



Permit & Development Center

809 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202 | (414) 286-8211 | milwaukee.gov/permits | DevelopmentCenterInfo@milwaukee.gov

Expedited Permit Process

After the submittal of all required application materials is received, residential solar projects may be eligible for an expedited solar permit. If the project meets the following criteria, the expedited review and approval process can move forward.

- Solar electric (PV) system of less than 10 kilowatts or 2 family dwelling
- Solar panels are flush-mounted on the roof
- Total load is less than 5 pounds per square foot

Note: The Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) Permit & Development Center reviews the permits and supporting documents for completeness and accuracy. Review time varies based on the project scope and completeness of submitted materials.

Expedited solar permits cost **\$70** (with an \$8 processing fee). Any additional service upgrades, outlets or switches, or feeder/sub feeder changes will cost additional. Permit applications must include (1) a line diagram and (2) spec sheets.

Standard Permit Process

- 1) Installer with proper credentials compiles submittal documents (see Solar Permit Worksheet) to support the permit application
- 2) Installer submits ESPV permit application and uploads supporting documentation via the LMS Land Management System at milwaukee.gov/LMS, or visits the development center via walk-in service or appointment to meet with a plan examiner
- 3) A Plan Examiner reviews and approves application and supporting documents
- 4) Installer pays all applicable permit fees
- 5) Permit is issued

All solar projects in the City of Milwaukee are required to have a solar permit (ESPV). All permits must be approved and issued before starting the solar installation.

If an alteration to the roof structure is required to support the proposed solar array, a building permit will be required.

Please Note - All City of Milwaukee permits are processed through our LMS Land Management System at milwaukee.gov/LMS.

Plan Reviews - Plan reviews and permit issuance can be offered via appointment. Call (414) 286-8210 to schedule. Plan reviews and permit issuance can also be offered via our Commercial Walk-in Service (first come, first served) at our Development Center. Please note that that our walk-in desk service limits permits to one per customer.

Historic Properties - Special considerations are required for placement of solar installations on historic properties. Solar can be installed on historic properties in the City of Milwaukee, but installers must fill out the Historic Preservation Certificate of Appropriateness worksheet and obtain approval from Historic Preservation staff prior to the issuance of the permit.

New Solar Permit Fees:

Building Permits - There is no Plan Review fee or Building Permit fee for the installation of a solar PV system on 1 or 2-family dwellings not required to undergo structural reinforcement or alterations.

Electrical Permit Fees for Solar PV:

(+ IT fee of .016% x Permit Fee + \$8.00 Permit Processing Fee)

- 0-20 kilowatts: \$70
- 20.1-35 kilowatts: \$100
- 35.1-50 kilowatts: \$150
- 50.1-75 kilowatts: \$200
- 75.1-100 kilowatts: \$250
- Over 100 kilowatts: \$300

Feeder (potential fee, if installed):

- Up to 400 amps: \$40
- 401-600 amps: \$100