



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 22-0106R  
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Conway, Porter, Ramos, Bullock, Dorsey, Cohen, Glover, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: May 16, 2022

Assigned to: Economic and Community Development

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Public Works, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability, Department of General Services, Office of the Comptroller, City Administrator

Date: October 11, 2022

Re: Solar farming hearing.

To Baltimore City Council members, bill sponsors, city agencies, the administration, and industry leaders: Good Afternoon.

My name is Kristal Hansley, Founder and CEO of WeSolar. Baltimore's Pride and the nation's first Black woman owned and led a Community Solar firm.

WeSolar model is an equitable approach to development and deployment: creating environmental, economic and social impact for Baltimore city residents. WeSolar was founded on the key principles of environmental justice which is policy energy security, community economics, and climate mitigation.

Launched out of my tiny West Baltimore apartment on Juneteenth 2020, WeSolar is a nationally recognized firm that has been profiled in Bloomberg News, vogue magazine, Black enterprise, Baltimore Biz journal for its community centric approach, piloted over a dozen initiatives and projects with multinational partners, fortune 10 companies, and local organizations and that was before the passing of the IRA Inflation reduction act which recently passed in the US Congress which incentives Community Solar. Have advised WH officials and DOE officials and other state municipalities across the country.

Today you will hear from leaders, officials that sketches out the industry's framework and supply chain. From the PSC who regulates our utility and Maryland's Community Solar pilot program that was passed in our state legislature in 2015, our utility BGE who partners with solar developers: service interconnection and ongoing billing credits for subscribers, to the local

green banks who finances solar projects and our city Office of sustainability and who directs, engages and inform citizens of best sustainable practices.

As a practitioner and industry leader I will talk to you about Community Solar, its benefits, market examples, updates , and next steps.

What is community solar/how does it work?

- Community solar projects create greater access to solar energy by allowing people who have not traditionally been able to access it due to factors like cost, land, space or unsuitable roof to participate in a transition to renewable energy. These are typically offsite locations that are built on brownfields, capped landfills, and commercial buildings. 80% of households do not have access to traditional rooftop savings or benefits for the reasons described above. This model affords everyone with the opportunity.
- Once a solar farm is built, subscribers are connected to a farm that directly affects their electricity bill. After the subscriber's portion of the farm receives solar energy, the electricity that is generated is sent to the electricity grid of the customer's utility company. On their electricity bill, customers will receive a solar credit for the amount of electricity that was produced by their portion of the solar farms. This means financial savings for the customer and cleaner energy for the electricity grid.

### **Key social, economic, and environmental benefits**

- Customers can save 10-60% on their electricity costs by signing up with WeSolar
- No upfront or installation fees
- No monthly or annual fees
- No capital upgrade cost to update roofs
- Supporting small WMBE' energy firms
- Creating local solar jobs
- Debarcarbonization

Industry Examples:

- In September 2019, theMontgomery County Department of General Services issued a Request for Energy Proposals for the Oaks Landfill Solar Photovoltaic Project. It is the County's intent to install a large scale ground-mount solar energy system at the former landfill on top of the closed cap. The 6 megawatt ballasted ground mount system will be the largest solar project on County property. The solar energy system is expected to generate 11.4 million kilowatt hours of electricity each year – enough to

power 930 homes. The solar power is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as taking 1,740 cars off the road.

The Oaks Landfill located at 6001 Olney Laytonsville Road in Laytonsville is owned by the County and is a closed and capped landfill. The landfill is the responsibility of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Recycling and Resource Management Division. See Slide 2

Jurisdiction: Prince George's County

Project Site: 2301 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744 Panorama Landfill

Type: Community solar by developer; brownfield (reclaimed Class 3 landfill in the Residential Estate Zone); 6.6 megawatt (MW) power generation total (the 6+ MWs are divided among four smaller, approximately 1.5 MW projects in order to qualify as community solar) serving over 1,000 customers; 89-acre landfill with 25 acres used for the solar project

Market updates:

[BGE\\_CSEGS\\_QUEUE\\_CapacityChart.pdf](#)

Take aways: 305MW

Year 6: 11MW open 37 MW Left

**Next Steps:**

Release all viable solar assets so we can take advantage of the remaining cave out for the Community Solar Pilot Program. It takes a year - 15 months to develop a site. We must act now while we have the window and remaining slots available.

Thank you so much for your time.

Supporting visuals:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SXbTue7bmrAHrqinolNM1Q9y1EQ9S15Z/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104264862287254232063&rtpof=true&sd=true>