

**BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ORDINANCE 2025 - A**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND TEMPORARILY  
SUSPENDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES,  
INCLUDING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Northumberland (the “Borough”) is a Borough duly organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough does not presently specifically regulate solar energy facilities and/or battery energy storage systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough Council has identified numerous areas of concern regarding the development of solar energy facilities and/or battery energy storage systems within the Borough, including, but not limited to, stormwater management, impact on the historic nature of much of the Borough limits and infrastructure, drain on current, aging infrastructure, and impact on neighboring property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough finds it necessary to temporarily pause any development of solar energy facilities and/or battery energy storage systems within the Borough for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days to permit the Borough time to establish rules, regulations, and ordinances regarding such development.

**NOW, THEREFORE, the Borough Council hereby enacts the following:**

**Temporary Suspension.** For a period of one hundred eighty (180) days calculated from the effective date of this Ordinance, no individual, entity, or other developer shall be permitted to apply for, erect, install, or otherwise develop any solar energy facilities and/or battery energy storage systems other than those for use by the individual property owner within the Borough limits. This Moratorium shall apply to Principal Solar Energy Systems (PSES) and Battery Energy Storage Systems, as well as any solar energy system not primarily for on-site use.

**Definitions.**

1. Principal Solar Energy System (PSES)- An area of land, a tower, or other area used for a solar collection system principally used to capture solar energy, convert it to electrical energy or thermal power and supply electrical or thermal power primarily for off-site use. Principal solar energy systems consist of one (1) or more free-standing ground, or roof mounted solar collector devices, or tower, or solar related equipment and other accessory structures and buildings including light reflectors, concentrators, and heat exchangers, substations, electrical infrastructure, transmission lines and other appurtenant structures.
2. Battery Energy Storage Systems - Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”): One or more devices, including, but not limited to, electrochemical storage batteries, battery

management systems, and related electrical infrastructure assembled together, that is used to store and dispatch electrical energy. A BESS may be either a principal or accessory use, depending on the configuration and location, and may be connected to the electric grid, to an energy generation facility, or used for on-site load management.

**Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall become effective immediately.

DULY ORDAINED AND ENACTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Northumberland, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Borough Council of Northumberland  
Borough, Northumberland County,  
Pennsylvania

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Ruane, Council President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Zartman, Borough Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of Northumberland Borough