



GOOSE CREEK PV/SOLAR PANEL POLICY

This policy is provided to assist residents, architects, engineers, contractors, and developers in planning and installing solar panel projects in the City of Goose Creek. All solar projects require permits. The Building Inspection Bureau and Permitting Departments will work Berkeley Electric Cooperative and Santee Cooper to process permits to ensure an approved and safe installation. The city zoning ordinance requires that systems be installed on the rear of the structure or variance/approval be sought explaining why this is not possible.

The first step to installing a solar system is to submit documentation to Berkeley Electric Cooperative or Santee Cooper (whoever provides electrical service to the dwelling) for plan review and approval. Information, including contact numbers and answers to frequently asked questions, can be found at www.berkeleyelectric.coop/content/step-step-guide, or www.santecoopersolar.com/Solar-Home/Index.aspx (click Solar Home Program Manual for project approval instructions). FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS in their guides. Also, these sites contain information on tax credits, rebates and in certain cases financing options for homeowners.

Berkeley Electric Cooperative or Santee Cooper (whichever company supplies power to the structure) will review the documents and issue an approval letter. This letter must be included in your application package when submitting to the City Permitting Office.

The **State of South Carolina** (per [S.C. Reg. 106-1](#)) requires licensing that is appropriate to the work. Under this amendment, "solar panel installers" has been added as a classification for residential specialty contractors. Please note that while a person holding a residential specialty contractor registration for "solar panel installer" is authorized to fabricate, assemble, install, and replace solar panels and related building components, the actual roof mounting of such panels may only be performed by a **licensed residential builder, registered residential specialty contractor with a roofer classification, or a licensed general contractor with a general roofing or specialty roofing classification.**

Likewise, the wiring of the solar panels and other electrical connections must be performed by a **licensed residential builder, a licensed residential electrician, or a licensed mechanical contractor with an electrical classification.** Finally, if the roof requires any structural upgrades for the mounting and installation of the solar panels, the structural upgrades must be performed by a **licensed residential builder, a registered residential specialty contractor with a classification in carpentry, or a licensed general contractor with building or structural framing classifications.**

The licensing Department will review qualifications of the contractor. The Building Inspection Bureau will review the application package, including construction documents and grant approval of a permit if the construction documents are correct.

For any additional information contact the Building Inspection Bureau at 843.553.8350 ex1407.