



Decommissioning: Charlotte County Taxpayers are Protected

One of the questions asked most often is, “What happens to all of the panels and equipment at the end of Randolph Solar’s useful life, and who pays to remove everything?”

The Charlotte County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance (local law) that outlines the requirements for decommissioning a solar facility, and that also protects county taxpayers and property owners from any financial cost of the decommissioning.

Decommissioning includes removal of all physical improvements, materials, and equipment related to Solar energy generation, both surface and subsurface components. Once complete, decommissioning will leave the ground tillable and suitable for agricultural uses.

SolUnesco submitted a decommissioning plan as part of the Conditional Use Permit application to build and operate Randolph Solar. This plan includes the tasks that will be completed, and the estimated decommissioning cost as determined by a professional engineer. The decommissioning plan and cost estimate will be updated prior to the issuance of the building permit (once operational, the cost estimate will be updated every 5 years).

Randolph Solar’s owner will financially guarantee the full cost of decommissioning **before** a building permit is issued to the applicant. This guarantee shall remain valid until the solar energy system has been fully decommissioned.

If Randolph Solar’s owner fails to remove the installation as required by the county ordinance and Conditional Use Permit, Charlotte County will have full access to the funds to complete the decommissioning – ***the County controls the decommissioning financial security.***

The complete text of Charlotte County’s decommissioning ordinance can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/keezrpde> beginning on page 74. The Randolph Solar Application includes the project’s decommissioning plan starting on page 73 and includes the proposed Conditions regarding decommissioning starting on page 26: <https://tinyurl.com/ywkmeyey4>.