

Solar Panels in the
Midwest: Local Examples
and Opportunities

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

October 18, 2013

Solar
Panel/Wind
Turbine

Regulations-
Alton, IL
Example

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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