



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CHANGES TO THE PERMIT REVIEW FEE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOR SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

September 16, 2011

To All Interested Parties/Individuals:

In keeping with the County's commitment to sustainable practices within our community, the Department of Development Support and Environmental Management recognizes the impact of utilizing solar power to reduce our carbon footprint, reliance on fossil fuels, and homeowners' utility costs. Therefore, the County has implemented several procedures to provide incentive for homeowners to utilize solar power applications.

On June 28, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved a revised methodology for assessing permit review fees for solar and solar-related installations to existing buildings and/or structures. The revised assessment methodology will apply to permit requests associated with solar installations that are not part of a permit request for new residential or non-residential buildings and/or structures. Solar and solar-related applications proposed as a component of a new building or structure will continue to be covered under the building permit, and no additional solar-related permit review fees will be assessed consistent with the County's current procedure. The revised assessment methodology will reduce the overall permitting costs for the retrofit of solar installations and further demonstrate the County's ongoing commitment to encouraging the utilization of solar energy applications.

The County's revised permit review fee assessment methodology for retrofit or "stand alone" solar and solar-related applications utilizes the building permit fee structure that was adopted by the BCC in 2007. The primary difference is the permit review fee will no longer be assessed under the "remodeling and repair" category of the County's Building Permit Review Fee Assessment Schedule (Ordinance 07-01). Instead, the permit review fee for stand alone or retrofit solar and solar-related installations that are not proposed in conjunction with a new building or structure will be assessed as follows:

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV)

Building permit review	\$ 91.38
<u>Electrical permit review</u>	<u>\$ 78.32</u>
Total review fee	\$169.70

SOLAR THERMAL (WATER HEATING)

Building permit review	\$91.38
<u>Plumbing permit review</u>	<u>\$91.38</u>
Total review fee	\$182.76

This revised methodology has resulted in a reduction in the costs of permitting for solar and solar-related applications. Staff has also implemented additional procedural changes that are outlined below that encourage the utilization of solar energy applications, specifically in circumstances where the application is a retrofit to an existing building or structure.

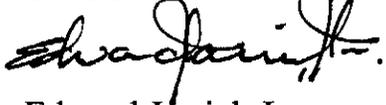
In all retrofit applications, the solar equipment will require a site-specific engineering analysis for hurricane force winds consistent with state requirements. Additionally, the County encourages the submittal of a “master file” with information including installation drawings specifically for solar panels. Once a master file for a specific product has been submitted, each future application submitted to the County can refer to the file for compliance, thereby reducing paperwork and associated permitting times. Furthermore, the County’s master file system will allow and further facilitate internet and telephone permitting by qualified contractors.

In addition to a reduction in permit review fees, the County has also implemented a solar inspection affidavit. This should provide an additional incentive to utilize solar power, specifically in retrofit applications. The affidavit will satisfy the required on-site inspection when certain conditions or circumstances could delay the project completion or make the physical inspection problematic due to roof accessibility issues.

These incentives have been implemented with the intent of encouraging the residential and non-residential utilization of solar power. If you have questions regarding the County’s permit review fees for solar and solar-related installations to existing buildings and/or structures, master file availability for specific solar-related applications, internet or telephone permitting for solar installations, or the solar inspection affidavit process, please contact the Building Plans Review and Inspection Division’s Service Advisor at 606-1300. If you have general solar

energy questions, you may contact the Leon County Office of Sustainability at 606-5380.

Your Public Servant:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Jarriel, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward Jarriel, Jr.
Director, Building Plans Review & Inspection