LAKE COUNTY
Investing in People
and Our Communities

PWPT Discussion of Solar Energy Amendment Highlights

August 7, 2019



Approval Process

PWPT Initiation of Formal Process

County Board Direction to ZBA

ZBA Public Hearing PWPT Review & Recommendation

County Board Final Action

Types of Solar

- Roof-Mounted
- Building-Integrated
- Ground-Mounted
 - Small-Scale System: Less than 1,750 Square Feet
 - Medium-Scale System: More than 1,750 but less than 40,000 square feet
 - Large-Scale System: At least 40,000 square feet

Medium and Large-Scale

 Principal (i.e., primary) and accessory (i.e., secondary/subordinate) use medium and largescale systems are permitted in industrial zoning districts, and require a non-delegated Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in all other districts





Small-Scale

 Principal use small-scale systems require a CUP in all residential districts and are permitted in all nonresidential districts. Accessory use small-scale systems permitted in all zoning district [NOTE: staff recommendation allows small-scale principal use by right in all residential zones).





Campus Settings

 Accessory use ground-mounted solar energy systems of all sizes (small, medium, or large) shall be permitted in all zoning districts for those institutional, commercial, or industrial uses with campuses comprised of 10 acres or more.





Concentrated Solar

- Unlike conventional solar, it uses lenses or curved mirrors to focus sunlight onto small, highly efficient solar cells.
- Prohibition on concentrated solar technology as accessory or principal use





Approval Processes

- All medium and large-scale systems are subject to the Site Capacity/Site Plan review process, which triggers:
 - Landscape buffering and fencing (where appropriate)
 - Must be planted with native prairie species
 - Natural resource protection measures (woodland resources)
- May require Site Development (i.e., engineering)
 permits depending on total site disturbance
- All systems must meet required setback, height, location, and maximum area standards

Miscellaneous Standards

- Any ground mounted system which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned shall be removed
- Developer of principal use medium or largescale systems must provide a bond, letter of credit, or surety bond for removal cost
- Security, signage, and lighting provisions apply

