

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

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1600 Floribunda Ave.
Hillsborough
California 94010

Solar Systems and Panels

The Town supports solar energy sources as abundant, renewable and nonpolluting energy resources that reduce dependence on nonrenewable energy while reducing air and water pollution resulting from fossil fuel-based sources.

Building Permits are required for the installation of solar energy systems. A formal design review process is no longer required for roof-mounted solar systems and panels. However, the Town hopes that applicants will continue to be sensitive in the placement of panels to not only achieve an efficient system, but to also help preserve the Town's unique residential character.

All solar energy systems shall meet applicable health and safety standards and requirements imposed by the state, the town and the Central County Fire Department, consistent with Section 65850.5 of the Government Code.

Solar energy systems for heating water in single-family residences and for heating water in commercial or swimming pool applications shall be certified by an accredited listing agency as defined by the California Plumbing Code and California Mechanical Code.

Please keep in mind the following Design Guidelines when designing a system:

- If possible, solar collectors should not be installed on a roof surface that faces the street.
- A solar energy system should not extend beyond the ridge or other edges of the roof.
- Exposed pipes and other material for the system should be of an integral color that does not contrast with the color of the adjacent roof or wall surface. Should integral color not be feasible, it is recommended that the pipes are painted.
- Any tree trimming and/or removal that is performed to make the system more efficient should be kept to a minimum.
- Applicants should consult with neighbor(s) regarding the planned location, size and appearance of the solar panels.
- Unless a hardship exists and a Variance is granted, solar panels should comply with the setback requirements of the Hillsborough Municipal Code and the State Solar Shade Control Act.

Preliminary plans should include:

- A location map showing surrounding properties, including across the street(s), and which neighbors have been contacted about the proposed panels
- A roof plan and/or site plan clearly showing, to scale, the proposed panels and any supporting equipment
- The size, type and location of any trees to be removed or trimmed to facilitate solar access to the system
- Good quality photos of the house and the roofing material
- A manufacturer's brochure showing what the panels look like
- If the panels are ground-mounted, the required setback areas and dimensions to property lines must be identified on the site plan

If you have questions, please contact the Building Division at **650/375-7411**