Thank you for considering the installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system on your residential rooftop. To help streamline the process, click on the Mass Clean Energy Center - Residential Solar Permitting Guide. This guide includes all the basics to get you familiar with going solar, including costs, economic/tax benefits, environmental benefits, sizing, regulations, and other general information.

**STEP 1: BEFORE YOU APPLY**

If you live in Boston, it is important to consider the following information. This information will help prevent potential challenges before you begin the process to install solar (photovoltaic) panels on your home or property.

1) Do I live in the Eversource “Area Network”?  

You may live in the Eversource Area Network, a region where solar panel interconnection to the electricity distribution grid may be problematic. Certain homes within the following zip codes may be located in the Area Network: 02108, 02109, 02110, 02111, 02113, 02114, 02115, 02116, 02118, 02199, 02203, 02215, 02222. We encourage all Boston residents to call their utility before starting the process to install solar (photovoltaic) panels on your home or property.

➔ All Eversource customers must call 1-800-340-9822 or email EMDG@eversource.com to confirm that their property is suitable for solar before you begin working with a solar installer. (Solar installers will not know if you live within Eversource’s Area Network.)

2) Do I live in a historical district as defined by the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC)?

Solar projects in historic areas must be approved to receive a building permit. You can determine if your building is designated a Landmark or within a historic district by visiting the BLC landmarks web page and searching the building’s address in the Interactive Map. Property owners interested in building a solar system in a historic district or on a designated landmark building should review the standards for the district or call the Boston Landmarks Commission at 617-635-3850 before starting the process to install solar (photovoltaic) panels on your home or property.

**STEP 2: OBTAINING RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS**

All solar (PV) installation projects must be reviewed by the Boston Inspectional Services Division (ISD). When proposing a solar project, you must complete an application. There are separate applications for buildings between 1-3 units and buildings with 4 or more units.

If you have questions about the solar PV permitting process, call ISD at 617-635-5300.
If installing on a 1-3 unit residential building - Solar PV Project Application Process

- Please review the link to our [short-form permit system web page](#). Follow the three steps that eventually lead you to the [short-form permit application online](#). After creating an account and identifying the address where your project takes place, check the “electrical permit” box and continue your application.

If installing on a 4 or more unit residential building - Solar PV Project Application Process

- Please review the link to our [long-form permit system web page](#). Follow the three steps that guide you to the [permit application online](#). After creating an account and identifying the address where your project takes place, check the “electrical permit” box and continue your application.

Important to note:  All solar (PV) projects must apply for an electrical permit. Only an electrician with a valid electrician's license and identification may complete an electrical permit application.

GOING SOLAR IN BOSTON - CHECKLIST

Before starting the process to install solar (photovoltaic) panels to your home or property in Boston, be sure to:

- Check to see if your property is in the Eversource Area Network.

- Check to see if your property is in a historic district or is a designated or pending Landmark.

- Obtain a building permit through the Inspectional Services Division (ISD).

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Eversource: 1-800-340-9822

- Boston Landmarks Commission: 617-635-3850

- ISD: 617-635-5300