



Solar Power Systems in Foothills County

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SOLAR POWER SYSTEM, PERSONAL means any device used to collect sunlight that is part of a system used to convert radiant energy from the sun into thermal or electrical energy for a single landowner, resident or occupant of a site, for personal, domestic, and/or agricultural uses on-site. Annual electricity produced for the site is generally expected to be equal to consumption (Section 2.5 - Definitions of the LUB).

SOLAR POWER SYSTEM, COMMERCIAL any device used to collect sunlight that is part of a system used to convert radiant energy from the sun into thermal or electrical energy for uses not located on-site (the lands containing the system and/or adjacent lands owned by the same owner) or for distribution and/or sale off-site (Section 2.5 – Definitions of the LUB)

A **Solar Power System, Personal** is permitted without a Development Permit when it meets the following criteria (Section 4.2.1.18 of the LUB):

1. The installation obtains any necessary Building and/or Safety Codes Permits from the County prior to commencing any work;
2. The installation is to be used for on-site personal household and/or agricultural purposes only; and
3. When wall mounted or roof mounted, it is mounted on the wall or roof of an approved building such that:
 - a. It does not exceed the maximum building height when the array is placed at its highest proposed angle; and
 - b. All equipment meets the minimum setback requirements for the applicable land use district;
4. When ground / pole / or fence mounted provided:
 - a. the solar panels and associated equipment are for low-voltage systems (for example but not limited to solar fence chargers, trickle chargers, and gate systems) where the solar array is no greater than 1m² and all equipment does not exceed the maximum building height when the array is placed at its highest proposed angle
 - b. the solar panels and associated equipment where the solar array is in excess of 1m² but no greater than 10m² in size, does not exceed the maximum building height when the array is placed at its highest proposed angle, and is setback 2x (double) the minimum side and rear yard setback requirements for the applicable land use district;
5. The lot coverage, including all new structures constructed in conjunction with the solar equipment does not exceed the maximum lot coverage for the site as outlined in the development requirements of the applicable land use district;
6. There is no alteration to drainage or the overland flow of water within or off of a property without appropriate approval from the County and/or Alberta Environment;
7. The addition of any accessory building in conjunction with the array (whether for mounting, battery storage, or similar purposes) does not exceed the maximum area allowed for accessory buildings under Table 4.2.1.7A* of the LUB;

A **Solar Power System, Commercial** is only listed as a permitted use within the Direct Control District #34 land use district. Please check with the Planning Department on the steps required to make a Land Use Application so Council may consider allowing this type of business on your parcel. If Land Use is granted, a subsequent Development Permit application will be required to be submitted.

**Consideration under an application for Development Permit is required for Accessory Buildings that do not fall within these requirements.*

Note: As per Sections 10.22.1 and 10.22.2 of the LUB, all Solar Power Systems not exempt under Section 4.2.1.18 of the LUB (as noted above) are considered a Discretionary Use and require a Development Permit prior to commencement of construction. Approval or refusal of an application is at the discretion of the Development Authority and each application has to be evaluated individually. The intent of the Land Use Bylaw, as noted previously, is considered when evaluating an application.

BASE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

An application for a Development Permit must be submitted with the following information to be considered complete:

1. Development Permit Application form completed in full.
2. Abandoned Well Sites form completed in full.
3. Payment of applicable fees as per the current Fee Schedule Bylaw.
4. If the applicant does not own the parcel, written consent from the landowner permitting the applicant to submit the application is required.
5. A site plan (can be hand drawn) showing:
 - a. the entire parcel;
 - b. north at the top of the page;
 - c. all existing structures (inclusive of temporary structures and structures without foundations), any proposed buildings and the proposed array(s) with measurements from the same, in feet or metres, to all parcel lines;
 - d. all existing water wells, septic tanks, disposal fields, dugouts on the parcel and storage areas;
6. Description of the need for the Solar Power System, what is it planned to be used for in its entirety?
7. Description, drawings and/or pictures, with dimensions, showing the mounting system, racking and/or tethering that is to occur with the proposed installation.
8. The proposed output of the system.
9. The proposed method of energy storage (i.e. grid tied or battery storage)
 - a. Should batteries be the proposed method, please include the type of cell, size of storage proposed, where they are to be located, how they are connected, and how they are to be stored/temperature regulated.
10. Particulars of any proposed use or involvement by persons other than residents of the lot.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLAR POWER SYSTEMS, COMMERCIAL:

11. A landscaping and screening plan completed in accordance with the County's Screening Standards, showing how the installation will be visually screened from neighbouring parcels.
12. Temporary storage and/or laydown yard locations on the property during the construction phase(s).
13. Where the power lines are to be located within the property and outside of the property to the substation.
14. Line capacity report.
15. Written comments from Provincial bodies, including but not limited to, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Utilities Commission, Alberta Energy Regulator, and Alberta Health Services, where applicable.
16. Written comments from electrical provider in the area.