

## DEFINITIONS:

“**Solar Energy Device**” means any solar energy collection system, including solar panels; either free-standing (ground mounted or pole mounted), wall mounted, or attached to a roof or structure, the primary purpose of which is to provide for the collection, inversion, storage, and distribution of solar energy for generating electricity.

“**Solar Array**” means a group of solar panels or solar energy devices consisting of a linked series of photovoltaic modules. A solar array is measured in square feet by determining the overall maximum length and width and multiplying the two.

“**Photovoltaic**” means solar panels that use sunlight to generate electricity.



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# Residential Photovoltaic Solar Energy Device Permit Guidelines



P I N A L • C O U N T Y  
*wide open opportunity*

**The following requirements apply to rural and residential zones which are being used for residences.**



## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Solar energy devices shall not be the primary use of a property.
- All free standing solar energy devices will be treated as detached accessory buildings and shall conform to the requirements for detached accessory buildings in a particular zoning district.
- Solar arrays placed on buildings, primary or accessory, may not encroach into the required setbacks for that zone.
- Roof mounted solar arrays shall not be subject to the maximum height restrictions of the zone. See additional requirements for flat roof and pitched roof installations:

**Flat roofs:** Solar arrays placed on flat rooftops of either a primary or accessory building shall not exceed five (5) feet measured from the roofline, perpendicularly to the highest point of the solar device.

**Pitched roofs:** Solar arrays placed on pitched rooftops of either a primary or accessory building shall not exceed 2 feet measured from the roofline, perpendicularly to the highest point of the solar device.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(con't):

- In the following residential zones; CR1-A, CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, CR-5, MH, RV, MHP, PM/RVP and TR;  
All free standing solar energy devices:
  - ❖ shall be restricted to a location in the rear or side yard, meeting rear or side yard setbacks for that zone.
  - ❖ shall not exceed six (6) feet in height, measured from the undisturbed grade to the highest point of the solar device.
- In all other zones, free standing solar devices may be placed in front of the house as long as they meet the applicable front setbacks for an accessory structure.
- The requirements in this ordinance do not apply to thermal solar devices
- Solar energy devices shall comply with all applicable building and electrical codes.



## APPLICATION PROCESS:

Apply in person for a **Solar Device Permit** at one of our County Planning and Development sites in Florence, Casa Grande, Oracle, or Apache Junction.

Bring in:

- ✓ A site plan (to engineer scale) showing the location of the solar panels, either roof or ground mounted.
- ✓ Elevation detail showing the vertical height of panels from roof top or ground
- ✓ Electrical plans, mounting details, major component information, and notes for installation. Contact Building Safety for permit requirements and permit fees at **520-866-6405**. A zoning fee of \$50 will be collected at application submittal.