Solar Panels in the Midwest: Local Examples and Opportunities

The Air We Breathe: Metro East Community Air & Health Forum

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Overview

- Why Create Regulations?
- What Have Other Communities Done?
- Public Meetings
- The Proposed Ordinance
- Historical Buildings/Area
- Where We Are Today
Alton, Illinois

- Incorporated in 1837
- Population 27,865 (2010)
- Rich History
- Cool City Since 2008
Why Create Regulations?

- The Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855) requires that twenty-five percent (25%) of energy for electricity must be from renewable energy sources by 2025. At present, only approximately eight percent (8%) is from renewable energy sources.

- Residents’ Desire for Alternative Energy

- Current Regulations in Alton

- Historical Buildings/District Issues
What Have Other Communities Done?

- Upstate Examples (Schaumburg and Naperville)
- Caseyville Example
- Mississippi River Issues
Public Meetings

- Climate Protection and Energy Efficiency Committee
- Appearance Review Commission
- Historical Commission
- City Council
The Proposed Ordinance

- Bans Large Wind Energy Systems

- Makes Small Wind Energy Systems and Large Solar Energy Systems Special Uses in Manufacturing Areas

- Makes Small Solar Energy Systems a Special Use in all Zoning Districts
The Proposed Ordinance

- Ameren Approval Requirement
- Must follow FAA Standards
- Small Solar Systems can be a Max 6 Inches from Roof Surface in Residential Areas
- Small Solar Systems can be a Max 5 Feet from Roof Peak in Non-Residential Areas
The Proposed Ordinance

- Freestanding Small Solar Shall be Max 12 Feet from Base to Highest Edge
- Freestanding Small Solar only Allowed in Backyard.
- Studies Requirement
- Access Easement Requirement
The Proposed Ordinance

- General Application
- Application in an Appearance Review Area
- Application in an Historic District
Historic Building/Area

- Placement of Solar Panels
- Front of House Issue
- Right-of-Way Issue
Where We Are Today

- Adoption Process
Website

- http://www.alton-il.com/coolcities
Questions
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