



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)