# Battery Energy Storage System Law Introductory Local Law #6-2023

A local law to amend the Town of Clarkson's "Local Law No. 1-1973 of the Town of Clarkson”. Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Clarkson.

Section 1. **New Matter**. Chapter 140 of the Code of the Town of Clarkson entitled "Local Law No. 1-1973 of the Town of Clarkson" is amended by adding the following:

# §140- . BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

1. Authority

This is adopted pursuant to Article IX of the New York State Constitution, §2(c)(6) and (10), New York Statute of Local Governments, §10(1) and (7); §§ 261-263 of the Town Law and §10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, which authorize the Town to adopt zoning provisions that advance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

1. Statement of Purpose

This Battery Energy Storage System Law is adopted to advance and protect the public health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of the Town by creating regulations for the installation and use of battery energy storage systems, with the following objectives:

* 1. To provide a regulatory scheme for the designation of properties suitable for the location, construction and operation of battery energy storage systems;
  2. To ensure compatible land uses in the vicinity of the areas affected by battery energy storage systems;
  3. To mitigate the impacts of battery energy storage systems on environmental resources such as important agricultural lands, forests, wildlife and other protected resources; and
  4. To advance the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

1. Definitions

As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**ANSI**: American National Standards Institute

**BATTERY(IES)**: A single cell or a group of cells connected together electrically in series, in parallel, or a combination of both, which can charge, discharge, and store energy electrochemically. For the purposes of this law, batteries utilized in consumer products are excluded from these requirements.

**BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**: An electronic system that protects energy storage systems from operating outside their safe operating parameters and disconnects electrical power to the energy storage system or places it in a safe condition if potentially hazardous temperatures or other conditions are detected.

**BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**: One or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy in order to supply electrical energy at a future time, not to include a stand-alone 12-volt car battery or an electric motor vehicle. A battery energy storage system is classified as follows:

* 1. Off-Grid Battery Energy Storage System – A rechargeable Battery Energy Storage System typically used to provide standby or emergency power and/or an uninterruptible power supply, load shedding, load sharing, or similar capabilities relating to the energy consumed by a residence, farm operation or other business on site and having an aggregate energy capacity of less than 600kWh. All energy is consumed on site. No energy is transmitted or discharged to a power grid.
  2. On-Grid Battery Energy Storage System- Any installation of a rechargeable Battery Energy Storage System having an aggregate energy capacity of 600kWh or more, consisting of electrochemical storage batteries or similar technology, battery chargers, controls, power conditioning systems, inverters, transformers, switchgears and associated electrical equipment designed to store electrical power received from a generating or transmission source and periodically discharging power from the Battery Energy Storage System into the power grid.

**CELL**: The basic electrochemical unit, characterized by an anode and a cathode, used to receive, store, and deliver electrical energy.

**ENERGY CODE**: The New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code adopted pursuant to Article 11 of the Energy Law, as currently in effect and as hereafter amended from time to time.

**FIRE CODE**: The fire code section of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code adopted pursuant to Article 18 of the Executive Law, as currently in effect and as hereafter amended from time to time.

**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TESTING LABORATORY (NRTL)**: A U.S. Department of

Labor designation recognizing a private sector organization to perform certification for certain products to ensure that they meet the requirements of both the construction and general industry OSHA electrical standards.

**NEC**: National Electric Code.

**NFPA**: National Fire Protection Association.

**UNIFORM CODE**: the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code adopted pursuant to Article 18 of the Executive Law, as currently in effect and as hereafter amended from time to time.

1. Applicability
   1. The requirements of this Local Law shall apply to all battery energy storage systems permitted, installed, or modified in the Town after the effective date of this Local Law, excluding general maintenance and repair.
   2. Battery energy storage systems constructed or installed prior to the effective date of this Local Law shall not be required to meet the requirements of this Local Law.
   3. Modifications to, retrofits or replacements of an existing battery energy storage system that increase the total battery energy storage system designed discharge duration or power rating shall be subject to this Local Law.
2. General Requirements
   1. A building permit and an electrical permit shall be required for installation of all battery energy storage systems.
   2. Issuance of permits and approvals by the Planning Board shall include review pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act.
   3. All battery energy storage systems, and all buildings or structures that (1) contain or are otherwise associated with a battery energy storage system and (2) subject to the Uniform Code and/or the Energy Code shall be designed, erected, and installed in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Code, all applicable provisions of the Energy Code, and all applicable provisions of the codes, regulations, and industry standards as referenced in the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, and the Town Code.
3. Permitting Requirements for Off-Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems
   1. Use. Off-Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems shall be permitted as accessory uses in all zoning districts, subject to the Uniform Code.
   2. Site Plan.
      1. Residential. All applications for Off-Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems for a residence, shall be exempt from site plan review.
      2. Business or Farm. All applications for Off-Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems for business or farm, to the extent that the same require modification to the existing site of such business or farm, shall be subject to Site Plan review pursuant to Chapter 116.
4. Permitting Requirements for On-Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems

On-Grid Battery Energy Storage Systems are prohibited in all zoning districts within the Town.

1. Safety
   1. System Certification. Battery energy storage systems and equipment shall be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory to UL 9540 (Standard for battery energy storage systems and Equipment) or approved equivalent, with subcomponents meeting each of the following standards as applicable:
      1. UL 1973 (Standard for Batteries for Use in Stationary, Vehicle Auxiliary Power and Light Electric Rail Applications),
      2. UL 1642 (Standard for Lithium Batteries),
      3. UL 1741 or UL 62109 (Inverters and Power Converters),
      4. Certified under the applicable electrical, building, and fire prevention codes as required.
      5. Alternatively, field evaluation by an approved testing laboratory for compliance with UL 9540 (or approved equivalent) and applicable codes, regulations and safety standards may be used to meet system certification requirements.
   2. Site Access. Battery energy storage systems shall be maintained in good working order and in accordance with industry standards. Site access shall be maintained, including snow removal at a level acceptable to the local fire department and, if the Battery Energy Storage System is located in an ambulance district, the local ambulance corps.
   3. Battery energy storage systems, components, and associated ancillary equipment shall have required working space clearances, and electrical circuitry shall be within weatherproof enclosures marked with the environmental rating suitable for the type of exposure in compliance with NFPA 70.
2. Permit Time Frame and Abandonment
   1. The Site Plan approval for a battery energy storage system shall be valid for a period of 24 months, provided that a building permit is issued for construction and construction is commenced. In the event construction is not completed in accordance with the final site plan, as may have been amended and approved, as required by the Planning Board, within 24 months after approval, the approvals shall expire.
   2. The battery energy storage system shall be considered abandoned when it ceases to operate consistently for more than one year.
3. Severability

The invalidity or unenforceability of any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, provision, or phrase of the aforementioned sections, as declared by the valid judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, provision, or phrase, which shall remain in full force and effect.

# Section 2. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately.