

GWINNETT COUNTY

Community Solar Energy Incentive Policy

To promote and encourage renewable energy practice, Gwinnett County shall offer building permit fee reduction incentives and expedite plan reviews to encourage solar energy installations on commercial buildings.

The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development offers a “Green Building Credit” for commercial new building construction or existing building renovation that installs solar panels. A 5% reduction of the building permit fee shall be applied.

The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development offers an expedited plan review for building projects that include solar panel installations. A plan review time of five (5) working days shall be applied.

On October 23, 2018 The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners adopted an amendment to the Gwinnett County “Land Development and Other Services Fee Schedule” that offers a 5% reduction of the building permit fee for projects submitted with solar panel energy systems.

The applicable section of the Gwinnett County “Land Development and Other Services Fee Schedule” Item “B-36 Green Building Credit” and “Definition of Phrases” is given below:

B-36 Green Building Credit - 5% Building Permit Fee Reduction for construction that complies with the certification methods of LEED certification for commercial buildings, EarthCraft Multifamily certification for multifamily residential buildings, or Earthcraft House certification for single family residential buildings.

Definition of Phrases: Green Building Credit – A credit that reduces the building permit fee by 5% for a “Complete Building Permit.

On October 23, 2018 The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development adopted a policy to offer expedited plan reviews for solar energy installation projects. The policy states that the plan review time of 10 working days shall be reduced to 5 working days for solar energy installation projects on new and existing commercial buildings.

The Department of Planning and Development Policy statement for expedited reviews is given below:

- The plan review time of a maximum of ten (10) working days shall be reduced to a maximum of five (5) working days for projects submitted for a Complete Building

Permit that includes solar energy installations in which the solar panel system can achieve a minimum of 5,000 watts power generation and that the solar panel system qualifies for the LEED on-site renewable energy credit.

Documentation Required for Fee Reduction and Expedited Review

A copy of the proposed construction drawings with energy calculations and LEED credit statement that complies with the following:

- Submit calculations and details indicating that the solar panel system can achieve a minimum of 5,000 watts power generation.
- Submit documentation that the solar panel system qualifies for the LEED on-site renewable energy credit of one (1) point of Percentage Renewable Energy

Additional Information:

Contact Building Plan Review staff at (678) 518-6000 for additional information regarding solar energy incentives.