



## Solar Panel Guidance

### **Do I need a building permit to install solar panels on my property?**

Yes. Solar panels are generally permitted in residential, commercial and industrial districts with a Moorhead Building Permit and State Electrical Permit but must be first reviewed and approved by Planning & Zoning (email [planning@moorheadmn.gov](mailto:planning@moorheadmn.gov) or call 218.299.5370) and Moorhead Public Service.

#### **Residential Solar Panels:**

1. Adding ground-mounted panels
  - a. Zoning review/approval
  - b. Moorhead Public Service (MPS) review/approval of Small Generation Agreement
    - i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
  - c. Building Permit required by a licensed contractor
  - d. State Electrical Permit
2. Adding rooftop-mounted panels
  - a. Zoning review/approval
  - b. Moorhead Public Service review/approval of Small Generation Agreement
    - i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
  - c. Building Permit required by a licensed contractor
  - d. State Electrical Permit

#### **Non-Residential Solar Panels:**

1. Must be affiliated with existing commercial or industrial use (i.e., cannot be installed on a vacant lot)
2. Adding ground-mounted panels
  - a. Provide at least a 10-foot brush-free area around solar panels as required by MN Building Code
  - b. Moorhead Public Service (MPS) review/approval of Commercial

- Generation Agreement
    - i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
  - c. Building Permit
  - d. State Electrical Permit
3. Adding rooftop-mounted panels
- a. Moorhead Public Service (MPS) review/approval of Commercial Generation Agreement
    - i. MPS determines how many panels you may install to prevent overloading existing infrastructure
  - b. Building Permit
  - c. State Electrical Permit

**Solar Farms:**

1. Not currently permitted in city limits