



# Large-Scale Solar



Learn more at:  
[www.townofbethlehem.org/940/Zoning-Update](http://www.townofbethlehem.org/940/Zoning-Update)

## ! Expansion of solar energy use is a priority identified in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

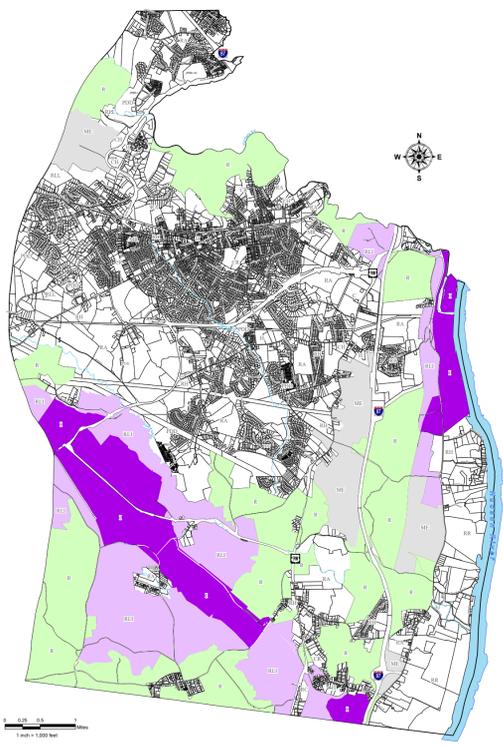
Bethlehem Forward recommends **expanding all scales of solar energy use** – including large-scale solar installations – as part of its goal to create **Harmony with Nature**. Expansion of solar energy will reduce our dependence on non-renewable resources and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Solar energy expansion is also a critical factor in achieving New York State's Clean Energy Standard (CES), which requires that, by 2030, 70% of New York's electricity must come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind.

## What is large-scale solar and where is it currently allowed?

Large-scale solar facilities typically have a system size of at least 2 MW and cover an area of 5 to 10+ acres.

Large-scale solar installations are the principal use on a site, not only providing electricity on site, but also producing energy for off-site users.

Large-scale solar is currently allowed subject to a special use permit and site plan approvals in the Rural (R), Mixed Economic Development (MED), Heavy Industrial (I), and Rural Light Industrial (RLI) zoning districts (see map to right).



ZONING DISTRICTS WHERE LARGE SCALE-SOLAR IS CURRENTLY ALLOWED

- Rural (R)
- Heavy Industrial (HI)
- Mixed Economic Development (MED)
- Rural Light Industrial (RLI)

## ? We Want to Hear From You!

### Which areas do you think are appropriate for large-scale solar installations?

In addition to identifying the zoning districts in which large-scale solar is permitted, the Town's code also establishes setbacks, max lot coverage, max height, and min lot size requirements. However, the current code does not define the types of landscapes where large-scale solar is desired nor the features that can be displaced to accommodate large-scale solar.

The images to the right and below represent a variety of landscapes in the Town that could support large-scale solar.

Place a dot in the boxes of statements you support.



**Solar replacing forested land.**

<b>I support this!</b> Place a dot in the green box.	<b>I don't support this.</b> Place a dot in the orange box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Solar on large commercial rooftops.**

<b>I support this!</b> Place a dot in the green box.	<b>I don't support this.</b> Place a dot in the orange box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Solar replacing agricultural land.**

<b>I support this!</b> Place a dot in the green box.	<b>I don't support this.</b> Place a dot in the orange box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Solar combined with agricultural land.**

<b>I support this!</b> Place a dot in the green box.	<b>I don't support this.</b> Place a dot in the orange box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Solar on parking lots.**

<b>I support this!</b> Place a dot in the green box.	<b>I don't support this.</b> Place a dot in the orange box.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>