



Solar and Energy Storage Handbook for Maine Communities

A resource to help communities in Maine plan for responsible development of solar and battery storage projects

Solar and battery storage projects can generate considerable benefits for local communities, such as growing the commercial tax base, reducing energy costs, and bolstering resilience. As with any kind of development, proactive planning that incorporates clear standards and requirements can mitigate potential project impacts, reduce costs, and balance land use priorities. **The Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER) created a handbook to help community leaders proactively determine local priorities and responsibly manage solar and battery energy storage projects while meeting local needs.**

What's Included:

- 1 Solar and storage technology basics
- 2 Local project case studies
- 3 Solar and storage FAQs
- 4 Overview of relevant regulations
- 5 Land use policy considerations
- 6 Model ordinance language





Solar and storage basics (pg. 7)

Information related to how solar and battery energy storage system technologies work, what developers are looking for when siting projects, the utility interconnection process, and more.

Case studies (pg. 23)

Examples of solar and storage projects that have been developed across Maine. These case studies include project size, photos, local benefits, and siting and permitting information.

FAQs (pg. 25)

Answers to frequently asked questions related to solar and battery storage projects to support effective, fact-based discussions around these technologies.

State and federal regulations (pg. 32)

Reviews existing state and federal regulatory processes and requirements to help communities determine where local regulation may be useful.

Land use policy considerations (pg. 37)

Identifies ways municipalities may utilize local control including zoning, site plan review, land use ordinances, and post-approval processes.

Model ordinances (pg. 45)

Includes model ordinance language for communities to learn from or adapt. When using this model ordinance or any of its provisions, it is advised to consult with a qualified attorney and/or other land use professional.

**Scan the QR code to access the handbook or visit
maine.gov/energy**

