LETHBRIDGE COUNTY

IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

BYLAW NO. 26-005

Bylaw 26-005 of Lethbridge County being a bylaw for the purpose of amending Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 22-001, in accordance with Sections 216.4, 606 and 692 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26 as amended.

WHEREAS the purpose of Bylaw 26-005 is to amend Part 4 Plan Policies, text related to Large-Scale Commercial Solar Collection.

AND WHEREAS the amendments are as described in the attached Schedule 'A'.

AND WHEREAS the municipality must prepare an amending bylaw and provide for its notification and consideration at a public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, under the authority of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, C-26, as amended, the Council of Lethbridge County in the Province of Alberta duly assembled does hereby enact the following, with the bylaw only coming into effect upon three successful reading thereof;

1. To amend the former Part 4 Plan Policies MDP No. LUB No. 22-001 Sections 13.15 to 13.20 and replacing them in their entirety with the updated Part 4 Plan Policies amendments as per the attached Schedule 'A'.

2. With the adoption of Bylaw No. 26-005, Bylaw No. 22-001, being the Municipal Development Plan, is hereby amended.

GIVEN first reading this 5th day of March, 2026.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

GIVEN second reading this 2 day of April, 2026.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

GIVEN third reading this 2 day of April, 2026.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

[Note: Proposed amendments/additions in red text or strikethrough for policies or criteria to be removed.]

Lethbridge County Municipal Development Plan – Bylaw 22-001

Part 4 Plan Policies

No amendments to Sections 13.0 to 13.14

Large-scale Commercial Solar Collection

13.15 Development proposals for commercial solar collection facilities must be redesignated to the Solar Energy Commercial (SEC) overlay ~~Direct Control land use~~ district for a decision to be made by ~~County~~ Council on the suitability of the use ~~and the issuance of a development permit~~.

13.16 The County will attempt to balance the establishment of large-scale commercial solar collection facilities with agricultural land considerations as best able but may allow such uses to be sited on prime or irrigated agricultural lands based on infrastructure/connectivity needs, location of electrical sub-stations, and if deemed appropriate by Council.

13.17 County Council will consider the following with regards to the siting of commercial solar collection facilities:

(a) Use of poor quality, lowest production land and dry corners is preferred.

(b) Use of cut-off, fragmented, irregular shaped parcels are preferred.

(c) Use of parcels with no irrigation rights is preferred.

(d) To the extent possible, use of irrigated land should be avoided/minimized, but exceptions may be considered based on proximity to sub-stations or connectivity to the grid network.

(e) Commercial Solar Collection Facilities are not to be located within 300 metres (984.3 feet) of an individual dwelling on an adjacent parcel and 750 metres (2,460.6 feet) of a boundary of a Grouped Country Residential area (designated or undesignated), hamlet, village, or town, as measured from the closest point of a solar collector infrastructure supporting photovoltaic cells. The 300 metre (984.3 feet) distance may be lessened at the discretion of the approval authority if the neighbouring impacted landowner consents to a lesser setback distance.

13.18 County Council will consider and use the policy directives as outlined in previous policy 13.17 when deciding on rezoning applications for solar energy facility, commercial ~~whether to support or oppose Commercial Solar Collection Facility~~ proposals that also are ~~will ultimately need to be~~ submitted for approval to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). ~~to obtain the necessary provincial approval to establish and operate.~~

~~13.19 Commercial Solar Collector Facilities must not to be located within 3.2 km (2.0 miles) of the Lethbridge Airport unless the technology of the associated photovoltaic cells is determined to be such a type that no glare or reflection is produced.~~

13.19 Recognizing that Commercial Solar Collection Facilities are a new emerging industry and changes will occur as the technology comes to terms with the various issues, Council shall commission a review, which shall re-examine the impact of Commercial Solar Collection Facilities at such time when 500 hectares (1,235.52 acres) of irrigated land or lands with irrigation rights, or a total of 2,500 hectares (6,177 acres) have been developed for such use.

No amendments to Sections 13.21 to 13.24