

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

# RENEWABLE ENERGY ORDINANCE UPDATE

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### What is the Renewable Energy Ordinance?

The Renewable Energy Ordinance (REO), adopted in 2016, updated planning and zoning codes for permitting small-scale and utility-scale solar projects. It aims to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and minimize environmental impacts. The REO prohibits ground-mounted, utility-scale solar projects in certain areas and bans utility-scale wind development.

For utility-scale solar projects, the REO requires a Conditional Use Permit. It also requires transmission lines that connect to the broader electricity grid to be built underground, setbacks, and measures to minimize fugitive dust.

### Why is the REO being updated?

On December 19, 2023, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) directed LA County Planning, in collaboration with various partners, to add regulations for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to the Zoning Code.

On April 9, 2024, the Board further directed LA County Planning to update the REO. The REO update will address both directives and include regulations for BESS.

### What will change in the REO?

LA County Planning will propose amendments based on research, a technical study, environmental review, and feedback received from county-wide community outreach.

### What is renewable energy and why is it important?

Renewable energy comes from resources that are naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, tides, waves, bioenergy, hydrogen, and geothermal. Renewable energy facilities generate power to be used throughout Los Angeles County. The electricity you and your communities use could be the clean, renewable energy that is generated from these projects. It can help the County meet state and local climate goals.

### How do I get involved?

Join our email list: <https://bit.ly/reo-update>

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