

**Town of Rotterdam Building Department**

**Residential and Commercial**

**Small Scale Solar Permit Application**

**Roof Mounted & Free Standing**

**518-355-7575 Ext 395**

**Needed to Obtain a Solar Building Permit:**

1. Solar Permit Application, as applicable, to be filled out and left with required items for Building Department Review.
2. This application must be accompanied by three (3) complete sets of plans showing proposed construction and two complete sets of specifications. Plans and specifications shall describe the nature of the work to be performed, the material and equipment to be used and installed,

GROUND SNOW LOAD	Wind	SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY	SUBJECT TO DAMAGE FROM				Winter Design Temp	Ice shield underlayment required	Flood hazards
	SPEED (mph)		Weathering	Frost line depth	Termite	Decay			
40 50	115	B	Severe	42	Slight to Moderate	Slight to Moderate	-7	Yes	1-13-88

3. Current copy of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance Certificates for contractors must be on file in the Building Inspector's Office. **Accord forms are not acceptable proof of insurance.**
5. All work must conform with the International Building code - **No Exceptions!**
6. **Except as hereinafter provided, no person, firm, corporation, association or partnership shall commence the construction, enlargement, alteration, improvement, removal or demolition of any building or structure or any portion thereof, or any land activity or development.**
7. **Any deviation from the approved plans must be authorized and approved by the Building Inspector.**

## **Permit Process:**

Submit the completed Application, Site Plan and Insurance Certificates to the Building Department for review and approval. Plan review and approval may take approximately 10-20 business days, dependent on number of projects under review. Incomplete applications will delay the review process. **Do not mail or submit checks with permit application.**

When the permit application is approved, the permit must be picked up and paid for at Town Hall by either the Property Owner, Applicant or Contractor.

**Permits must be visibly posted on the property during construction.**

## **Inspection Process**

Contractor or owner **MUST** notify the Building Inspector at least **24 Hours in advance** when work is ready for the applicable inspections:

**The Building Department does not provide electrical inspections. Final approval of a project is given. Agencies approved to perform Electrical Inspections in the Town of Rotterdam are: Middle Department Inspection Agency (518-273-0861), The Inspector, LLC (518-481-5300 or 800-487-0535), Northeast Electrical Inspections, LLC (518-852-0826 or 518-866-1663), N.Y. Atlantic-Inland, Inc. (518-857-6235 or 607-753-7118). You must have all electrical inspections performed, as needed, before approval to proceed.**

## **Fee Schedule**

**\$ 0.20 per sq.ft /per solar panel**

**\$ 0.35 per sq.ft/ ground mount**

**LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION FOR PERMIT AND ZONING APPLICATION**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as owner of the property located  
(print name)

at \_\_\_\_\_, Town of Rotterdam, in the

State of New York, hereby designate \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(city, state, zip, and phone number)

**as my contractor and registered agent for the purposes of the applying for Permits and Zoning representation regarding my building project.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN OF ROTTERDAM  
Department of Public Works  
1100 Sunrise Boulevard, Rotterdam, New York 12306  
Phone: 518-355-7575, Ext. 395  
Fax: 518-355-2725

**Notice of Utilization of Truss Type Construction  
Pre-Engineered Wood Construction and/or Timber Construction**

**To: The Town of Rotterdam Building Department (cc: Fire Department)**

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name of Owner of Property]

**Property Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Tax Map #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please take notice that the (check applicable line):

- \_\_\_\_\_ New residential structure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Addition to the existing residential structure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rehabilitation of the existing residential structure

to be constructed or performed at the property referenced above will utilize (check each applicable line):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Truss type construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-engineered wood construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Timber construction

in the following location(s) (check applicable line):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Floor framing (including girders and beams) **F**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roof framing **R**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Floor framing and roof framing **FR**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner**

**Owner's Representative**

## ARTICLE XXVIII

**Small-Scale Solar<sup>1</sup>****[Added 2-22-2017 by L.L. No. 1-2017]****§ 270-220. Permits required.**

- A. The provisions of this article apply to small-scale solar energy systems. No small-scale solar energy system or device shall be installed or operated in the Town except in compliance with this article.
- B. Rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors. Rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors that constitute small-scale solar energy systems are permitted in all zoning districts in the Town subject to the following conditions:
  - (1) Building permits shall be required for installation of all rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors.
  - (2) Rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors shall not exceed the maximum allowed height of the principal use in any zoning district.
  - (3) All rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors shall meet all applicable standards set forth in the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.
- C. Building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems. BIPV systems that constitute small-scale solar energy systems are permitted in all zoning districts and shall be shown on the plans submitted for the building permit application for the building containing the system. All BIPV systems shall meet all applicable standards set forth in the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.
- D. Freestanding or ground-mounted solar energy systems. Freestanding or ground-mounted solar collectors that constitute small-scale solar energy systems are permitted as accessory structures in all zoning districts of the Town subject to the following conditions:
  - (1) Building permits are required for the installation of all ground-mounted and freestanding solar collectors.

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**1. Editor's Note: Former Art. XXVIII, Critical Impact Uses and Critical Impact Permits, adopted 11-8-2006 by L.L. No. 16-2006, was repealed 9-6-2011 by L.L. No. 9-2011.**

- (2) All ground-mounted or freestanding solar collectors shall be set back from the property line by the greater of i) 20 feet or ii) the otherwise applicable setback in the subject zoning district. No ground-mounted or freestanding solar collectors shall be permitted on any lot which is less than one acre in size.
  - (3) The height of the solar collector and any mounts shall not exceed 15 feet when oriented at maximum tilt.
  - (4) Solar energy equipment shall not be sited within any required buffer area.
  - (5) The total surface area of all ground-mounted and freestanding solar collectors on a lot shall not exceed one half of the area of the ground covered by the building structure of the largest building on the lot measured from the exterior walls, excluding patios, decks, balconies, screened and open porches and attached garages, provided that nonresidential placements exceeding this size may be approved by the Planning Board, subject to site plan review pursuant to Article XVII of this chapter.
  - (6) The area beneath ground-mounted and freestanding solar collectors shall be included in calculating whether the lot meets maximum permitted lot coverage requirements for the applicable district as if the ground-mounted and freestanding solar collectors were deemed to be principal or accessory buildings for purposes of the definition of the term "lot coverage"; and
  - (7) The installation of ground-mounted and freestanding solar collectors shall be considered a land development activity for purposes of Article XXVI of this chapter.
- E. Solar-thermal systems. Solar-thermal systems that constitute small-scale solar energy systems are permitted in all zoning districts subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Building permits are required for the installation of all solar- thermal systems;
  - (2) Ground-mounted and freestanding solar-thermal systems shall be subject to the same requirements set forth in Subsection D above as for ground-mounted and freestanding solar collectors.

- F. Solar energy systems and equipment that constitute small-scale solar energy systems may be permitted only if they are determined not to present any unreasonable safety risks, including, but not limited to, related to the following:
- (1) Weight load.
  - (2) Wind resistance.
  - (3) Ingress or egress in the event of fire or other emergency.
- G. Solar collectors and related equipment that constitute small-scale solar energy systems shall be surfaced, designed and sited so as not to reflect glare onto adjacent properties and roadways.
- H. All small-scale solar energy systems shall be designed to produce only so much energy as may be required on the lot or in the building to be served by the system. The Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer shall be authorized to require any applicant to submit proof of the last 12 months of electricity usage for such lot or building or, in the case where 12 months of electricity usage data cannot be produced, proof of the projected electricity usage for such lot or building. The Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer shall be authorized to deny any application that seeks to install a solar energy system that is designed to produce, or is capable of producing, energy in excess of the electricity usage data or projection for such building or lot.

**§ 270-221. Safety.**

- A. All solar collector installations must be performed by a qualified solar installer.
- B. Prior to operation, electrical connections must be inspected by the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer and by an appropriate electrical inspection person or agency, as determined by the Town.
- C. Any connection to the public utility grid must be inspected by the appropriate public utility.
- D. Solar energy systems shall be maintained in good working order.
- E. If solar storage batteries are included as part of the solar collector system, they must be placed in a secure container or enclosure meeting the requirements of the New York State Building Code when in use and when no longer used shall be

disposed of in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Town and other applicable laws and regulations.

- F. Solar energy systems and equipment shall be marked in order to provide emergency responders with appropriate warning and guidance with respect to isolating the solar electric system. Materials used for marking shall be weather resistant. For residential applications, the marking may be placed within the main service disconnect. If the main service disconnect is operable with the service panel closed, then the marking should be placed on the outside cover. For commercial applications, the marking shall be placed adjacent to the main service disconnect in a location clearly visible from the location where the lever is operated.

**§ 270-222. through § 270-224. (Reserved)**



## TOWN OF ROTTERDAM

### Residential and Commercial small scale Solar Permit Application

*Application is hereby made to the Building Department for the Issuance of a Building Permit pursuant to the New York State Building Construction Code for the construction of buildings, addition, alterations, or accessory structures, or for removal or demolition, as herein described. The applicant or owner agrees to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations, and also will allow all Inspectors to enter the premises for the required inspections. All electrical work must be inspected and a Certificate of Approval granted from an approved Electrical Inspection Agency.*

OFFICE USE ONLY
Application _____
Approved: <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved: <input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of Permit: \$_____
INITIALS _____

<b>COST OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>	<b>\$\$\$</b>
Property Address:	
Property Owner:	
Property Owner Address:	
Property Owner Phone No.:	
Applicant:	
Applicant Address:	
Applicant Phone No.:	
Contractor:	
Contractor Address:	
Contractor Phone No.:	
Contractor Insurance:	Liability      Workers Compensation <b>(must be included with Application)</b>
Ground Mounted	
Minimum lot size for ground mounted or free standing solar 1 Acre _____ Lot size	
The height of the solar collector and mounts when oriented at maximum tilt ? _____ Max. 15ft	
Allowed ground area covered by the largest building on the lot ? <b>Width</b> _____ X <b>Length</b> _____ ÷ 2 = _____ <b>Square feet</b> _____ <b>Area</b>	
Proposed total surface area of all ground mounted and/or freestanding solar collectors ? _____	
Setbacks:	
Side Yard:	Existing _____ Proposed _____
Rear Yard:	Existing _____ Proposed _____
Description of Construction	

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_