

**LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_ of 2019**

A Local Law known and cited as Solar Energy System PILOT Law

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Ossining as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Purpose and Intent. This Local Law is adopted to ensure that the benefits of the community’s solar energy resource are available to the entire community, by promoting the installation of solar energy generating equipment through a payment-in-lieu-taxes (PILOT), granting reduced costs to system developers and energy consumers, and providing a revenue stream to the entire community.

**SECTION 2.** A new Article XI of Chapter 180 (“Taxation”) shall be added to the Town Code entitled “Solar Energy System PILOT” and shall read as follows:

- A. Section 180-34. Purpose. This Local Law is adopted to ensure that the benefits of the community’s solar energy resource are available to the entire community, by promoting the installation of solar energy generating equipment through a payment-in-lieu-taxes (PILOT), granting reduced costs to system developers and energy consumers, and providing a revenue stream to the entire community.
- B. Section 180-35. Authority.

This Local Law is adopted under the authority granted by:

- 1. Article IX of the New York State Constitution, § 2(c)(8),
- 2. New York Statute of Local Governments, § 10(5),
- 3. New York Municipal Home Rule Law, § 10(1)(i) and (ii) and § 10(1)(a)(8), and
- 4. New York Real Property Tax Law § 487(9).

- C. Section 180-36. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Article, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- 1. “Annual Payment” means the payment due under a PILOT Agreement entered into pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 487(9).
- 2. “Annual Payment Date” means January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- 3. “Capacity” means the manufacturer’s nameplate capacity of the Solar Energy System as measured in kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW) AC.
- 4. “Impervious Surfaces” means those surfaces, improvements and structures that cannot effectively infiltrate snow melt and stormwater into the ground, including but not limited to: parking areas, driveways, streets, sidewalks, areas of concrete, asphalt, gravel or other compacted aggregate, swimming pools, and areas covered by the outdoor storage of goods or materials which do not absorb water.

5. “Owner” means the owner of the property on which a Solar Energy System is located or installed, or their lessee, licensee or other person authorized to install and operate a Solar Energy System on the property.
6. “Residential Solar Energy Systems” means a Solar Energy System with a nameplate generating capacity less than 50 kW AC in size, installed on the roof or the property of a residential dwelling (including multi-family dwellings), and designed to serve that dwelling.
7. “Solar Energy Equipment” means collectors, controls, energy storage devices, heat pumps and pumps, heat exchangers, windmills, and other materials, hardware or equipment necessary to the process by which solar radiation is (i) collected, (ii) converted into another form of energy such as thermal, electrical, mechanical or chemical, (iii) stored, (iv) protected from unnecessary dissipation and (v) distributed. It does not include pipes, controls, insulation or other equipment which are part of the normal heating, cooling, or insulation system of a building. It does include insulated glazing or insulation to the extent that such materials exceed the energy efficiency standards required by New York law.
8. “Solar Energy System” means an arrangement or combination of Solar Energy Equipment on the entire property designed to provide heating, cooling, hot water, or mechanical, chemical, or electrical energy by the collection of solar energy and its conversion, storage, protection and distribution. For the purpose of calculating Capacity, Solar Energy System shall include the aggregate of all Solar Energy Equipment and Solar Energy Systems on the property.

D. Section 180-37. PILOT Required.

1. The owner of a property on which a Solar Energy System is located or installed (including any improvement, reconstruction, or replacement thereof), shall enter into a PILOT Agreement with the Town consistent with the terms of this Local Law, except for
  - a) Residential Solar Energy Systems
  - b) Solar Energy Systems with a Capacity less than 1 MW.
  - c) Solar Energy Systems that do not seek or qualify for an exemption from real property taxes pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 487(4).
2. The Lessee or licensee of any owner of a property required to enter into a PILOT Agreement by this section, which owns or controls the Solar Energy System, may enter into the PILOT Agreement on behalf of the owner of the property and with the owner’s authorization.
3. Upon receipt of any notification from an owner or other person of intent to install a Solar Energy System that is not exempt from the provisions of this Local Law pursuant to Section 180-37(1), the Building Inspector shall immediately, but in no case more

than sixty days after receipt of the notification, notify the owner or other person of the mandatory requirement for a PILOT Agreement pursuant to the terms of this Local Law.

4. Nothing in this Local Law shall exempt any requirement for compliance with state and local codes for the installation of any solar energy equipment or a solar energy system, or authorize the installation of any solar energy equipment or a solar energy system. All solar energy systems must file a Real Property Tax Exemption application pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 487 to receive a tax exemption.
5. In the event the Solar Energy System is initially under the 1 MW threshold for a PILOT Agreement, but due to subsequent improvements and/or additions of Solar Energy Equipment on the property the Solar Energy System(s) on the entire property in the aggregate then meets the 1 MW threshold to require a PILOT Agreement, the Owner shall then be required to enter into a PILOT agreement for those years where the Solar Energy System(s) would be exempt from real property taxes under Real Property Tax Law § 487 and the capacity of the system meets the 1 MW threshold. In the event there is more than one Solar Energy System on the property, the payment amount for each Solar Energy System will be separately calculated in accordance with Section 180-38(8).

E. Section 180-38. Contents of PILOT Agreements.

Each PILOT Agreement entered into shall include the following:

1. Name and contact information of the Owner or other party authorized to act upon behalf of the Owner of the Solar Energy System.
2. The SBL number for each parcel or portion of a parcel on which the Solar Energy System will be located.
3. A requirement for fifteen successive annual payments, to be paid commencing on the first Annual Payment Date after the effective date of the Real Property Tax Exemption granted pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 487.
4. The Capacity of the Solar Energy System, and that if the Capacity is increased or decreased as a result of a system upgrade, replacement, partial removal or retirement of Solar Energy Equipment, the annual payments shall be increased or decreased on a pro rata basis for the remaining years of the Agreement.
5. That the parties agree that under the authority of Real Property Tax Law § 487 the Solar Energy System shall be considered exempt from real property taxes for the fifteen-year life of the PILOT Agreement.
6. That the PILOT Agreement may not be assigned without the prior written consent of the Town, which consent may not be unreasonably withheld if the Assignee has

agreed in writing to accept all obligations of the Owner, except that the Owner may, with advance written notice to the Town but without prior consent, assign its payment obligations under the PILOT Agreement to an affiliate of the Owner or to any party who has provided or is providing financing to the Owner for or related to the Solar Energy System, and has agreed in writing to accept all payment obligations of the Owner.

7. That a Notice of this Agreement may be recorded by the Owner at its expense, and that the Town shall cooperate in the execution of any Notices or Assignments with the Owner and its successors.
8. That the Annual Payment shall be
  - a) For a Solar Energy System that is roof-mounted or canopy that is placed exclusively over Impervious Surfaces or surfaces without vegetation that are used as parking lots, \$4,500 per MW of Capacity multiplied by the corresponding Town percentage of applicable taxes.
  - b) For all other Solar Energy Systems not included in (8h)(a), \$9,000 per MW of Capacity multiplied by the corresponding Town percentage of applicable taxes.
9. That the Annual Payment shall escalate two percent (2%) per year, starting with the second Annual Payment.
10. That if the Annual Payment is not paid when due, that upon failure to cure within thirty days, the Town may cancel the PILOT Agreement without notice to the Owner, and the Solar Energy System shall thereafter be subject to taxation at its full assessed value.

**SECTION 3.** Validity. The invalidity of any provision of this Local Law shall not affect the validity of any other portion of this Local Law which can be given effect without such invalid provision.

**SECTION 4.** Effective Date. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF  
THE TOWN OF OSSINING