

# Permitting and Structural Review

As part of its first round [U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge](#) grant work, DOER hired Navigant Consulting to review a sample of existing local permitting processes and develop [recommendations](#) and [structural review guidance](#) for small rooftop solar PV systems.

## **Permitting and Structural Review RSC II**

Under RSC II, DOER is working with the state of Connecticut, an RSC partner, to compare and review each state's model permitting documents. DOER has worked with the [Department of Public Safety](#) (DPS), the [Board of State Examiners of Electricians](#) (BSEE) , and the [Board Fire Prevention Regulations](#) (BFPR) to review and finalize Massachusetts model permitting guidance documents.

For building inspectors, DOER worked with DPS to develop a structural review guidance that provides a prescriptive process for structural approval of small PV systems. This guidance can be found [here](#).

For electrical inspectors and wiring officials, DOER coordinated with the BSEE and BFPR to create a [model guidance document](#) for electrical inspectors and wiring officials when permitting for solar PV.

## **2014 Solar PV Permitting and Safety Trainings**

DOER worked to coordinate regional technical and safety training sessions for inspectors and installers on solar PV. These training sessions introduced the Massachusetts model permitting process to the building and electrical inspector community, and served as a platform for inspectors to gain more knowledge about solar PV. Inspectors received credits from either the DPS or BSEE for attending these training sessions. They had the opportunity to directly connect with solar installers who work in their jurisdictions. Through these trainings DOER touched over 400 municipal inspectors.

Information on training dates and locations is available [online](#).

The webinar hosted for this audience, together with the [presentation](#) given at each of the training sessions, is available on DOER's [webinar page](#).

## **2015 Solar PV Permitting and Safety Trainings**

With the success of the 2014 trainings, DOER worked to coordinate a second series of technical and safety training with additional and more in-depth information. These trainings covered the RSC II model permitting documents as well as specific strategies for inspecting solar PV. Information on training dates and locations is available [here](#).

The slides presented at these trainings are available [here](#).

### **Solar PV Permitting Webinars:**

As a part of the of the 2015 Solar PV permitting and safety trainings, DOER put together a series of webinars with more in-depth information on particularly pertinent training topics. Topics include considerations for aging solar PV system components, solar PV inspection techniques for municipal inspectors, and labeling requirements for solar PV systems. These webinars can be found below:

[Considerations for Aging Solar PV System Components - slides](#)

[Solar PV Inspection Techniques for Municipal Inspectors - slides](#)

[Labeling Requirements for Solar PV Systems - slides](#)

### **Fire Safety Solar PV Training Resources:**

In conjunction with the Clean Energy States Alliance, and as a part of the RSC II program, DOER has developed a PV Fire Safety Training Module for use by fire instructors and firefighters. The module is designed as a three-hour slideshow. The module is available for free for educational purposes and may be downloaded from the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) website through the following link: [www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/pv-fire-safety-training-slides](http://www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/pv-fire-safety-training-slides)

### **Online Permitting Webinar**

DOER hosted a webinar for municipal officials on different approaches to online permitting. Attendees heard from a municipality, regional planning authority, and private entity to learn about best practices and steps towards online permitting. The webinar presentation is available on DOER's [webinar page](#).