



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

### *Planning Department*

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City Council Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Savannah White, CFM, Senior Planner  
**Date:** May 20, 2025

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**SUBJECT:** An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances to consider Solar Energy Systems and Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure; amending Subpart B, Land Development Code; Chapter 126, Zoning; Article XIV, Supplementary District Regulations, Division 2, Accessory Structures, adding a new Subdivision IV, Alternative Clean Energy Technologies, a new Section 126-913, Applicability, and a new Section 126-914, Development Standards, for the purpose of updating the Land Development Code Regulations.

#### REVIEW TIMELINE

Date	Meeting Type	Summary
4/22/25	LDC Review Subcommittee	Discussion
5/13/25	Planning Commission	Unanimous approval of Resolution 25-11
6/3/2025	City Council	Discussion and First Reading

#### Background:

There has been a growing interest in clean energy technologies on Sanibel, particularly in the context of enhancing the island's recovery and resilience following recent hurricanes. Amendments to the Land Development Code related to solar energy systems and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations were included in the 2025 Planning Priorities list for discussion.

#### Benefits

The intent of these amendments is to establish clear, consistent standards for the installation and integration of solar panels and EV charging infrastructure within both new and existing developments. These provisions are designed to support the broader adoption of clean energy

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technologies while ensuring alignment with the Sanibel Land Development Code and the Sanibel Plan. Staff recommendations are intended to achieve the following:

- Align with Sanibel Code Section 3.3.9 – fostering receptiveness to new technologies that generate and conserve electricity, while maintaining community-compatible aesthetics.
- Align with Sanibel Code Section 3.2.2 – supporting continued research into best practices that promote sustainability over the Sanibel Plan’s five- and ten-year planning horizons.
- Establish provisions for the installation of solar energy systems, including the allowance of rooftop solar panels notwithstanding maximum height limits.
- Establish provisions for the installation of EV charging stations, including recognition of a charging station as an off-street parking space.
- Establish provisions for installation of solar parking canopy structures, including adherence with setbacks applicable to parking areas instead of setbacks applicable to accessory structures (generally).

The proposed legislative text complies with the parameters of Senate Bill 250.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Staff have not received public comments on this item.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Move the draft ordinance to second reading at the next scheduled City Council meeting.

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