

KNOX SMART DEVELOPMENT – Keeping you informed, 2023-2025

- KC Neighbors become aware of a decision for solar on prime farmland
- KC Commissioners pass a resolution allowing large-scale solar and accept a PILOT proposal for a solar project
- Knox Smart Development is formed
- KSD sponsors two town meetings
- KC (22) Township leaders are interviewed
- The Ohio Power Siting Board begins hearings
- KC Regional Airport address FAA compliance
- Commissioners Barry Lester and Drenda Keesee take office

KSD “Your smarter choice for information affecting Knox County residents.”

This has been in the works for over 3 years...

SOLAR ON PRIME FARMLAND

October 21, 2021 - SB 52 took effect - *Allowing county commissioners to weigh in on wind and solar projects*

March 2022 - *Preserve Knox County formed a group of neighbors concerned for the solar project’s negative impact to Miller and Clinton Townships*

May 25, 2022 - *“Mount Vernon Public Hearing Shows Community Divided Over Solar,” Knox Pages*

August 11, 2022 - *Knox County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on Thursday prohibiting the construction of large wind farms but allowing large-scale solar facilities.*

March 27, 2023 - *Residents in the Frazier Solar Project received a letter from Open Roads Renewable announcing a (2-year-old) decision to offer solar project leases to neighbors on prime farmland. (Many had no information.)*

August 1, 2023 - *Preserve Knox County appeals to the county commissioners, “A crossroads that needs more investigation.” Regional Planning Commission is updating future plans; “this should be a part of that utility overview; there are too many unknowns.”*

August 9, 2023 - *Knox County Commissioners (Thom Collier, Teresa Bemiller, and Bill Pursel) accept PILOT proposal from Open Road Renewables for 800-acre / 270,000 panel solar project.*

September 2023 - *Preserve Knox County impressed another group by the use of their “yellow signs” and the research they had done on negative impact of agricultural land.*

KNOX SMART DEVELOPMENT — LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN OPEN FORUM VIA FACEBOOK & www.KnoxSmartDevelopment.com, (KSD 2023—2025 Timeline)

October 2023

KSD is formed, bringing together community members who believe in preserving Knox County prime farmland along with supporting transparency and common sense development in the county. “We are the defenders and the gatekeepers of Knox County to be and always be the best place to live, do business, raise our families, and to have the opportunity to realize our personal American dreams.”

November 30, 2023

KSD hosts a very well attended Town Hall Meeting with special guest, Steve Gorham. During a question-and-answer session following the November 30th presentation, author Goreham highlighted the substantial federal

funding pouring into renewable energy projects, emphasizing the financial implications and battles between farmers and renewable energy infrastructure. He investigated the “exaggerated statistics used to sell Knox County; and found them to be not realistic and very much along the lines of the misconception of climate change that the media continues to weave.”

During the program Buckeye Institute’s research was highlighted. It has shown that state subsidy programs for green energy, such as the PILOT program, are ill-conceived. These subsidies prop up inefficient energy sources that increase electricity prices, make it harder for Ohio manufacturers to compete, and reduce economic growth and opportunity. Buckeye's analysis shows Knox County would need to collect significantly more per megawatt to break even with the property tax revenues it would have collected until 2064, when the project ends. If Frasier goes bankrupt or cuts the project period short, Knox County's balance sheet stands to suffer.

December 2023-May 2024

KSD members meet with every Knox County township leader and residents to hear concerns and answer questions. Results in 18 out of 22 townships signing resolutions to ban industrial scale solar in their townships. Gathering of information continues and linked to the website and social media. *(Much of it remains published to demonstrate the determination for facts.)*

February 2024

KSD hosts a second Town Hall Meeting, open to the public, with Michigan commissioner Kevon Martis. They are entrenched in their decisions across the state for inappropriate solar locations. They are also being bombarded with the negative results for the properties now saddled with 40-year leases. He does an informative ride-about video on the KSD homepage. Author, Robert Bryce also attended and spoke about the inefficiency of solar versus conventional proven natural gas, effects on the local / regional grid, and future implications that lack consumer needs.

March 12, 2024

City Council Members unanimously say no to industrial solar in the City of Mount Vernon.

March 19, 2024

Voters unanimously cast their decision for candidates wanting to ban solar on prime farmland; over 70%. Both commissioner seats won by no-solar platforms.

APRIL & MAY 2024 — OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

April 4-5, 2024

OPSB Public Hearing Day 1— so many people showed up in the County Seat, Mount Vernon, that it led to a second and third day of testimonies (May 23, 2024). 800+ people attended with 140 signing up to testify. The community opinion resulted in 72% against the Frasier Solar Project via testimonies and sign-up sheets gathered by OPSB officials.

Late April 2024

Knox County Regional Airport board unanimously signed a resolution regarding FAA compliance and recommendations for glare and heat from the Frasier Solar project, should it move forward, which is 2 nautical miles from the airport.

May 6, 2024

Clinton Township trustees said they will remain neutral on the Frasier Solar project despite previously signing a resolution to make Clinton Township an exclusionary zone for industrial solar.

May 23, 2024

(Continuation) OPSP Public Hearing Day 2 - with public officials, interveners and those that weren't able to testify on Day 1.

May 29, 2024

(Continuation) OPSP Public Hearing Day 3 - with public officials, interveners and those that weren't able to testify on Day 1. Gained news coverage from Channel 4 NBC Columbus.

Summer 2024

KSD and *Preserve Knox County Ohio (formed 3 years prior to KSD)* continue their quest to educate and talk with Knox County residents about industrial solar at First Fridays, the Knox County Fair and other community Events.

August 19, 2024

Ohio Power Siting Board holds adjudicatory hearing at their Columbus offices. All involved have 90 days to file any briefs; OPSB then reviews all testimonies, briefs, applications, etc. **Knox County is currently awaiting a decision.**

November 5, 2024

County Commissioner candidates Barry Lester and Drenda Keesee, who desire to preserve the rural landscape of Knox County, win their seats.

January 2, 2025

New Knox County Commissioners, Lester and Keesee, take office.

2025 — KSD will continue to advocate for transparency and common sense in the development of Knox County. We will continue to provide updates on the Frasier Solar/Open Roads Renewables project as well as others in the community.

**KNOX SMART DEVELOPMENT “Your smarter choice for information affecting Knox County residents.”
KSD is Investing in direct advertising, print material and signage, social media, and website links for educational research; linking to governmental meetings and decisions, providing easy access.**