



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Residential Plan Review

SOLAR READY ORDINANCE

Ordinance no. 10549

GET READY FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PREPARATION!!!

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 a photo voltaic system and a solar water heating system or preparation for later installation of these systems 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. Using the sun to produce electricity and heat water saves you money and helps the environment at the same time! Here's what the new rules require:

Residential photo voltaic preparation must include ALL of the following:

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 psf).
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".

Solar water heating preparation must include ONE of the following:

1. Installation of an SRCC compliant solar water heating system
2. Provide (2) insulated ¾" copper lines and (2) pairs of control wires (min. 18 AWG) extending from the water heater location (or future storage tank location) to the proposed roof area.
3. Provide a straight run of min. 3" conduit from the water heater location (or future storage tank location) to the proposed roof area.
4. Provide an access area (min. 30" head clearance) in the attic directly above the water heater location (or future storage tank location).

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/>