



Planning Services Division
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Solar Panels Planning Review Process

The City of Lafayette supports alternative energy and ways for residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases. The Planning review process for installing solar panels depends on the type, location, and visibility of the installation.

Rooftop flush-mounted panels do not require Lafayette Planning zoning plan-check and may go directly to the Contra Costa County Development and Conservation Department to submit a [building permit application](#).

For roof-mounted panels which are angled or tilted up from the roof, and ground-mounted panels within the Hillside Overlay District, the requirements are below.

PROCESS:

If the applicant proposes tilt-up roof panels that would exceed 17' in height above the ground OR if the applicant proposes ground mounted panels in the Hillside Overlay District:

1. Stake panels in the field for a planning inspection. For ground mounted panels, use blue tarp over the stakes to show location and massing.
2. Contact planning to schedule a site visit to determine offsite visibility.
3. Once location is finalized, submit plans to the [City's Building Permit Portal](#) for planning sign-off.

Tilt-up panels on a roof shall not exceed the height limit of the zoning district for the property. Ground-mounted panels shall not exceed 6 ft. in height above the ground.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Site plan / Roof plan showing panel location.
- Elevations and sections showing panel height.
 - Roof mounted tilt-up panels shall not exceed the building height limit of the zoning district in which it is located.
 - Ground-mounted panels are limited to 6 ft. in height, maximum.
- Specifications on the solar panels.