



# Utility Scale Solar Development Request for Information

DATE: Sept 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Request for Information (RFI)

## Description

This request for information is intended to inform Buncombe County on the potential and possibilities for utility scale solar development in the Western North Carolina region. Buncombe County is interested in the possible collaboration with an organization(s) that develops utility scale solar installations. As such, Buncombe County is interested in responses from any organization that plays a significant role in the engineering, procurement and construction of large scale solar development in the state of North Carolina.

## Background

Buncombe County is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, in the Western portion of the state of North Carolina and has a population of over 260,000. Buncombe County has seen steady and continued business and residential growth in recent years. In addressing the benefits and challenges of this continued growth, the County has set aggressive goals to reduce the adverse carbon impacts their communities have on the environment. Buncombe County has adopted renewable energy goals – Buncombe County adopted a resolution setting a goal of 100% renewable energy for County operations by 2030 and 100% renewable for the overall community by 2042. In order to achieve these goals, the communities must transition to low-carbon and renewable energy sources. Development of large/utility scale renewable energy in our region has been identified as an option for achieving our clean energy goals.

## Purpose

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from utility scale solar developers and potentially other similar stakeholders to better understand how Buncombe County can support or invest in increased deployment of utility scale solar in Western North Carolina in order to provide new clean energy resources to the region's power grid and retain the renewable attributes that will allow the County to achieve its clean energy goals.





### Disclaimer and Important Notes

This RFI is for informational purposes only; therefore, Buncombe County is not accepting any formal proposals at this time. Buncombe County may issue additional solicitations in the future based on or related to the content and responses to this RFI; however, may also elect not to issue any additional responses. There is no guarantee that any project will move forward as a result of this RFI. Responding to this RFI does not provide any advantage or disadvantage to potential partners.

Any information obtained as a result of this RFI is intended to be used by Buncombe County on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals. Your response to this notice will be treated as information only. Buncombe County will review and consider all responses in its formulation of strategies for the identified interest that are the subject of this request. Buncombe County will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that Buncombe County is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Responses to this RFI do not bind Buncombe County to any further actions related to this topic.

### Request for Information Categories and Questions

#### Category 1: Examination of current publicly owned property

1. The County has identified a parcel of publicly owned land and is interested in determining its suitability for development
  - The parcel is located at 4037 Haywood Rd. Mills River, NC. And is owned by the City of Asheville. A map is provided with this RFI.
  - The portion of the property potentially suitable for development is in a floodplain.
    - Does your organization have experience building in floodplains?
    - What are the primary challenges you might foresee with building on this site? (i.e. elevated racking systems, additional insurance costs, etc.)





## Office of Sustainability

Jeremiah LeRoy  
Sustainability Officer

- What specific requirements would need to be met in order for your organization to build on this site (clearing, grading, fill-in, etc.) and does your organization have the ability to determine potential costs to make the site viable?
- Would your organization be interested in further exploring the viability of this location with Buncombe County and the City of Asheville?

### Category 2: Current or Planned Projects

***In the event that any of this information is considered confidential, please mark the document as such and Buncombe County will not share the information with any outside parties without express written permission from the submitting organization. If required Buncombe County staff would be willing to enter into a non-disclosure agreement.***

There are some inherent challenges to building utility scale solar in WNC.

1. Does your organization have any projects planned (or potentially planned) for the WNC region?
  - If so, in what stage of development are these projects? Have any been through system impact study, etc.?

### Category 3: Potential Investment

The County would like to understand the relationship and potential costs associated with a partnership for development of a utility scale system in WNC.

1. What are specific needs that your organization would potentially request from the County in order to partner on project?
  - a. Please give specific examples of financial support that might be requested such as land acquisition, environmental studies, interconnection fees, site preparation (clearing, grading, filling, etc.), materials and labor, etc.





### Category 4: Additional Information

Please state any additional information the County should provide in an RFP, not already included in this document, that would assist with your organization providing a competitive proposal should the County issue an RFP for utility scale solar development.

### Request for Information Response Guidelines

Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to [jeremiah.leroy@buncombecounty.org](mailto:jeremiah.leroy@buncombecounty.org) no later than 5:00pm (ET) on October 4, 2021. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 10MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery. Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx) or Adobe PDF attachment to the email, and no more than 5 pages in length, not including attachments.

Only electronic responses will be accepted.

Please identify your answers by responding to a specific question or topic if applicable. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

Buncombe County will not publish publicly a compendium of responses. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed.

Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the start of their response to this RFI:

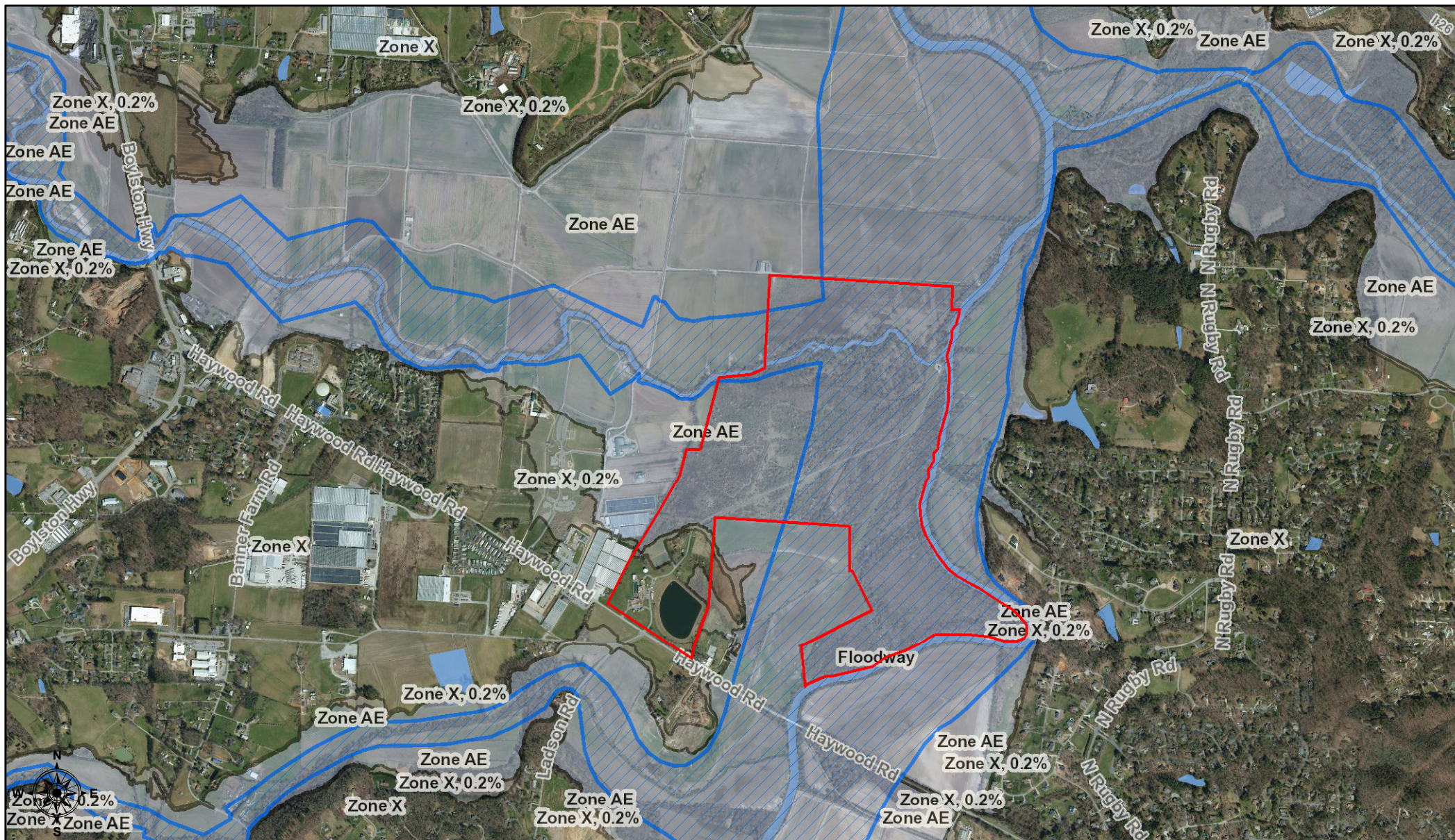
- Company / institution name;
- Company / institution contact;
- Contact's address, phone number, and e-mail address.

***This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. Buncombe County will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. Buncombe County may or may not issue additional solicitations based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.***





# GoMaps



March 24, 2021

## Streets and Highways

- FREEWAY
- INTERSTATE
- BOULEVARD

- THOROUGHFARE
- COLLECTOR
- Local Roads

## THIS IS NOT A SURVEY.

All information or data provided, whether subscribed, purchased or otherwise distributed, whether in hard copy or digital media, shall be at the user's own risk. Henderson County makes no warranties or guarantees, including the warranties of merchantability or of fitness for a particular purpose. Map data is not appropriate for, and is not to be used as, a geodetic, legal, or engineering base system. The data is not intended as a substitute for surveyed locations such as can be determined by a registered Public Land Surveyor, and does not meet the minimum accuracy standards of a Land Information System/Geographic Information System Survey in North Carolina (21 NCAC 56.1608).

