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## Solar Arrays Planning Review Process

The City of Lafayette supports alternative energy and ways for residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption. In the Hillside Overlay District and in the Downtown, the Planning Services Division strives to balance the benefits of solar panels with the potential visibility impacts to the community. The planning review process for installing solar panels is outlined below.

Flush-mounted panels under 10kW capacity do not require City review and may go directly to the Contra Costa County Building Department with a building permit application.

### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Site plan / Roof plan
- Elevations or sections with height called out
- Specs on the solar panels

### PROCESS:

#### Roof-mounted solar panels

1. Flush-mounted panels exceeding 10 kW capacity are an over-the-counter planning review with no planning fees.
2. Angled/tilted panels must be staked in the field for a planning inspection. Hourly fees charged based on staff time.

#### Ground-mounted solar panels

The goal is to reduce offsite visibility from public view sheds taken from lower in elevation. Please try to locate these lower in elevation and/or mitigated by vegetation.

1. Provide plans showing its location and height. Maximum height is 6 ft.
2. Stake panels in the field with blue tarps.
3. Contact planning for a site visit to determine if there's offsite visibility.
4. Once location is finalized, submit plans for planning sign-off (over-the-counter) with hourly fees charged based on staff time.

