ~~struck through~~ text is to be removed and underlined text is to be added:

A. Amend § 135-3.2.2 so that it reads:

3.2.2 Limit on Size of Accessory Uses. An accessory use may not occupy more than 25% of the area of a lot or more than 25% of the gross floor area on a lot. This limitation does not apply to off-street parking, Solar Energy Systems, or to accessory apartments, ~~which are governed by other provisions of this bylaw.~~

B. Add a new § 135-4.3.1.3 as follows:

3. A Solar Energy System may be located over any paved parking lot.

C. Amend § 135-4.3.2 so that it reads:

4.3.2 Structures on a Building. Structures erected on a building and not used for human occupancy may exceed the maximum height of a building in feet provided no part of the structure is more than 20 feet higher than the upper elevation of the building and the total horizontal coverage of such structures other than Solar Energy Systems on the building does not exceed 25%.

D. In § 135-10.1, amend the definition of SITE COVERAGE so that it reads:

The sum of all parts of a lot that are covered by a principal or accessory building or other structure, other than a Solar Energy System, such parts of the lot to be delineated by the intersection of the ground with the vertical plane of the outermost walls or projections of a building or structure whether in contact with the ground or projecting over it.

E. In § 135-10.1, amend the definition of STRUCTURE so that it reads:

Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires a fixed location on the ground, or attachment to something located on the ground, including buildings, mobile homes, billboards, tanks, ~~Solar Panels~~ Energy Systems, or the like, or the parts thereof, and swimming pools, but not including paved surfaces such as a driveway, a walk or a patio.



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F. In § 135-10.1, amend the definition of YARD so that it reads:

An open space on a lot unoccupied by a building or structure or such parts thereof as covered or uncovered porches, steps, cornices, eaves and other projections; provided however that fences, gates or security stations, yard accessories, ornaments and furniture, Canopy Solar Energy Systems, and customary summer awnings are permitted in any yard but shall be subject to height limitations. Yard depth shall be measured from the street or lot line, and not from the middle of any public or private way whether owned pursuant to the derelict fee statute or otherwise, to the nearest point on a building in a line perpendicular or normal to such lot or street line. The minimum required yard shall be a strip of land of uniform depth required by this bylaw measured from the lot or street line and adjacent thereto.

G. In § 135-10.1, add definitions as follows:

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM A device or structural design feature, a substantial purpose of which is to provide for the collection, storage, and distribution of solar energy for space heating or cooling, electrical generation, or water heating.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, BUILDING-MOUNTED A Solar Energy System that is designed to be securely mounted on a building.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, CANOPY A Solar Energy System structure that is built to cover a parking lot or other open-air use that is not a Building-mounted Solar Energy System or Residential Solar Energy System.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, LARGE SCALE A Solar Energy System that is not a - Building-mounted Solar Energy System, Canopy Solar Energy System, or Residential Solar Energy System.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM, RESIDENTIAL A Solar Energy System that is not a Building-mounted Solar Energy System on a residential lot where the total capacity of all solar energy systems on the lot is less than or equal to twenty-five kilowatts (25 kW) of electricity, or equivalent, per dwelling unit.



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H. In Table 1, Permitted Uses and Development Standards, replace row O.1.10 with four new rows, so that they read:

		GC	RO	RS	RT	CN	CRS	CS	CB	CLO	CRO	CM	CSX
O.1.10	Ground-mounted solar energy systems	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	R	N
O.1.10	<u>Solar Energy System, Building-mounted</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>
O.1.11	<u>Solar Energy System, Canopy</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>
O.1.12	<u>Solar Energy System, Large-scale</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>
O.1.13	<u>Solar Energy System, Residential</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>

I. Add a new § 135-6.10 as follows:

6.10 SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.

1. Purpose and Intent.

As a Greener Community, Lexington promotes the installation and use of Solar Energy Systems within the community. The purpose of this section is to establish standards for permitting, placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations; while protecting public safety; protecting against undesirable impacts on residential property and neighborhoods; protecting scenic, natural and historic resources; and protecting or providing for wildlife corridors.

Lexington intends to promote the creation of Solar Energy Systems in accordance with M.G.L. c.40A, §3 and the Green Communities Act, M.G.L. c.25A, §10, so that Solar Energy System installations do not diminish abutting property values, while meeting sustainability initiatives for a sustainable Lexington.

2. Applicability.

1. The construction and operation of all proposed Solar Energy Systems shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, communications and aviation requirements.
2. All buildings and structures forming part of a Solar Energy System shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code and approved by the Building Commissioner.



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3. Design Standards.

1. The Planning Board may adopt regulations providing for design standards for Canopy Solar Energy Systems, Large-scale Solar Energy Systems, and Residential Solar Energy Systems.
2. The Planning Board may adopt regulations providing for the maintenance and eventual removal of Large-scale Solar Energy Systems and securing the performance thereof.
3. Large-scale and Residential Solar Energy Systems shall not be located in the front, side, or rear required Yard.

J. Add a new § 135-7.3.4 as follows:

7.3.4 Protected uses.

Notwithstanding other provisions of § 7.3 and any preliminary site development and use plan, the following uses and structures protected by M.G.L. c. 40A §3 shall be permitted in any PD, CD, or RD district:

1. Building-mounted Solar Energy Systems shall be permitted by right.
2. Canopy Solar Energy Systems, Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems, and Residential Solar Energy Systems shall be permitted with site plan review under § 135-9.5.

and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Code of the Town of Lexington.