

Appendix A
Inventory of Solar Ordinances in Rhode Island

September 2018

Municipality	Ordinance Citation	Applicability by Type	Location Applied	Adopted Tax ordinance?	Prohibited Areas	Special Exemptions	Decommissioning Plan	Notes	References
Barrington	N/A			Yes, (Chapter 169-23)			N/A	Tax Exemption for Renewable Systems	https://ecode360.com/30619893
Bristol	N/A			Yes, (Chapter 27, Article II)			N/A		
Burrillville	Sec. 30-211	Roof and ground mounted	SUP in VC, GC, GI	Yes, (Sec. 25-5)		None	Decommissioning plan is required (removal, disposal and re-vegetation)	Insurance required, no more than 20% of lot coverage, clear-cutting of forest prohibited	https://library.municode.com/ri/burrillville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIRREGOR_CH30Z_O_ARTVISPSURE_S30-211ROROUNSOPHIN
Central Falls	Sec. 506 (not fully addressed)			None found			N/A	No ordinance, but Residential/Roof Mounted allowed above max height	http://clerkshq.com/default.ashx?clientsite=centralfalls-ri
Charlestown	Solar under development (proposed new subsection; not on muni code)	"Solar Farms"		None found			"responsibility of the land 158 owner to remove all obsolete or unused installation systems within (12) months, after cessation..."		http://www.charlestownri.org/vertical/sites/%7BDFF68A5B8-A4F3-47A1-AE87-B411E21C6E1C%7D/uploads/375_-_Chapter_218_Zoning_Major_Solar_Farms.pdf
Coventry	Article 21	Roof and ground mounted	All zones allowed as accessory use(minor), Med. By SUP	Addressed, but not exempt (Chapter 217-26)			Decommission plan is required "proof of financial surety for removal"	Ground system categories (Minor, Medium, and Major) - Max lot coverage is 15%	https://ecode360.com/32721592 Wind: https://ecode360.com/32721452
Cranston	Chapters 17.04.030(Definitions) 17.20.030- Uses 17.24.020 Perf. Stadards		By right in A-80, M-1, M-2 and S-1 zones	Yes, waiver for systems no selling excess power, (Chapter 3.16.060)	All other zones not listed		Defunct systems must be removed within 150 days. Financial surety up to 125% of cost as determined by an engineer(hired by city, but paid for by operator)	By right in A-80, M-1, M-2 and S-1 zones - Addresses decommissioning and abandonment	https://library.municode.com/ri/cranston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CO_TIT17ZO_CH17.24PESTGE_17.24.020SOPEST
Cumberland	Article 18-8 (Ammed. 2017)	Roof and ground mounted		Yes- systems under 250KW exempt, (Chapter 36-7&8)	"forested areas shall not be cleared for the purpose of installing solar installations"		Removal of structures, disposal and "stabilization or re-vegetation is required. After 150, Town "may remove the facility"	Dimensional guidelines are discussed, Abandonment is addressed	
E. Greenwich	Ord.#873, Article XX, Sec. 260-119 through 260*-123 (Nov.2017)	Roof, Intrgrated, Covered Parking, Ground, Minor, Major		Yes, RIGL 44-3-3 referenced (Chapter 227-50)	Downtown Hist. Dist.(ground)	Tax Exemption for Renewable Systems	Parcel owner must remove obsolete systems within 6 mos. PB "may" require financial security covering removal. Estimate prepared by licensed engineer	20ft vegetated buffer	pdf
E. Providence	Div. 4, Sec. 19-176.	Ground mounted		Yes- Minor systems exempt, major systems fully taxable (Sec 16-98)		City Landfill (FORBES)	Owner OR Operator must remove obsolete systems within 6 mos. Applicants shall provide financial security covering removal. "The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation"	Large projects subject to Land Dev Projects procedure, Addresses abandonment and decommissioning, Mentions consistency with Comp Plan	http://clerkshq.com/default.ashx?clientsite=eastprovidence-ri
Exeter	Sec. 11.1 (update Pending)	Utility scale	Allowed in B, LB-R, LI, GWOL and PVOD. SUP in RU-4, CR-5 and Planned Dist.	Yes, MAY elect to exempt systems NOT selling power. Other systems are taxes \$5/kw (Chapter 227-50)		Net metering allowed in all zones	Decommission plan req. for utility scale installs	Solar Ord. currently being drafted	https://library.municode.com/ri/exeter/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=APXAZO_ARTXIREEN
Foster	Section 23, Solar installations		All zones	No, but mentions RIGL 44-3-21 (Chaper 34-54(5))			Parcel owner must remove obsolete systems within 6 mos.	Maj. Land Dev. Approval for systems over 250kw or 40%+ of net buildable area	https://www.townoffoster.com/sites/fosterri/files/news/municipal_codes_2017.pdf

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Glocester	MORATORIUM- Article VII, Special Regs. 350-46 (Dec.2016)		Small (all zones as accessory), Med. and Large (all except Village Overlay Dist.). Med (Dev't plan rev.), Large (SUP)	Yes (Chapter 247-43)	Current MORATORIUM		Owner or operator to remove, dispose and stabilize or re-vegetate within 180 days. Financial surety, not to exceed 125% of estimated cost of removal	Small, Med, Large size distinctions (150ft & 200ft setbacks for Med and Large). 20%-30% lot coverage max. Limit of forest cut is set at 40%	https://ecode360.com/9717896
Hopkinton	Chapter 232 (current amendments being discussed)		By right in commercial & Manufacturing Zones	None found			?	Land clearing is limited to 40%. Requirement for "removal". Tax exemption as well	
Jamestown	In the works...			None found			N/A	Horseley Witten is working on it (Within 6 mos.)	
Johnston	Individual Review			None found			N/A		
Lincoln	Ordinance 2013-7 (260-19) - also includes Wind power		SUP in BL, ML and MG zones (Util. scale)	None found	RA, RS, RL, RG, CR1, CR2, VCMU (Util. scale)		Not addressed	Lincoln sets the use table as a combo of solar and wind systems. Utility scale, Gound mounted residential and roof mounted residential	
Little Compton	In the works...			None found			N/A	Using EG, Smithfield, and Tiverton as references	
Middletown	Chapter 152: 725	Ground mounted	SUP needed for ground mount in all districts	None found	Open Space	Roof-accessory use allowed in all districts, Ground-Dev.Plan Rev.	Removal after 90 days of cessation. Restoration to pre-development condition. Town may remove at cost of owner, lien possible.	Max of 25% of lot area in Residential, 25 ft setback from property lines	http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Rhode%20Island/middletown_ri/titlexvlandusage/chapter152zoningcode?&templates\$fn=default.htm&\$3.0\$vid=amlegal:middletown_ri
Narragansett	Very early stages of developing an Ord....			None found			N/A		
New Shoreham	Sec. 517	Ground under 751 sf by right, SUP for systems 750 sf and bigger	Accessory uses in all zones	None found		In Hist Dist with permission of Hist. Dist. Comm.	Bldg. Official is authorized to direct removal within 60 days	Abandonment is addressed	
Newport	N/A			None found			N/A		
N. Kingstown	ORDINANCE NO. 18-02 (Jan. 2018)	Roof and ground mounted	All zones	None found	Wickford		Not addressed	Min lot size 80,000sf	
N. Providence	N/A			None found			N/A	Bad #	
N. Smithfield	Article 5.11 (May, 2018)	Roof and ground mounted	SUP in all other zones	Yes, (Chapter 6-3.12)	Open Space		Bond required, return to "pre siting" conditions by owner/operator, within 120 days, if not, town will remove using escrowed funds. Amount to be calculated by "firm" selected by town.	Residential as access. Use, med an large scale subject to Tec. Review and Land Dev& Subdiv. Regs.	
Pawtucket	Brief mention, not fully addressed			None found		Mentions solar as "permitted above max height of building"	N/A		
Portsmouth				None found			N/A	SUP needed, no details in process is described	
Providence	Sec. 1202.Y	Commercial Solar	By right in M-1, M-2 an M-3 SUP in W-2 and W-3	None found			"owner and operator" must decommission at end of useful life (180 days of non-use)	Decommissioning is mentioned	

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Richmond	Chapter 18.34	Roof and ground mounted	Permitted in Gen. Bus., Lt. Ind., Ind, and PUD-VC zones	Yes, systems covered under RIGL 44-3-3(a)(22), (48) and (49) are exempt (Chapter 3.55.040)			Before permit issued: Decommissioning plan is required (removal, disposal and restoration (as close as possible) to previous conditions), within 90 days, "owner of the system" is on the hook	Permitted accessory use on Ag lands. Includes dimensional requirements (height, setbacks, buffers, etc.)	http://clerkshq.com/default.ashx?clientsite=richmond-ri
Scituate	N/A			None found			N/A		
Smithfield	Article 5.11 (May, 2018)		Accessory array OK in all zones.	Yes, systems up to 250kW exempt (Chapter 321-11.3)		the Town is exempt	N/A	- 20% max coverage of lots in Res zones small scale-tech review, Med and Large scale- Land Dev & Sub Div. Regs	pdf
S. Kingstown	Article 3, Sec. 300 (May, 2017)	Small, Med, Large & Access. Array		None found			Financial guarantee determined by PB, to be paid minimum of 2 years before end of system life, Inflation added onto final amount. 1 year window included.	SUP in most zones	https://library.municode.com/ri/south_kingstown/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_A PXAZOOR
Tiverton		Roof and ground mounted	All sizes permitted in R-30, R-40, R-60, R-80, GC, HC, and I zones some setbacks apply) Not permitted in VC.	None found	VC Zone		Small Array: removal before sale of property. Med/Large: 11% surety required for removal and re-vegetation of site	Abandonment is addressed	http://www.tiverton.ri.gov/documents/planningboard/Zoning%20Ordinance%20Solar%20Energy%20System%20Ordinance.pdf
Warren	(Dec., 2017)	Utility Scale only		Yes, RIGL 44-3-21 referenced as a 20-yr exemption for residential systems (Sec. 7-122)	R20, R15, R6, VB, W, SD, FC		N/A	60 ft setback, Min parcel size of 20 acres	
Warwick	In the works...			Yes, (Sec 74-52)			N/A	Hired Horsley Witten to draft an Ord.	
W. Greenwich	N/A	Commercial Solar	SUP in R80	Yes, (Chapter 325-29 & 30)	Comm. & Ind. Zones		N/A	In use table	
W. Warwick	N/A			Yes, Article V, Sec. 18-54)			Any "green project" must be removed within 180 days of cessation. Includes removal, disposal and re-vegetation/stabilization of site. Surety required (reasonable amount, not to exceed 125% of cost as determined by "town engineer". If not removed within a year, must be removed with 90 days of the 365th day.		

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Westerly	In the works...			None found			N/A		
Woonsocket	Sec. 6.15	Roof and ground mounted	All zones	Yes, special application process (Sec. 2-76)			Parcel owner to remove obsolete or unused systems within 6 months, surety bond "may" be required before issuance of permits	20kw or less for residential, Abandonment/Decommissioning is addressed	