Utility-Scale Solar Energy Facilities

Committee of the Whole Study Session
March 11, 2021
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Thursday, March 11, 2021
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Jay Leipzig, AICP
  - Director of Planning

- Why Do We Need to Act?

- Solar Energy Facilities Intro
  - Sean Pendley, AICP
  - Deputy Director of Planning

- Evaluation and Update Process
  - Committee of the Whole Study Session
  - Planning Commission Recommendation
  - Board of County Commissioners Consideration

- Overview of the Solar Industry
  - Denise Nelson, PE, CFM
  - Berkley Group

- Overview of Land Use Impacts
  - Darren Coffey, AICP
  - Berkley Group

- The County’s Land Use Tools
  - The Rural Comprehensive Plan
  - Zoning Regulations
  - Aaron Berryhill
  - Berkley Group

- Potential Amendments
  - Denise Nelson

- Discussion/Next Steps

- Adjourn
Why do we need to act?

• Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations do not currently address utility-scale solar facilities.

• Solar collectors permitted as accessory uses (i.e. rooftop panels, ground mounted units).

• Solar Farms could be very large (possibly 2,000 - 3,000 acres).

• Need clear policies and standards for this type of new land use.
Solar Energy Facilities

• Growing demand for renewable energy
• Solar is the fastest growing energy source
• **Benefits** - alternative to coal power, pollution reduction, scalable
• **Land Use impacts** - requires large areas of land, long-term leases with utility provider, neighbor concerns
• Potential utility-scale solar facility in rural Johnson County
Policy Evaluation and Update Process

• Planning Commission and BOCC Study Session - March 2021
• Public hearing, PC consideration of amendments - April 2021
• PC recommendations to BOCC - May 2021
• BOCC finalization of amendments and adoption - June 2021