



Effingham County Board
101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL
217.342.4990

Solar Energy Conversion Systems Checklist

1. Special Use Permit (SUP)

- a. Submit application

2. Design and Installation

- a. Submit certificates of design compliance that equipment manufacturers have obtained from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), or an equivalent third party.
- b. Submit certification from structural engineer that design of facility is within accepted professional standards (following granting of siting approval)

c. Requirements:

- i. Electrical Components – all electrical components shall conform to ANSI and IEC standards.
 1. Lockable, utility accessible, load breaking, with manual disconnect switch located not more than four (4) feet from Electric Service Meter and not be obstructed from access in any manner.
 2. “Caution Solar Electric System” signs shall be installed adjacent to the manual disconnect switch and all entry points.
 3. Caution labels weather resistant and reflective with red background and white lettering with minimum of 3/8 inch lettering
- ii. Height – no component may exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height above ground at full tilt
- iii. Vegetative Screening
 1. Visible to non-participating residence
 2. Located between required fencing and property line of participating parcel facility sits
 3. Include continuous line of native evergreen foliage

- iv. Lighting –shielded and downcast such that light does not spill onto adjacent parcel
- v. Intra-project Power and Communication Lines –buried underground at a depth in accordance with AIMA
- vi. Fencing - Chain link fence of at least eight (8) feet and not more than twenty-five (25) feet shall enclose and secure facility
- vii. Warnings
 - 1. Reasonable visible warning sign concerning voltage placed at base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations
 - 2. Visible, reflective, colored objects shall be placed on anchor points of guy wires and along guy wires up to fifteen (15) feet from ground
- viii. Setback Requirements - Setback distances measured from nearest edge of any component of facility
 - 1. Occupied community buildings and dwellings on nonparticipating properties – one hundred fifty (150) feet to nearest point on outside wall of structure
 - 2. Boundary lines of participating property – none
 - 3. Boundary lines of nonparticipating property – fifty (50) feet to the nearest point on the property line of nonparticipating property
 - 4. Public Road Rights of Way – fifty (50) feet to the nearest edge of the public road right of way
- ix. Use of Public Road
 - 1. Identify roads to be used
 - 2. Obtain weight and size permits
 - a. Conduct pre-construction baseline survey
 - b. Must get approval from County Engineer prior to granting of special use permit (part of SUP)**
 - c. Enter into Road Use Agreement with County
 - 3. Repairs and improvements to public roads must have prior County approval
- x. Site Assessment
 - 1. Submit Soil and geotechnical boring reports to County Engineer (part of building permit)
 - 2. Submit grading plans for proposed substations for review and comment by County Soil and Water Conservation District (part of building permit)
- xi. Noise Level – Compliant with IPCB regulations
 - 1. Submit competent noise analysis (part of SUP)**
- xii. Agricultural Impact Mitigation
 - 1. Enter Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with IL Dept of Agriculture prior to public hearing (part of SUP)**

- xiii. As-Built Map and Plans – Within 60 days of completion of construction, submit “as-built” maps, site plan and engineering plans signed and stamped by Professional Engineer and licensed surveyor
 - xiv. **Engineer’s Certificate – Completed by structural engineer registered in State of IL and certify specific soils and subsurface conditions can support apparatus (part of SUP)**
 - xv. Annual Report – Submit annually on anniversary date of permit application (operation and maintenance reports)
 - 1. Description of physical repairs, replacements, or modifications
 - 2. Complaints on setbacks, noise, appearance, safety, lighting, and use of public roads
 - 3. Emergency service calls
 - 4. Liability insurance status
 - 5. Summary of service calls
3. Operation
- a. Emergency Responders
 - i. Submit site plan, standard operating procedures and standard operating guidelines to local emergency responders
 - ii. Annual training
 - iii. Develop emergency response plan
4. Submit liability insurance and indemnification after issuance of building permit
- 5. Submit Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan (part of SUP)**
- a. Description of methodology and cost to remove
 - b. Provisions for removal
 - c. Methodology and cost to restore all areas used
 - d. Work Schedule and permit list necessary
 - e. Methodology to identify and manage hazardous materials
 - f. Submission of draft form of Financial Security in form of surety bond
 - g. Confirmation by affidavit that obligation to decommission is included in lease agreement for every parcel included in special use permit application
 - h. Provision allowing County to have legal right to transfer facility material to salvage firms
 - i. Provision allowing County access to site and portion of decommission security required to be held for one year past decommissioning
6. Fee Schedule and Permitting Processes
- a. **Application Fees**
 - i. **\$5,000.00 per megawatt of proposed nameplate capacity, up to a maximum fee of \$100,000.00 (certified check and part of SUP)**
 - b. Building Permit Fees

- i. \$5,000.00 per megawatt of nameplate capacity (certified check and part of building permit)

7. Wind and Solar Committee Review

8. Public Hearing (45 days after Wind and Solar Committee Review)