



Photo by NREL 22167

# Benefits of the SolarAPP+ Online Permitting Software

*Your jurisdiction can instantly issue permits for code-compliant, residential solar systems*

**Solar permitting can be a major bottleneck for residential solar installations. The Solar Automated Permit Processing Plus (SolarAPP+) software eases the permitting process and cuts red tape—making it easier for authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) across the United States to issue permits for residential photovoltaic (PV) systems and solar-plus-storage systems.**

**SolarAPP+ is available to AHJs at no cost.**

## What SolarAPP+ Can Do for Your Jurisdiction

- Automate your solar permitting review process
- Deliver instant permits to code-compliant residential PV systems
- Save plan review time for your permitting staff, allowing them to focus on more complex applications
- Cut red tape that creates bottlenecks for staff, installers, and homeowners

- Make solar energy more accessible to homeowners in your community
- Help accelerate solar adoption nationwide.

## How SolarAPP+ Improves Your Permitting Process

Most residential solar systems—about 70% to 80% of permits submitted—are simple and standardized, but the sheer volume of applications can be time-consuming and resource-intensive for your permitting department.

SolarAPP+ helps make permit department workloads manageable and improves customer service by:

- Automatically checking residential solar and storage system designs for safety and code compliance
- Using standardized compliance checks to catch typos and other errors—returning corrections to the applicant instantly
- Approving permits for code-compliant PV systems instantly, while noncompliant systems go through a typical permitting review
- Producing an inspection checklist that replicates the application details for inspectors to use and confirm

- Allowing the permitting department to collect the same permit fees
- Keeping up to date with relevant codes and certifications as new editions and technologies are adopted—reducing the need to constantly retrain staff on new codes.

## How SolarAPP+ Works

Piloting and adopting SolarAPP+ is easy. Installers pay a small administrative fee per project to support SolarAPP+ updates and long-term availability. Onboarding is supported by NREL and Underwriter Laboratories (UL)—and is customized to suit your jurisdiction’s unique needs. The software will always be offered to AHJs at no cost to use for plan review, approval, and fee payments.

You can use SolarAPP+ as a stand-alone product or integrate it with existing software and inspection platforms. Today, SolarAPP+ can permit solar and solar-and-storage systems. In the future, SolarAPP+ will incorporate other technologies, such as electric vehicle charging equipment and other smart home technologies.

## SolarAPP+’s Proven Performance

In 2021—SolarAPP+’s first year of operation—NREL released the [SolarAPP+ Performance Review](#), which summarized the impact of SolarAPP+. Researchers found:

- Participating AHJs saved more than 3,000 hours of jurisdiction staff time—roughly the equivalent of adding 1.5 full-time employees to their staffs.
- Median permit review time was 0 days—because, with SolarAPP+, approval is instantaneous for code-compliant systems.
- SolarAPP+ reduced permitting delays by more than 50,000 days—collectively, across all AHJs that adopted the platform.
- There was no impact on the inspections required by AHJs using SolarAPP+.

When rooftop PV installation hurdles are simplified, homeowners are happier and growth compounds—and local governments benefit from greater resilience, flexibility, and economic development.

## How To Get Started With SolarAPP+

To learn more and start piloting SolarAPP+ in your jurisdiction, view our [5 Steps to SolarAPP+ Adoption](#) fact sheet or register at [solarapp.nrel.gov/register](https://solarapp.nrel.gov/register).

## List of AHJs Using SolarAPP+

At the end of 2022, more than 27 communities across 11 states were using SolarAPP+. See the latest information on how widely SolarAPP+ has been adopted, including which states and communities are using the platform, at: [https://solarapp.nrel.gov/adoption\\_at\\_a\\_glance](https://solarapp.nrel.gov/adoption_at_a_glance).

- Arizona—5 AHJs
- California—24 AHJs
- Colorado—1 AHJ
- Connecticut—1 AHJ
- Florida—1 AHJ
- Illinois—2 AHJs
- Iowa—1 AHJ
- Michigan—1 AHJ
- Texas—3 AHJs
- Virginia—2 AHJs
- Wisconsin—1 AHJ

### What Communities Are Saying About SolarAPP+

“The permitting process was taking four weeks. Now, with SolarAPP+, we give a permit the same day.”

—Tucson (AZ) Mayor Regina Romero

“[With SolarAPP+], we’re now able to move qualifying solar permits directly to field inspections, which is giving our staff much needed time to work on other, more complex projects.”

—Geoff Simmons, Chief Building Official, Pleasant Hill (CA)