



# End-of-life Management of Photovoltaic Systems

Stakeholder Workgroup

Nov. 16, 2021

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Healthy People. **Healthy Communities.**

# Solar Farm Visit – 11/9/21



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# Budget Proviso

- The department shall submit regulations to guide in:
  - the management of end-of-life photovoltaic modules and energy storage system batteries on solar projects
  - the decommissioning of solar projects in excess of thirteen acres- to include partial refurbishing and complete decommissioning

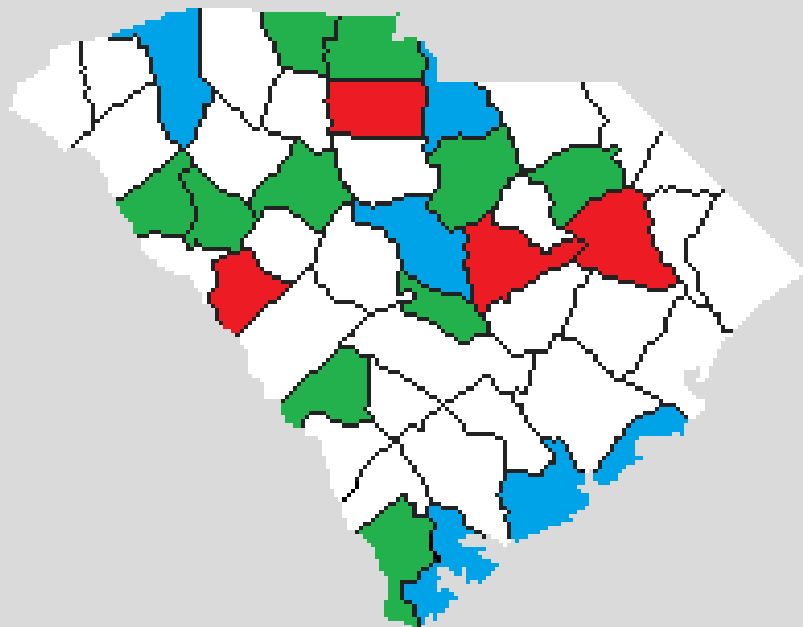


# Decommissioning in SC

- 19 counties w. ordinances to regulate PVMs
- 14 counties w. decommissioning requirements for large-scale projects
- 10 ordinances require financial assurance
- No statewide requirements for decommissioning large-scale projects



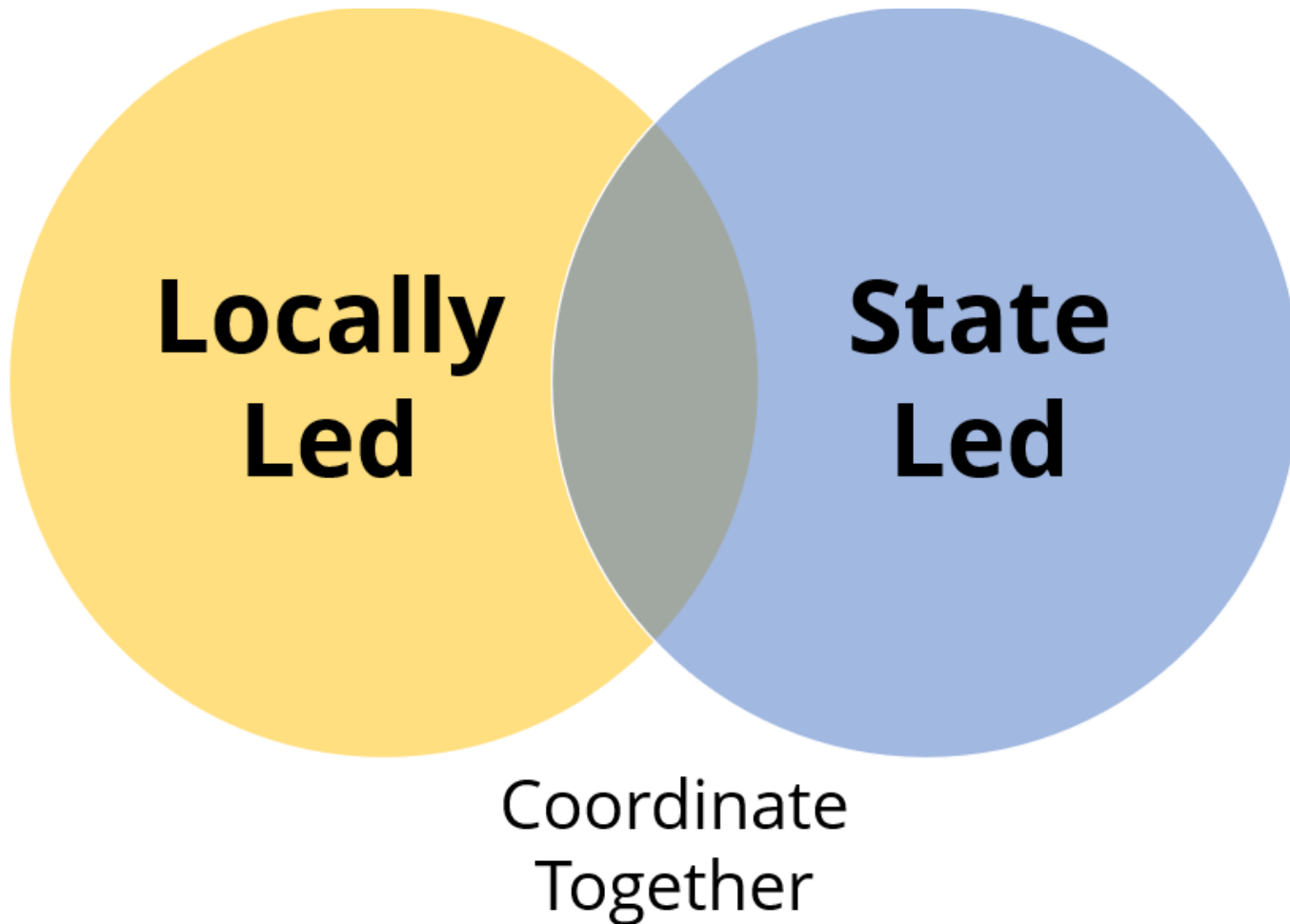
# Decommissioning in SC



**Counties with Solar Regulations:**  
Charleston, Beaufort,  
Greenville, Richland, Lancaster

**Counties with Decommissioning Requirements:** Florence, Sumter, Edgefield, Chester

**Counties with FA + Decommissioning Requirements:** York, Cherokee, Abbeville, Greenwood, Newberry, Calhoun, Barnwell, Darlington, Jasper, Kershaw



# What should be in a model ordinance?

- Decommissioning plan
  - Specify/define
  - Restore site to pre-existing condition/remove/ restore to use prior to install
  - Off-ramp for landowner/lessee if alternative form of preferred land restoration
    - Is salvage value considered
- Zoning requirement
- Approval process of plans
- Financial assurance requirement
  - Form
  - Timing
  - Calculation
  - Structure and availability
  - Municipal discretion
- Process—public notice
  - Abutting neighbors & re-zoning/planning commission consistency
  - Some counties with no zoning



# What may be in a model ordinance?





What should not be addressed  
in a model ordinance?

# Other considerations

- Template solar ordinance from other states including NC, NY
- DHEC role in assisting with/advising on decommissioning plan/financial assurance
- Financial assurance can be negotiated with FILOT—connects local govt and solar developers
- Acreage size of other states—KY (10 acres—input that it may be too small)—(13 acres based on VA)
  - SC legacy 2 MegaWatts (14 acres)—utility scale—sale to utility
  - Usually define by project owner/size/Tech
    - Would not have exclusions
- Solid vs. Hazardous Waste designations and recycling
  - Resources and ongoing discussions on waste designations and testing processes—often solar modules

# Education and Outreach

- How do we help with education & outreach on this issue?
  - DHEC's role
  - Energy Office
  - Uniformity is key in sharing to private sector and public
  - Solar Energy Assn. with consistency

# Next Steps

- Draft a model to share with the group
- Share information on disposal capacity with group
- Share copy of reports with group for input
- Add to the workgroup webpage





South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

# CONTACT US

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## Stay Connected

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