

Brandon Town Plan & Enhanced Energy Plan

Information Requested

Submitted by: MHG Solar

Date: 2/7/2022

By: Thomas Hand, Co-founder MHG Solar

Brandon Planning Commission Criteria for Siting Renewable Energy

Below is the Town of Brandon's Planning Commission's process for reviewing potential large-scale solar and other renewable energy generation projects within Brandon, and further, how the Town plans influence state regulatory proceedings:

- Act 250 applications must conform to the municipal plan.
MHG Response: Acknowledged
- Applications for a Section 248 Certificate of Public Good must give due consideration to the municipal plan; with an enhanced energy plan considered compliant, it has substantial deference.
MHG Response: Acknowledged

For uniformity, Brandon adopts these standards used by the State of Vermont for system classifications and supports the RES standards developed by the State as well as other statutory requirements and Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) goals for emissions reduction and renewable generation:

- State goal of having 90% of all energy use -- transportation, thermal and electricity -- come from renewables by the year 2050.
- The RES for Vermont utilities requiring that 75% of electricity sold in Vermont in 2032 be obtained from renewables.
- State and local and property tax statutes.
- 15 kW or less as the definition of small residential systems.
- Access requirement to firefighters and other emergency responders.

MHG Response: Acknowledged

Furthermore, every renewable energy project larger than 15 kW shall include a proposed site plan, a statement of compliance with all known and possible constraints, a project budget and scope, a qualified assessment by an energy professional as to the viability of the project, an action plan and a guaranteed funding source for decommissioning to ensure the site is safe, stable and free of structures and hazardous materials.

MHG Response:

- Please see included site plan
- MHG agrees to comply with all constraints
- MHG, as a company specializing in the development of solar arrays, believes the project is viable.
- MHG agrees to provide a guaranteed funding source for decommissioning

The following questionnaire will be sent to companies considering construction of renewable energy projects in/around the Town of Brandon (see appendix for proper form).

1. Owner information

A. Owner intends to construct a 2200 kW (sites >15kW need to fill out the form below; the form is not necessary for sites <15kW) at the following address or legal description (system site):

B. This site is on (circle one):

- i. Public Land
- ii. **Private land**

C. Is this a residential or commercial installation?

MHG Response: Commercial

D. This site does or does not require local permits or improvements in public roads/infrastructure improvements to access/operate the installation? If yes, please describe.

MHG Response: It is our understanding that the site will not require local permits. However, MHG desires to execute an MOU with the Town Planning Commission and the Select Board.

E. Has owner secured rights to use the above-mentioned site?

MHG Response: Yes.

F. Please describe what benefits this project would bring to the Brandon community.

MHG Response: Please see MHG's presentation to the Planning Commission on 2/7/22

G. This installation will be (circle one):

- i. net metered
- ii. grid tied

H. If net metered who will be receiving the generation credits?

MHG Response: NA

I. If this is a secure or restricted access site, how will security be handled? Will emergency personnel be able to access this site?

MHG Response: The site is required to have a fence per national electric code. The fence is the extent of the "security" that will be required for this site. We are happy to provide emergency personnel access to the site if desired.

- J. Who owns the RECs (Renewable Energy Credits)? Will the RECs be sold?
MHG Response: MHG is proposing this project as a Standard Offer project. The Standard Offer program purchases the power and the RECs and passes it through to Vermont utilities on a proportional basis relative to their respective sales. GMP has approximately 70% market share, so ~70% of the RECs and power will flow to GMP.

3. Project details

- A. Type of generation:
MHG Response: Solar
- B. Expected kW/kWh annual generation:
MHG Response: 2200 kWac. Expected annual generation: 4,000,000 kWh
- C. Is this a project that might be done in phases?
MHG Response: No
- D. Are there any other phases planned for this site in the future?
MHG Response: MHG has no other phases planned. We are working in collaboration with Solar Fest to help them obtain a permanent home. We understand that they may want to install a community solar facility in the future.
- E. Zoning variance required?
MHG Response: It is our understanding that a zoning variance is not required, however an MOU with the Town Planning Commission and Select Board is requested.
- F. If located on public land, are public approvals required?
MHG Response: The project is not located on public lands.
- G. Expected construction start date:
MHG Response: We expect to begin construction in spring 2024
- H. Expected completion date:
MHG Response: We expect to complete construction in the fall or early winter of 2024.
- I. Expected site maintenance plan:
MHG Response: The array will require minimal maintenance on an annual basis. This is typically performed by 1 or 2 personal who travel to the site in a pickup truck. Mowing of the array area is typically performed twice per year and is completed with standard lawn care equipment.
- J. Town of Brandon project timeline:
- Completed review by developer and town manager and planning commission
 - Pre-construction site visit

- Final visit after PUC certificate of good issued and review of scope of project changes
- Midpoint construction visit
- Final preoperational visit
- Annual operational visits (to ensure best possible service to investors, the Town of Brandon will request economic and energy updates from the company on an annual basis)

MHG Response: Acknowledged. MHG is happy to coordinate with the Town during the planning, construction, and operational phases of the project.