

Certified to:

Law
Codes
Budget

Mayor
Engineering
Comptroller

City of Utica
Department of Legislation
In Common Council

Utica, New York, July 18, 2017

Resolution 2. Sponsored by: Councilmembers Phillips, Williamson, McNiel, Testa, Jacon, Marino, Colosimo-Testa, LoMedico, Bucciero

SOLAR RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, New York State has developed a unified solar photovoltaic permitting process designed to streamline municipal permitting which will reduce costs for solar projects and support the growth of clean energy jobs across the state, and

WHEREAS, the City of Utica is desirous of participating in the unified permitting process, thereby increasing the City's eligibility for various incentives and grants through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Utica adopts the New York State Unified Solar Permit as attached hereto, as Exhibit I, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Utica Common Council authorizes the Mayor's Office to complete the grant application through the Streamlined Permitting Program to allow for the City to receive a grant award up to \$5,000 from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for the adoption of the Unified Solar Permit Application; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately and a copy of this resolution, with Exhibit I, shall be provided to the Codes and Engineering Departments.

**Yeas: Councilmembers McNiel, Testa, Jacon, Marino, Williamson, LoMedico, Bucciero-7
Nays: None. Adopted.**

STATE OF NEW YORK, CITY OF UTICA)
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE) SS.
)

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of an resolution of the Common Council with the record of proceedings of the Common Council of said City of Utica, duly made and on file in this office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said resolution.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed the Corporate Seal of said City, and subscribed my name, this 19th day of July 2017.

Patricia A. Lindsey

City Clerk

PERMIT APPLICATION

NY State Unified Solar Permit

Unified solar permitting is available statewide for eligible solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. Municipal authorities that adopt the unified permit streamline their process while providing consistent and thorough review of solar PV permitting applications and installations. Upon approval of this application and supporting documentation, the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) will issue a building and/or electrical permit for the solar PV installation described herein.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY FOR UNIFIED PERMITTING PROCESS

By submitting this application, the applicant attests that the proposed project meets the established eligibility criteria for the unified permitting process (subject to verification by the AHJ). The proposed solar PV system installation:

- Yes No 1. Has a rated DC capacity of 25 kW or less.
- Yes No 2. Is not subject to review by an Architectural or Historical Review Board. (If review has already been issued answer YES and attach a copy)
- Yes No 3. Does not need a zoning variance or special use permit. (If variance or permit has already been issued answer YES and attach a copy)
- Yes No 4. Is mounted on a permitted roof structure, on a legal accessory structure, or ground mounted on the applicant's property. If on a legal accessory structure, a diagram showing existing electrical connection to structure is attached.
- Yes No 5. The Solar Installation Contractor complies with all licensing and other requirements of the jurisdiction and the State.
- Yes No 6. If the structure is a sloped roof, solar panels are mounted parallel to the roof surface.

For solar PV systems not meeting these eligibility criteria, the applicant is not eligible for the Unified Solar Permit and must submit conventional permit applications. Permit applications may be downloaded here: www.cityofutica.com or obtained in person at 1 Kennedy Plaza, Utica, NY 13502 during business hours 8:30am to 4:30pm.

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

For projects meeting the eligibility criteria, this application and the following attachments will constitute the Unified Solar Permitting package.

- This application form, with all fields completed and bearing relevant signatures.
- Permitting fee of \$150.00 for \$0.00 to \$10,000.00, \$7.00 per \$1,000.00 thereafter, payable by cash or check made out to City of Utica
- Required Construction Documents for the solar PV system type being installed, including required attachments.

Completed permit applications can be submitted in person at 1 Kennedy Plaza, Utica, NY 13502 during business hours 8:30am to 4:30pm.

APPLICATION REVIEW TIMELINE

Permit determinations will be issued within three (3) calendar days upon receipt of complete and accurate applications. The municipality will provide feedback within three (3) calendar days of receiving incomplete or inaccurate applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Questions about this permitting process may be directed to Building Department at 315-792-0163.

PROPERTY OWNER

Property Owner's First Name	Last Name	Title	
Property Address			
City		State	Zip
Section	Block	Lot Number	

EXISTING USE

- Single Family 2-4 Family Commercial Other

PROVIDE THE TOTAL SYSTEM CAPACITY RATING (SUM OF ALL PANELS)

Solar PV System: _____ kW DC

SELECT SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

Make sure your selection matches the Construction Documents included with this application.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supply side connection with microinverters | <input type="checkbox"/> Load side connection with DC optimizers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supply side connection with DC optimizers | <input type="checkbox"/> Load side connection with microinverters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supply side connection with string inverter | <input type="checkbox"/> Load side connection with string inverter |

SOLAR INSTALLATION CONTRACTOR

Contractor Business Name			
Contractor Business Address	City	State	Zip
Contractor Contact Name		Phone Number	
Contractor License Number(s)		Contractor Email	
Electrician Business Name			
Electrician Business Address	City	State	Zip
Electrician Contact Name		Phone Number	
Electrician License Number(s)		Electrician Email	

Please sign below to affirm that all answers are correct and that you have met all the conditions and requirements to submit a unified solar permit.

Property Owner's Signature	Date
Solar Installation Company Representative Signature	Date

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS SOLAR PV 25KW OR LESS (ATTACHMENTS)

NY State Unified Solar Permit

This information bulletin is published to guide applicants through the unified solar PV permitting process for solar photovoltaic (PV) projects 25 kW in size or smaller. This bulletin provides information about submittal requirements for plan review, required fees, and inspections.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

The following permits are required to install a solar PV system with a nameplate DC power output of 25 kW or less:

- a) Unified Solar Permit
- b) ELECTRICAL AND BUILDING PERMIT. Planning review is not required for solar PV installations of this size.

Fire Department approval is not required for solar PV installations of this size.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

In order to submit a complete permit application for a new solar PV system, the applicant must include:

- a) Completed Standard Permit Application form which includes confirmed eligibility for the Unified Solar Permitting process. This permit application form can be downloaded at www.cityofutica.com.
- b) Construction Documents, with listed attachments. Construction Documents must be stamped and signed by a New York State Registered Architect or New York State Licensed Professional Engineer.

City of Utica, through adopting the Unified Solar Permitting process, requires contractors to provide construction documents, such as the examples included in the Understanding Solar PV Permitting and Inspecting in New York State document. Should the applicant wish to submit Construction Documents in another format, ensure that the submittal includes the following information:

- Manufacturer/model number/quantity of solar PV modules and inverter(s).
- String configuration for solar PV array, clearly indicating the number of modules in series and strings in parallel (if applicable).
- Combiner boxes: Manufacturer, model number, NEMA rating.
- From array to the point of interconnection with existing (or new) electrical distribution equipment: identification of all raceways (conduit, boxes, fittings, etc.), conductors and cable assemblies, including size and type of raceways, conductors, and cable assemblies.
- Sizing and location of the EGC (equipment grounding conductor).
- Sizing and location of GEC (grounding electrode conductor, if applicable).
- Disconnecting means of both AC and DC including indication of voltage, ampere, and NEMA rating.
- Interconnection type/location (supply side or load side connection)
- For supply side connections only, indication that breaker or disconnect meets or exceeds available utility fault current rating kAIC (amps interrupting capacity in thousands).
- Ratings of service entrance conductors (size insulation type AL or CU), proposed service disconnect, and overcurrent protection device for new supply side connected solar PV system (reference NEC 230.82, 230.70).
- Rapid shutdown device location/method and relevant labeling.

c) (For Roof Mounted Systems) A roof plan showing roof layout, solar PV panels and the following fire safety items: approximate location of roof access point, location of code-compliant access pathways, code exemptions, solar PV system fire classification, and the locations of all required labels and markings.

d) Provide construction drawings with the following information:

- The type of roof covering and the number of roof coverings installed.
- Type of roof framing, size of members, and spacing.
- Weight of panels, support locations, and method of attachment.
- Framing plan and details for any work necessary to strengthen the existing roof structure.
- Site-specific structural calculations.

e) Where an approved racking system is used, provide documentation showing manufacturer of the racking system, maximum allowable weight the system can support, attachment method to roof or ground, and product evaluation information or structural design for the rack.

PLAN REVIEW

Permit applications can be submitted to the Building Department in person at 1 Kennedy Plaza, Utica, NY 13502.

FEES

- Permitting fee of \$150.00 for \$0.00 to \$10,000.00, \$7.00 per \$1,000.00 thereafter, payable by cash or check made out to City of Utica

INSPECTIONS

Once all permits to construct the solar PV installation have been issued and the system has been installed, it must be inspected before final approval is granted for the solar PV system. On-site inspections can be scheduled by contacting the Building Department by telephone at 315-792-0163.

Inspection requests received within business hours are typically scheduled for the next business day. If next business day is not available, inspection should happen within a five-day window. Third Party Inspectors include:

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Independent Consolidation Inspection Services, Inc.

Tom Morosco
1410 Albany Street - PO Box 4178
Utica, NY 13504
Phone: (315) 735-5233
Fax: (315) 734-0766

Middle Department Inspection Agency, Inc.

Frank Mazzara (315) 337-3480
424 Erie Blvd. West Box 285
Rome, NY 13440
Phone: 1-800-873-6342

Commonwealth Electrical Inspection Services, Inc.

Keith Townsend
PO Box 723
Manheim, NY 14506
Phone: (800) 801-0309 or (315) 337-2098.

Central New York Electrical Inspection Service LLC

Larry Kinne
7910 Rinaldo Blvd West
Bridgeport, NY 13030
(315)-633-0027

New York Atlantic-Inland, Inc.
Michael Miers, Sr
PO Box 701
243 Groton Avenue Ext
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 753-7118

Northeast Electrical Inspections, LLC
David Near
65 Albermarle Road
Scotia, NY 12302
(518) 852-0826

The Inspector, LLC
David P. Smith
5390 State Route 11
Burke, NY 12917
(518) 481-5300

In order to receive final approval, the following inspections are required:

During a rough inspection, the applicant must demonstrate that the work in progress complies with relevant codes and standards. The purpose of the rough inspection is to allow the inspector to view aspects of the system that may be concealed once the system is complete, such as:

- Wiring concealed by new construction.
- Portions of the system that are contained in trenches or foundations that will be buried upon completion of the system.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify the Building Department before the components are buried or concealed and to provide safe access (including necessary climbing and fall arrest equipment) to the inspector.

The inspector will attempt, if possible, to accommodate requests for rough inspections in a timely manner.

The applicant must contact the Building Department when ready for a final inspection. During this inspection, the inspector will review the complete installation to ensure compliance with codes and standards, as well as confirming that the installation matches the records included with the permit application. The applicant must have ready, at the time of inspection, the following materials and make them available to the inspector:

- Copies of as-built drawings and equipment specifications, if different than the materials provided with the application.
- Photographs of key hard to access equipment, including;
 - Example of array attachment point and flashing/sealing methods used.
 - Opened rooftop enclosures, combiners, and junction boxes.
 - Bonding point with premises grounding electrode system.
 - Supply side connection tap method/device.
 - Module and microinverter/DC optimizer nameplates.
 - Microinverter/DC optimizer attachment.

City of Utica has adopted a standardized inspection checklist, which can be found in the Understanding Solar PV Permitting and Inspecting in New York State document, found here: www.ny-sun.gov.

The inspection checklist provides an overview of common points of inspection that the applicant should be prepared to show compliance. If not available, common checks include the following:

- Number of solar PV modules and model number match plans and specification sheets number match plans and specification sheets.
- Array conductors and components are installed in a neat and workman-like manner.
- Solar PV array is properly grounded.
- Electrical boxes and connections are suitable for environment.
- Array is fastened and sealed according to attachment detail.
- Conductor's ratings and sizes match plans.
- Appropriate signs are properly constructed, installed and displayed, including the following:
 - Sign identifying PV power source system attributes at DC disconnect.
 - Sign identifying AC point of connection.
 - Rapid shutdown device meets applicable requirements of NEC 690.12.
- Equipment ratings are consistent with application and installed signs on the installation, including the following:
 - Inverter has a rating as high as max voltage on PV power source sign.
 - DC-side overcurrent circuit protection devices (OCPDs) are DC rated at least as high as max voltage on sign.
 - Inverter is rated for the site AC voltage supplied and shown on the AC point of connection sign.
 - OCPD connected to the AC output of the inverter is rated at least 125% of maximum current on sign and is no larger than the maximum OCPD on the inverter listing label.
 - Sum of the main OCPD and the inverter OCPD is rated for not more than 120% of the buss bar rating.

UNIFIED SOLAR PERMITTING RESOURCES

The jurisdiction has adopted the following documents from the New York Unified Solar Permit process: Delete any documents not adopted by the jurisdiction.

- Standard Application www.cityofutica.com
- Understanding Solar PV Permitting and Inspecting in New York State document, which includes sample construction documents, inspection checklist, design review checklist, and labelling guide www.ny-sun.gov

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information regarding this permit process, please consult our departmental website at www.cityofutica.com or contact the Building Department at 315-792-0163.