



City of Lathrup Village
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Lathrup Village, MI 48076
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TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Tom Kennedy – Downtown Development Authority Project Coordinator
DATE: October 20, 2025
RE: Solar Energy Systems Ordinance

Background Brief: As part of the City of Lathrup Village’s ongoing efforts toward Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) certification through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), City staff and the Planning Commission have developed a Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. The ordinance fulfills RRC Best Practice 2.6 (Green Infrastructure) by establishing clear, consistent standards for the installation and maintenance of solar energy systems within the city.

The City received valuable guidance and technical support from both the University of Michigan’s Graham Sustainability Institute and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) throughout the development of this ordinance. Their expertise and educational resources were instrumental in shaping the ordinance language and ensuring that it aligns with current best practices in solar energy policy and implementation.

Planning Commission Review:

The Planning Commission reviewed and discussed the draft ordinance beginning in April 2025, incorporating feedback from residents, business owners, and solar energy professionals. After a public hearing, the Planning Commission formally recommended City Council approval of the ordinance at its September 16, 2025, meeting.

Purpose and Key Provisions:

The ordinance provides comprehensive guidance for the installation and operation of solar energy systems citywide. It:

- Establishes an administrative review and approval process for all proposed solar energy systems, protecting residents from fraudulent or unsafe installations.
- Includes repair clauses to ensure that any historic structures are restored to their original condition once systems are decommissioned.
- Introduces safety measures and fire prevention standards, developed in consultation with the Southfield Fire Department, to ensure the safe operation of all systems.
- Provides clear definitions, design standards, and decommissioning procedures, offering residents and installers clarity previously lacking in city regulations.

Recommendation: The Planning Commission recommends that City Council adopt the Solar Energy Systems Ordinance as presented. Adoption will align the City with RRC best practices, promote safe and sustainable energy use, and provide necessary protections for residents and historic properties alike.

Following adoption, City staff will prepare a Best Practices Guidebook for residents and property owners interested in solar energy systems, based on guidance from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

Recommended Motion:

Moved by Council Member _____ seconded by Council Member _____ to approve Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Solar & Battery Engery Systems.

Kelly Garrett
Mayor

Bruce Kantor
Mayor Pro-Tem

Jalen Jennings
Council Member

Jason Hammond
Council Member

Maria Mannarino
Council Member