

## INFORMATION FOR CONTRACTORS INSTALLING SOLAR PV SYSTEMS

### BEFORE YOU APPLY

Before beginning any work on a solar system, installers and/or customers should consult the [Solar Boston map](#) to determine whether the proposed solar facility falls within a historic district or NSTAR's area network. Solar systems located within either one of these regions may be subject to additional permitting, zoning, or interconnection requirements. Installers and/or customers should contact ISD and NSTAR to ascertain any special requirements.

### BUILDING PERMIT

Depending on the characteristics of the proposed solar facility, homeowners or installers must complete either a short-form or long-form building permit application. Residential buildings with three units or fewer must complete a short-form building permit application. All other projects must complete a long-form building permit application.

**For solar PV projects on residential buildings with three units or less**, please review the [short-form application requirements](#) and [apply online](#). If all information is submitted correctly, installers can expect to receive a decision on their short-form permit application within one business day.

**For solar PV projects on residential buildings with four units or more or on commercial buildings**, please review the [long form application requirements](#) and [initiate your application online](#). Installers that are submitting long form applications for roof mounted solar PV projects that are not a part of a larger construction or renovation project may qualify for the **Solar Fast Track program**. Launched in 2013 with the assistance of the [US Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative](#) and [Greenovate Boston](#), the Solar Fast Track program expedites the decision for project applicants that meet the following requirements:

- The project uses Solar Photovoltaic (PV) or Solar Thermal technology
- The project is an accessory use
- The project is a roof mounted system
- The project is not a part of a larger construction or renovation project

Long Form applications that designate their work type as "Solar Panels" are automatically considered for the Fast Track program. Applications that are accepted into the program will receive a decision within seven business days.

### ELECTRICAL PERMIT

All solar projects must apply for an electrical permit. Only an electrician with a valid electrician's license and identification may complete an electrical permit application. Please review the [electrical permit application requirements](#) and [apply online](#).

## RESOURCES

For additional information on obtaining permits for solar projects in the City of Boston, please review the following resources:

- City of Boston Solar Permitting Guide
- City of Boston Solar Permitting Handout

Please direct any questions to the permitting desk at (617) 961-3271.