



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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### News Release

#### Commissioners Set Permit Fees for Solar Farms

**August 20, 2013, Monroe, NC** – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday adopted a permit fee schedule for solar farms and any similar facilities that generate solar power, excluding those for individual residential use.

An application was recently submitted to Union County Building Code Enforcement for a permit to construct a 6 megawatt solar farm estimated to cost \$9,000,000. Before Monday Union County didn't have a permit fee for solar farms or any facility generating solar power. Solar farms are relatively new, and Catawba was the only county in the state found to have fees in place for solar farms.

Standard permit fees are based on the size of the structure rather than construction costs. Permit fees for solar farms were established according to the number of megawatts produced.

Considering the amount of man hours associated with inspecting a solar farm, the permit fee is \$1,000 for solar farms up to 5 megawatts, \$850 for farms from 5 to 10 megawatts and \$775 for farms over 10 megawatts.

Because solar farms are so new, it is difficult to predict the number of trips inspectors will need to make to solar farms. Current information indicates there would be at least two inspections per solar array. A solar array is a group of solar panels that capture and transform sunlight into some other form of energy.

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