



TOWN OF ABINGDON

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building • Planning • Code Enforcement

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) GUIDE

Codes and Design Criteria	Required Permits
<p>Abingdon VA has adopted the following code: 2018 Virginia Construction Code</p> <p>The following local design criteria should be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind Speed: V_{ULT} 116 mph • Ground Snow Load: 20 psf • Frost Depth: 18 inches • Assumable Soil Bearing Capacity: 2018 Virginia Construction Code Table 1806.2. 2018 Virginia Residential Code Table 401.4.1. • Assumable lateral earth pressure shall be in accordance with sections 1806.3.1 through 1806.3.4 of the 2018 Virginia Construction Code. 	<p>A permit must be obtained prior to the start of any work. Complete the following permit application form(s) and submit any additional required documents:</p> <p>Residential Solar PV System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Energy Permit • Zoning Permit <p>Commercial/Non-Residential Solar PV System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Energy Permit • Zoning Permit
Additional Required Documents	Contractor Requirements
<p>Site Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site plan should show the location of major components on the property. The site plan drawing need not be exactly to scale, but it should represent relative location of components at site (see supplied example site plan). • PV arrays in compliance with IRC fire setback requirements need no separate fire service review. <p>Electrical Diagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical diagram/worksheets should show PV system configuration, wiring system, overcurrent protection, inverter, disconnects, required signs, and AC connection to the building. <p>Specification sheets and installation manuals (if available)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide spec sheets and manuals for all manufactured components including, but no limited to, PV modules, inverter(s), combiner box, disconnects, and mounting system. <p>Rooftop Installations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide verification by professional engineer of the structural adequacy of roofing system support conditions. 	<p>To install Solar PV systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia, contractors are required to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Virginia DPOR issued license, with an AES (Alternative Energy Systems) specialty service designation. • Additionally, an ELE (Electrical) classification would be required for the installation of associated wiring and equipment. • A local Town of Abingdon Business license.



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<p style="text-align: center;">Permit Fees</p> <p>\$25.00 base fee PLUS (\$5.00 per \$1000) of estimated project cost.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Submit Permit Application</p> <p>Applications for Alternative Energy Permits can be submitted on-line, or in person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line applications, with plans and specifications, may be submitted through our Forms and Permit Applications page on the Town of Abingdon website. • In person applications may be submitted by coming to our permit counter at the Abingdon Municipal building, 133 West Main Street, Abingdon VA.
<p style="text-align: center;">Review Process Timeline</p> <p>The community development department is committed to providing a timely review of solar PV permit applications. Best efforts are made to review completed residential solar permit applications within [5] days and commercial/non-residential solar permit applications within (15) days. These turnaround times are typical, not guaranteed. Abingdon VA has a staff of dedicated individuals, but workloads, vacations, and sick leave can cause unforeseen delays that may impact turnaround time.</p> <p>Certain circumstances can prolong the permit turnaround time including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant does not submit all required information • Contractor applying for permit is not a licensed contractor • Equipment is not listed 	<p style="text-align: center;">Permit Status</p> <p>To check your permit status please call (276) 628-3167.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Permit Expiration</p> <p>All permits expire six (6) months after date of issue. Failure to start the work authorized by a permit within this six-month period renders the permit invalid and a new permit must be obtained. Once work begins, noticeable progress, characterized by one approved inspection or other evidences of substantive progress, must continue until completion.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scheduling an Inspection and the Inspection Process</p> <p>To schedule an inspection please call (276) 628-6611.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Information</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact us at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Statzer, Building Official • Office Email: rstatzer@abingdon-va.gov • Office Phone Number: (276) 628-6611 	<p style="text-align: center;">Address and Hours of Operation</p> <p>133 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday</p>