

Petition for Installing Roof-Mounted Solar Energy Systems

Tom Henkel, September 11, 2018

Whereas: The Chapel Hill Town Council has previously passed a resolution to support local activities which reduce our carbon footprint in support of the Paris Climate Accords; and

Whereas: Energy consumption in buildings represent almost half of the energy use in all sectors of our economy; and

Whereas: Most of this building energy comes from the burning of fossil fuels, so that the reduction in building energy use will reduce the carbon footprint; and

Whereas: The Town cannot require owners to achieve a reduction in building energy use greater than that specified by the North Carolina building codes; and

Whereas: § 160A-383.4, Local Energy Efficiency Incentives, allows the Town to require the installation of certain desired equipment to reduce conventional energy use in new development for which a rezoning with ~~in~~ a Special Use Permit is requested.

Therefore, be it resolved: The Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board asks the Town Council to require all new building construction and renovations in Chapel Hill which require a rezoning with ~~a~~ Special Use Permits to install roof-mounted solar energy systems over at least 80% of the unshaded roof areas. ~~This Such new construction shall include parking garages, and erected near occupied buildings which can utilize the solar energy produced from such systems installed over the top floor of the garage. p~~ Pitched roofs facing between southeast and southwest ~~are included in this requirement.~~

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§ 160A-383.4. Local energy efficiency incentives.

(a) Land-Use Development Incentives. - Counties and municipalities, for the purpose of reducing the amount of energy consumption by new development, and thereby promoting the public health, safety, and welfare, may adopt ordinances to grant a density bonus, **make adjustments to otherwise applicable development requirements**, or provide other incentives to a developer or builder within the county or municipality and its extraterritorial planning jurisdiction if the developer or builder agrees to construct new development or reconstruct existing development in a manner that the county or municipality determines, based on generally recognized standards established for such purposes, makes a significant contribution to the reduction of energy consumption.

(b) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-95, s. 1, effective June 11, 2009. (2007-241, ss. 1, 2; 2008-22, s. 1; 2009-95, s. 1.)