

Item Title: Award a Construction Contract Marbles Kids Museum/IMAX Theater Solar PV System Project

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Awards a construction contract to 8MSolar LLC, of Raleigh, North Carolina in the amount of \$622,722.00 for the Marbles Kids Museum/IMAX Theater Solar PV System Project; and**
- 2. Authorizes the County Manager to execute a construction contract with 8MSolar LLC for Marbles Kids Museum/IMAX Theater Solar PV System Project subject to conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: State statute requires the Board of Commissioners to approve all publicly bid construction projects exceeding more than \$500,000.

Background: The Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution in 2018 endorsing the goal of achieving 100% Clean Energy by 2050. In support of the Board of Commissioners' 2050 goal, the County's Energy Advisory Commission supports staff-recommended strategies, including the installation of solar PV systems on County buildings. Solar PV systems provide renewable electricity to offset building energy use and reduce operating costs. This project will install solar PV systems on two county-owned facilities in downtown Raleigh. These locations were selected based on their roof age, condition, and solar capacity. Installation would begin in late 2026 and conclude in early 2027.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Growth, Land Use and Environment Goal 5: Wake County Government will progress toward achieving 80% clean energy by 2035.

Fiscal Impact: Funding for this project has already been appropriated in the Energy Conservation Measures program within the County Buildings Element of the County Capital CIP Fund. No additional appropriation is needed.

Additional Information:

Since FY2019, the County has added over 1.4 Megawatts (MW) of solar PV capacity across 23 facilities. The Marbles Kids Museum/IMAX Theater Solar PV project will add another 0.3 MW, bringing to overall Countywide total to 1.7MW of installed capacity. The addition of solar PV to County facilities helps accomplish the following goals:

1. Contributes to County Goals – This approximately 265-kilowatt project is the second largest deployment of solar for the County to date and will contribute to the 100% Clean Energy by 2050 goal adopted in the 2018 resolution.
2. Reduces operating cost – Generating renewable electricity on-site, these solar PV systems will help reduce the County’s electric costs at a time when electricity rates continue to escalate each year.
3. Reduces environmental impact – Totalling an estimated 357,000 kWh annually, these solar PV systems will collectively reduce carbon emissions by over 253 Metric Tons CO²e annually.
4. Provides goodwill and education to the community – The solar PV installations on public facilities sets an example an of the County’s commitment to sustainability and can also serve as an impetus for community residents to do them same. Installing solar PV on the Marbles children’s museum is an ideal platform and opportunity for education and inspiration for young minds.

Bid proposals were received in accordance with NC General Statutes from eight contractors on February 19, 2026 for the construction of the Marbles Kids Museum/IMAX Theater Solar PV System Project. The total contract award recommended is \$622,722.00. The contract award incorporates the Base Bid and Alternates #1. Staff recommends award of a construction contract to the lowest responsible, responsive bidder, 8MSolar of Raleigh, North Carolina. With award of this contract, construction is scheduled to begin in April 2026 and is expected to be completed by early 2027.

Attachments

1. Project Cost Summary