

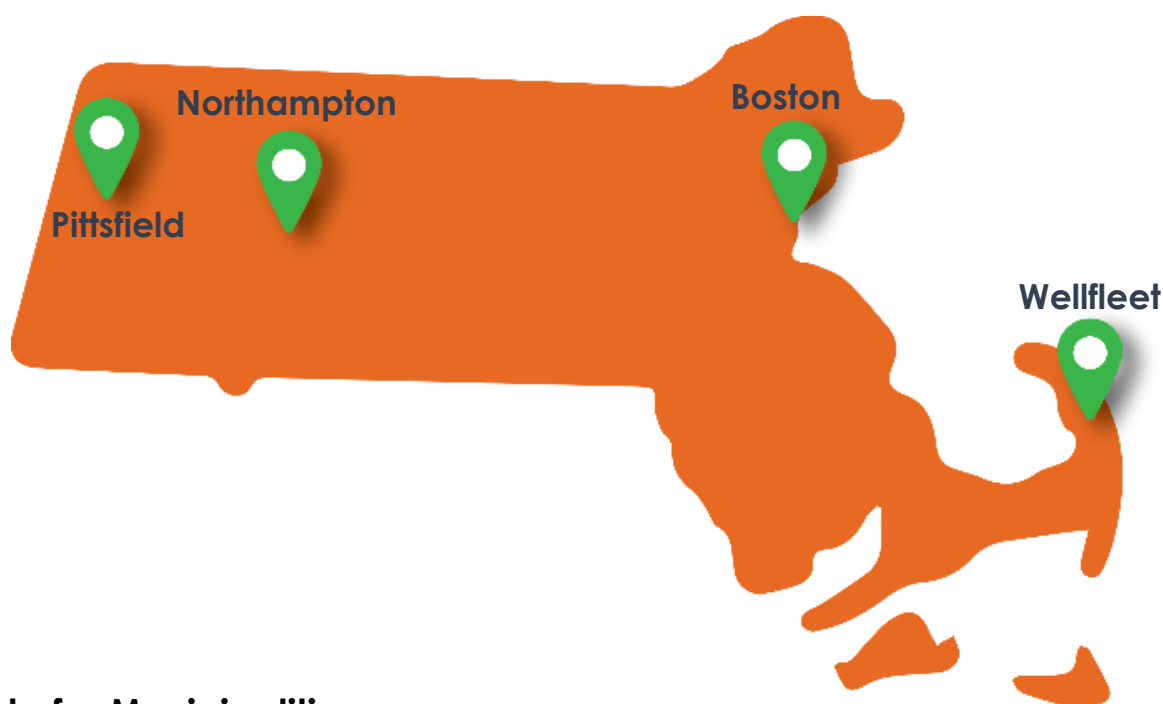


Permitting Solar PV in Massachusetts

Additional Resources

This addendum contains supplementary online resources and key takeaways from four municipalities:

Boston, Northampton, Pittsfield, and Wellfleet.



A Guide for Municipalities

These additional resources are an addendum to a series of case studies developed for municipalities in Massachusetts.

This document serves as a guide to improve permitting processes for residential and commercial solar photovoltaic systems (PV). It includes key takeaways, best practices, online resources, and further opportunities for communities and building departments to streamline permitting.

The case studies highlight how various municipalities in Massachusetts have improved permitting processes for solar PV. These resources have been developed by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, with support from the Clean Energy States Alliance.

Municipalities covered in this series:

Boston, Northampton, Pittsfield, and Wellfleet.

Additional Resources

Lessons Learned and Other Links

SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED

Boston

Lessons Learned

- Boston's switch to a residential solar short form has cut permit issuance time down to a single day
- The Solar Fast Track Program drastically lowered permit issuance time for commercial PV from 30 to 7 days

ONLINE LINKS

Short-form: <http://goo.gl/bZjcNh>

Long-form: <http://goo.gl/Gg6UCv>

Online Permit Application page:
<https://goo.gl/6AzpX1>

Northampton

Lessons Learned

- Northampton, an early adopter of an online permit database and online permit submittal, cut down on its paper work and desk-to-desk time
- Allocating particular projects to specific inspectors saved Northampton's department time sifting through the state building codes
- The city improved overall application quality by cooperating and engaging contractors

ONLINE LINKS

Building Department.: <http://goo.gl/Aifld3>

Permit Applications: <http://goo.gl/BRjoKK>

Pittsfield

Lessons Learned

- Pittsfield recently went completely online with the Berkshire permitting system increasing the city's throughput of solar permits
- Online tracking and response allows permits to be processed in three to four days rather than three weeks

ONLINE LINKS

Building Department Permitting page:
<http://goo.gl/GEDK7D>

Wellfleet

Lessons Learned

- Wellfleet effectively prepared for a Solarize campaign through convening the town's building department, residents, and installers
- The inspector and the installers created a checklist to streamline the solar permitting process
- The building department now receives more complete applications and has reduced plan review time

ONLINE LINKS

Building Department page:
<http://goo.gl/rJCcC8>

Additional Resources

Lessons Learned and Other Links

MORE ONLINE RESOURCES ON PERMITTING

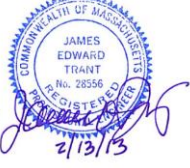
Permitting Guidance & Tips

Structural Review Guidance for Rooftop Residential PV (<10 kW)
Prescriptive Process for Structural Approval of Small PV Systems

Contents

1. Introduction to the Prescriptive Process
2. How to Use This Prescriptive Process
3. Recommended Personnel Approved to Utilize the Prescriptive Process
4. Prescriptive Process Flowchart for Residential PV <10 kW
5. Maximum Rafter Span Table

Appendix A: General Structural Considerations of Rooftop Solar PV Systems
Appendix B: How the Prescriptive Process Was Developed



Structural Review Guidance

To learn more about the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' recommendations on structural and model review guidance for small rooftop solar, visit: <http://goo.gl/FSSEhC>

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The Official Website of the Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation (OCABR)

Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

Banking and Finance Insurance Consumer Rights and Resources **Licensing** Data Privacy and Security Media Agencies

Home > Licensing > DPL Boards > Electricians > Statutes & Regulations > Guidance Memo 13-01

Guidance Memo 13-01 Massachusetts Electricians Licensing requirements relating to the installation of P.V. (photovoltaic) systems

To: Local Inspectors of Wires
From: The Board of State Examiners of Electricians
Date issued: October 26, 2012
Re: Massachusetts Electricians Licensing Requirements for PV System Installations

Massachusetts Guidance Memo for Electricians Licensing Requirements

For a Guidance Memo on the Massachusetts Electricians Licensing requirements relating to the installation of PV systems, visit: <http://goo.gl/1BzJVva>

Solar America Board for Codes and Standards
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Expedited Permit Process

The Solar ABCs Expedited Permit Process simplifies the structural and electrical review of a small PV system projects and minimizes the need for detailed engineering studies and unnecessary delays.

Click [here](#) for report and fill-in forms.

News & Events

Sep 17, 2015 [Stakeholder Meeting in Anaheim, California](#)

May 5, 2015 [Solar Installations: Financial Benefits Are Not Without Risk](#)



Solar America Board for Codes and Standards: 'SOLAR ABCS'

To find out other ways you can simplify the structural and electrical review of small PV systems, visit: <http://www.solarabcs.org/>

Training Resources

DER
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

Model Permitting and Safety for Solar PV in Massachusetts

Permitting and Inspection Trainings

For the 2015 Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' Training on Permitting and Safety inspection, visit: <http://goo.gl/pVWXdd>. For a video recording of the 2014 training, visit: <http://goo.gl/Rju5Gz>

Additional Resources

Lessons Learned and Other Resources

MORE ONLINE RESOURCES ON PERMITTING

Further Resources

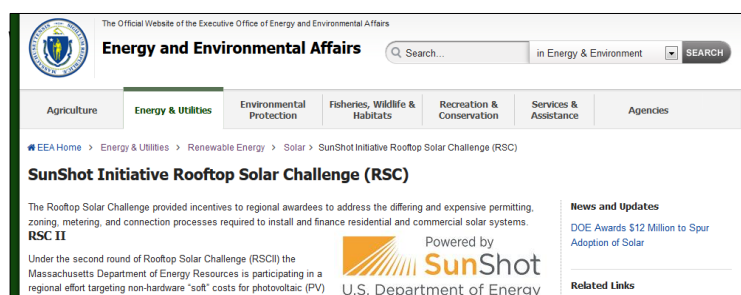


Online Permitting for Municipalities

To view a December 2015 Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' Webinar on Online Permitting for Municipalities, visit:

<http://goo.gl/scLEt9>

A video recording of this webinar will be shortly posted at: <http://goo.gl/wn6rKB>



Massachusetts DOER Involvement in the US D.O.E's Rooftop Solar Challenge II

These case studies are part of the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge II and the Clean Energy States Alliance's efforts to reduce solar soft costs. For more information on the Massachusetts's involvement in Rooftop Solar Challenge, visit: <http://goo.gl/3Pg8rZ>

More Efforts by the U.S. Department of Energy:



Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC)

The Department of Energy is currently establishing the Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities program (SPARC), which designates communities that have taken steps to encourage solar deployment and provides technical assistance to those looking to do so. To learn more, visit: <http://www.gosparc.org/>



Case Study
Prepared by



This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy under Award Number DE-EE0006305. This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof. Icons for these case studies are courtesy of: Ananda A Nair, Alexis Doreau, Magicon, TNS, Yugu Design, Roy Martens, and artwork bean.