



Photo by NREL 66341

5 Easy Steps to SolarAPP+ Adoption

The Solar Automated Permit Processing Plus (SolarAPP+) software is an online platform that provides plan review and instantly issues permits for code-compliant residential photovoltaic (PV) systems.

SolarAPP+ is available to authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) at no cost to use for plan review, approval, and fee payments.

Here's how your jurisdiction can get started.

Step 1—Learn More About SolarAPP+

- Attend an online SolarAPP+ software demonstration.
 - Find the [next live demonstration](#).
 - Or [watch a recording](#).
- Read SolarAPP+ [frequently asked questions](#).
- Review technical documents, such as [eligibility checklists](#) and [sample approval documents](#).
- Contact the SolarAPP+ team with additional questions or to express your interest in adopting the tool: team@solar-app.org.

Step 2—Register Your Jurisdiction

SolarAPP+ registration is designed to be easy, flexible, and self-serve.

- Start the [registration process](#). (There is no commitment.)
- Assign someone on your staff to manage registration and onboarding of your AHJ.
 - You may need approvals from a variety of decision makers in your jurisdiction.
- If you need assistance with the registration process, sign up for the SolarAPP+ [Onboarding Office Hours](#), where a SolarAPP+ team member can assist you, or watch [this video on how to register](#).
- Collect key information about your jurisdiction, including details on your current permitting process.
 - Tell us what software your jurisdiction uses.
 - We'll help you explore which integration method will work best for your unique circumstances—integrating SolarAPP+ with your existing online permitting software (e.g., Accela, EnerGov), or setting up SolarAPP+ as a stand-alone online permitting system.
- Read and agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).
- If needed, send a message to a SolarAPP+ team member: help.solar-app.org/#contact.

Step 3—Configure Your Permitting System

Assemble the people needed from your IT and finance teams, depending on your selected integration method (i.e., integrated or stand-alone). For either method, start working through the onboarding web form. This form can be accessed after registering for an account.

Integrated Method

SolarAPP+ will do the automated plan review and charge the contractor a fee, but your existing software will handle the payment and issue the permit. This method requires more input from your IT team. SolarAPP+ already provides instructions on how to incorporate SolarAPP+ into a range of permitting software, such as [Accela](#), [EnerGov](#), or [E-TRAKIT](#).

Stand-Alone Method

SolarAPP+ will do everything, including processing the payment and issuing the permit. This method requires more input from your finance team to set up a Stripe account to collect payment.

Step 4—Pilot SolarAPP+

This step is optional but recommended. It lets you test a few applications prior to a full launch. You'll need to select some local installers to participate in the pilot and assign someone to manage your SolarAPP+ pilot. Then, together with the SolarAPP+ team, you will:

- Establish regular check-ins via calls or email updates.
- Provide information about how installers should submit revisions and how to schedule inspections.
- Train inspectors with [Interstate Renewable Energy Council \(IREC\) trainings](#) specific to SolarAPP+.
- Determine when your jurisdiction is ready to launch SolarAPP+ to all installers in your area.

Step 5—Launch SolarAPP+

Congratulations on adopting SolarAPP+! Now it's time to spread the word to local solar contractors that SolarAPP+ is available in your community.

Consider any or all of these:

- Develop and distribute a [press release](#).
- Create a SolarAPP+ landing page on your jurisdiction's website—many examples exist from [AHJs](#) that have already adopted SolarAPP+.
- Notify installers that they'll need to complete a short and easy [SolarAPP+ training](#) session before they can start using the platform.
- Create a SolarAPP+ guide for installers. Examples from AHJs that have already adopted SolarAPP+ exist on the [SolarAPP+ FAQ page](#), "[Where is SolarAPP+ available?](#)"

Remember to check back with NREL and the SolarAPP+ team to evaluate additional features your jurisdiction may want to adopt—like energy storage permitting and more!

What Communities Are Saying About SolarAPP+

"We want to make sure that we are not just doing [solar permitting] quickly but doing it well. That is one of the reasons SolarAPP+ was so attractive ... and we hope it gets more solar on roofs."

—Phoenix (AZ) Mayor Kate Gallego

"SolarAPP+ improves the effectiveness of local government staff. But, more importantly, this efficiency translates into better services for residents, area businesses, and local industries."

—Clarence Anthony, CEO, National League of Cities