

Appendix A
Inventory of Solar Ordinances in Rhode Island

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Municipality	Ordinance Citation	Applicability by Type	Location Applied	Adopted Tax ordinance?	Prohibited Areas	Special Exemptions	Decommissioning Plan	Notes	RI Division of Statewide Planning
2	Barrington	N/A			Yes, (Chapter 169-23)			N/A	Systems, Wind energy is addressed, but not solar	https://ecode360.com/30619893
3	Bristol	Sec. 28-286.	Large Scale	"Town-owned OS zoned capped Landfill"	Yes, (Chapter 27, Article II)			Must be removed within 180 days	(Ord on 6-26-19) Must be consistent with Comp Plan,	https://library.municode.com/ri/bristol/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeid=PTIVCO_CH28ZO_ARTIXLADEPRSPZO_DIV1.5LAALGRUNSOPHFA_S28-286PUARALGRUNSOPHFA
4	Burrillville	Sec. 30-211	Roof and ground mounted	SUP in VC, GC, GI	Yes, (Sec. 25-5)	"Elec. Generating Fac. now prohibited in F-5, LI and GI zones	Town owned land	Decommissioning plan is required (removal, disposal and re-vegetation)	(Ord update 2-12-20-more siting details added) Planning Board approval required, Insurance required, no more than 20% of lot coverage, clear-cutting of forest prohibited, 10ft Max height, 6ft fence to surround perimeter of installation	https://library.municode.com/ri/burrillville/ordinances/code_of_ordinances?nodeid=1006563
5	Central Falls	Sec. 30-211			None found			N/A	No ordinance, but Residential/Roof Mounted allowed above max height	http://clerkshq.com/default.aspx?clientsite=centralfalls-ri
6	Charlestown	Sec. 506 (not fully addressed)	"Solar Farms"		None found			"responsibility of the land 158 owner to remove all obsolete or unused installation systems within (12) months, after cessation..."	Previous link to regs not found	
7	Coventry	255-2140 Ground-mounted solar installations.	Roof and ground mounted	All zones allowed as accessory use(minor), Med. By SUP	Addressed, but not exempt (Chapter 217-26)			Decommission plan is required "proof of financial surety for removal"	Ground system categories (Minor, Medium, and Major) - Max lot coverage is 15%	https://ecode360.com/32721620?highlight=solar&searchid=34949951413133716
8	Cranston	Article 21, 17.24.020 - Solar power performance standard.		By right in A-80, M-1, M-2 and S-1 zones	Yes, waiver for systems no selling excess power, (Chapter 3.16.060)	All other zones not listed		Defunct systems must be removed within 150 days. Financial surety up to 125% of cost as determined by an engineer(hired by city, but paid for by operator)	By right in A-80, M-1, M-2 and S-1 zones - Addresses decommissioning and abandonment	https://library.municode.com/ri/cranston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeid=CO_TIT17ZO_CH17.24PESTGE_17.24.020SOPEST
9	Cumberland	Article 18-8	Roof and ground mounted		Yes- systems under 250KW exempt, (Chapter 36-7&8)	" forested areas shall not be cleared for the purpose of installing solar installations"		Removal of structures, disposal and "stabilization or re-vegetation is required. After 150, Town "may remove the facility"	Dimensional guidelines are discussed, Abandonment is addressed	
10	E. Greenwich	Article XX	Roof, Intrgrated, Covered Parking, Ground, Minor, Major		Yes, RIGL 44-3-3 referenced (Chapter 227-50)	Downtown Hist. Dist.(ground)	Tax Exemption for Renewable Systems	Parcel owner must remove obsolete systems within 6 mos. PB "may" require financial security covering removal. Estimate prepared by licensed engineer	20ft vegetated buffer	https://ecode360.com/33309449?highlight=solar&searchid=34951689545050592#33309449
11	E. Providence	Sections 19-176 through 19-179	Ground mounted (Large Scale)		Yes- Minor systems exempt, major systems fully taxable (Sec 16-98)		City Landfill (FORBES)	Owner OR Operator must remove obsolete systems within 6 mos. Applicants shall provide financial security covering removal. "The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation"	Large projects subject to Land Dev Projects procedure, Addresses abandonment and decommissioning, Mentions consistency with Comp Plan	https://library.municode.com/ri/east_providence/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeid=PTIIREO_R_CH19ZO_ARTIVSUDIRE_DIV4ACUS_S19-176PUARALGRUNSOPHFA

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12	Exeter	Sec. 11.1	Building and ground mount, canopies	Allowed in B, LB-R, LI, GWOL and PVOD. SUP in RU-4, CR-5 and Planned Dist.	Yes, MAY elect to exempt systems NOT selling power. Other systems are taxes \$5/kw (Chapter 227-50)		Net metering allowed in all zones	Decommission plan req. for utility scale installs	Solar Ord. currently being drafted	https://library.municod.com/ri/exeter/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=APXAZO_ARTXIREEN_511.150
13	Foster	Sec. 38-292		All zones	No, but mentions RIGL 44-3-21 (Chaper 34-54(5))			Parcel owner must remove obsolete systems within 6 mos.	Maj. Land Dev. Approval for systems over 250kw or 40%+ of net buildable area	https://www.townoffoster.com/sites/fosterrri/files/news/muncpal_codes_2017.pdf
14	Glocester	Article VII, Sec. 350-46	Roof, Canopy, Large and utility scale	Small (all zones as accessory), Med. and Large (all except Village Overlay Dist.). Med (Devt plan rev.), Large (SUP)	Yes (Chapter 247-43)			Owner or operator to remove, dispose and stabilize or re-vegetate within 180 days. Financial surety, not to exceed 125% of estimated cost of removal	Small, Med, Large size distinctions (150ft & 200ft setbacks for Med and Large). 20%-30% lot coverage max. Limit of forest cut is set at 30%	https://ecode360.com/9717896?highlight=solar&searchId=34957466500441484#9717896
15	Hopkinton	Chapter 350- Section 46 Solar Energy Systems		By right in commercial & Manufacturing Zones	None found			?	Land clearing is limited to 40%. Requirement for "removal". Tax exemption as well	
16	Jamestown	Chapter 232 (current amendments being discussed)			None found			N/A	Horseley Witten is working on it (Within 6 mos.)	
17	Johnston	Ord. 2020-5			None found			Yes- Removal required in 180 days		https://ecode360.com/JO1987/laws/LF1263337.pdf
18	Lincoln	Sec. 260-19 -Z.(1)	Utility scale, Roof mounted	SUP in BL, ML and MG zones (Util. scale)	None found	RA, RS, RL, RG, CRI, CR2, VCMU (Util. scale)		Not addressed	Lincoln sets the use table as a combo of solar and wind systems. Utility scale, Gound mounted residential and roof mounted residential	https://ecode360.com/9726918?highlight=solar&searchId=34959084134221046#9726918
19	Little Compton	Chapter 14-5,14	Accessory and Principal uses		None found		SUP in Pikes Peak and Adamsville areas	N/A		https://ecode360.com/35416797?highlight=solar&searchId=34959394684151924#35416797
20	Middletown	Article 7- 725	Ground mounted	SUP needed for ground mount in all districts	None found	Open Space	Roof-accessory use allowed in all districts, Ground-Dev.Plan Rev.	Removal after 90 days of cessation. Restoration to pre-development condition. Town may remove at cost of owner, lien possible.	Max of 25% of lot area in Residential, 25 ft setback from property lines	https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/middletown/latest/middletown_ri/0-0-0-10674
21	Narragansett	7.3, 7.6, 11.4, 12.5			None found			N/A	SUP- limited development details	
22	New Shoreham	Article 5, Section 517	Ground under 751 sf by right, SUP for systems 750 sf and bigger	Accessory uses in all zones	None found		In Hist Dist with permission of Hist. Dist. Comm.	Bldg. Official is authorized to direct removal within 60 days	Several Pending amendments (see Jan 4th Town Concil Memo - link below) https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/NewShoreham-RI/210104_1.pdf?clientSite=NewShoreham-RI	https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/NewShoreham-RI/2014_ord03.pdf?clientSite=NewShoreham-RI
23	Newport	Sec. 517			None found			N/A		
24	N. Kingstown	Section 21-323	Roof and ground mounted	All zones	None found	Wickford	Town-owned lands	Not addressed	Min lot size 80,000sf, SUP required	
25	N. Providence	ORDINANCE NO. 18-02 (Jan. 2018)			None found			N/A	Bad #	

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26	N. Smithfield	N/A	Roof and ground mounted	SUP in all other zones	Yes, (Chapter 6-3.12)	Open Space		Bond required, return to "pre-siting" conditions by owner/operator, within 120 days, if not, town will remove using escrowed funds. Amount to be calculated by "firm" selected by town.	Residential as access. Use, med an large scale subject to Tec. Review and Land Dev& Subdiv. Regs.	
27	Pawtucket	Article 5.11 (May, 2018)			None found		Mentions solar as "permitted above max height of building"	N/A		
28	Portsmouth	Ord. 2020-05-11B	Large, Med., Small, Acces.		None found		Town land	Abandonment addressed	SUP needed in most zones	https://ecode360.com/PO2650/laws/LF1158464.pdf
29	Providence		Commercial Solar	By right in M-1, M-2 an M-3 SUP in W-2 and W-3	None found			"owner and operator" must decommission at end of useful life (180 days of non-use)	Decommissioning is mentioned	
30	Richmond	Sec. 1202.Y	Roof and ground mounted	Permitted in Gen. Bus., Lt. Ind., Ind, and PUD-VC zones	Yes, systems covered under RIGL 44-3-3(a)(22), (48) and (49) are exempt (Chapter 3.55.040)			Before permit issued: Decommissioning plan is required (removal, disposal and restoration (as close as possible) to previous conditions), within 90 days, "owner of the system" is on the hook	Permitted accessory use on Ag lands. Includes dimensional requirements (height, setbacks, buffers, etc.)	http://clerkshq.com/default.aspx?clientsite=richmond-ri
31	Scituate	Chapter 18.34			None found			N/A		
32	Smithfield	N/A		Accessory array OK in all zones.	Yes, systems up to 250kW exempt (Chapter 321-11.3)		the Town is exempt	N/A	- 20% max coverage of lots in Res zones small scale- tech review, Med and Large scale- Land Dev & Sub Div. Regs	pdf
33	S. Kingstown	Section 510	Minor and Major, canopies		None found			Any solar energy system that has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned shall be removed no more than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of discontinued operations	SUP in most zones	https://library.municode.com/ri/south_kingstown/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICO_OR_APXAZOOR_ART55SURE_S510SOENSY

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34	Tiverton	Article 3, Sec. 300 (May, 2017)	Roof and ground mounted	All sizes permitted in R-30, R-40, R-60, R-80, GC, HC, and I zones some setbacks apply) Not permitted in	None found	VC Zone		Small Array: removal before sale of property. Med/Large: 11% surety required for removal and re-vegetation of site	Abandonment is addressed	http://www.tiverton.ri.gov/documents/planningboard/Zoning%20Ordinance%20Solar%20Energy%20System%20Ordinance.pdf
35	Warren		Utility Scale only		Yes, RIGL 44-3-21 referenced as a 20-yr exemption for residential systems (Sec. 7-122)	R20, R15, R6, VB, W, SD, FC		N/A	60 ft setback, Min parcel size of 20 acres	
36	Warwick	(Dec., 2017)			Yes, (Sec 74-52)			N/A	Hired Horsley Witten to draft an Ord.	
37	W. Greenwich	Article 23	Roof, Ground, Canopy, etc.	SUP in R80	Yes, (Chapter 325-29 & 30)	All zones		Removal within 180 days	Major developments as Major Land Dev't	https://ecode360.com/33936693?highlight=solar&searchid=35301288261878807#33936693
38	W. Warwick	N/A			Yes, Article V, Sec. 18-54)			Any "green project" must be removed within 180 days of cessation. Includes removal, disposal and re-vegetation/stabilization of site. Surety required (reasonable amount, not to exceed 125% of cost as determined by "town engineer". If not removed within a year, must be removed with 90 days of the 365th day.		
39	Westerly	Sec. 260-87.8	Accessory and Principal uses	All zones	Yes, Article IV, 229-7	Accessory permitted in all zones. Primary by SUP in RR60, LDR40, GI and LI zones. Not permitted elsewhere		Removal within 180 days. After that, Town may remove and seek damages. Bond or cash security required at time of plan approval. Estimate set by DPW.	Amednded 10-26-2020	https://ecode360.com/34194883?highlight=solar&searchid=35302818470069037#34194883
40	Woonsocket	Sec. 6.15	Roof and ground mounted (small and large)	All zones	Yes, special application process (Sec. 2-76)			Parcel owner to remove obsolete or unused systems within 6 months, surety bond "may" be required before issuance of permits	20kw or less for residential, Abandonment/Decommissioning is addressed	https://clerkshq.com/Content/Woonsocket-ri/books/code/woonappc.htm