



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Residential Plan Review

Solar Ready Ordinance

GET READY FOR RESIDENTIAL PHOTO VOLTAIC!!!

On June 17, 2008, Mayor and Council unanimously voted to require all new residences to be solar ready for electric (PV) and hot water. Starting July 1, 2009, all new single family homes or duplexes must include in the plans either a Photo Voltaic system or preparation for later installation of a PV system in order to receive a building permit.

These new rules are part of Tucson's effort to promote solar energy and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced by the City and its residents. Saving utilities by using the sun to produce electricity saves you money and helps the environment at the same time!

The code changes for Residential Photo Voltaic are now in place.

Here's what the new rules require:

1. Provide a Site Plan showing the best space available for accommodating Photo Voltaic (PV) equipment (meter, disconnect & inverter) with minimum area of 4 square feet. Locate the PV equipment adjacent to the electrical service panel if feasible or on a wall close to the proposed collector panel space.
2. Show on the Site Plan the best roof space available for accommodating PV solar collector panels. Provide a roof structure designed for the additional collector dead loading (typically 4 lbs/SF).
3. Show a minimum 3,800 volt-ampere PV electrical load entry on the Service Load Calculation. This load is continuous as with heating and cooling loads.
4. Show an Electrical Panel Schedule with a 240 volt circuit breaker space labeled "reserved for Photo Voltaic".

Websites you may find helpful:

General information about solar programs:

http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=10390

Tax and utility incentives: <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

TEP rebates: <http://www.tucsonelectric.com/Green/>