

WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: Planning and Zoning Commission
From: Energy Commission
Date: July 31st, 2019
Subject: Energy Commission Comments on 2029 Draft POCD

Dear Planning and Zoning Commissioners,

The Energy Commission met and reviewed the draft of the 2029 POCD and strongly recommends that the POCD includes the below items in the areas dealing with Energy and Transportation.

Energy

Reduce dependence on fossil fuels by designing and developing solar-oriented housing and buildings

- Streamline the solar permitting process (e.g. reduce the number of pages necessary for the solar permitting process)
- When designing and developing buildings, always consider the position of the sun relative to the building to maximize solar panel installation potential.
- When designing and developing buildings, always consider the position of the sun relative to the building to maximize passive solar energy potential.

Reduce dependence on fossil fuels by encouraging the development and local siting or renewable energy generation.

- Create an inventory of all of the potential spaces best for solar generation in Wilton, and develop criteria to rank their potential for development.
- Favor or recommend companies that domestically source solar panels and related equipment for solar installations.
- Determine existing buildings and spaces that could serve as mixed-use solar farms (i.e., a parking lot with a solar canopy).

Reduce negative impacts on nature by encouraging municipal landscaping and municipal park maintenance that reduces the use of mowers, edgers, and leaf blowers

- Designate portions of municipal greenspace to be untouched by park maintenance and to allow natural wildlife development to occur.
- Only cut/mow when necessary.
- Only cut/mow on land that is used by people in a way which requires mowed grass

Transportation

Reduce dependence on fossil fuels by promoting home-based occupations and work that reduce the need to commute

- Invest in cost effective infrastructure to improve connectivity in Wilton to high quality bandwidth access and high-speed internet to make it easier to connect to the internet at home and in public spaces.
- Encourage businesses in the town to allow their staff to telecommute.
- Designate places in town such as the public library and local cafes as Wilton Telecommuting Spaces in which people have access to reliable internet.