



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

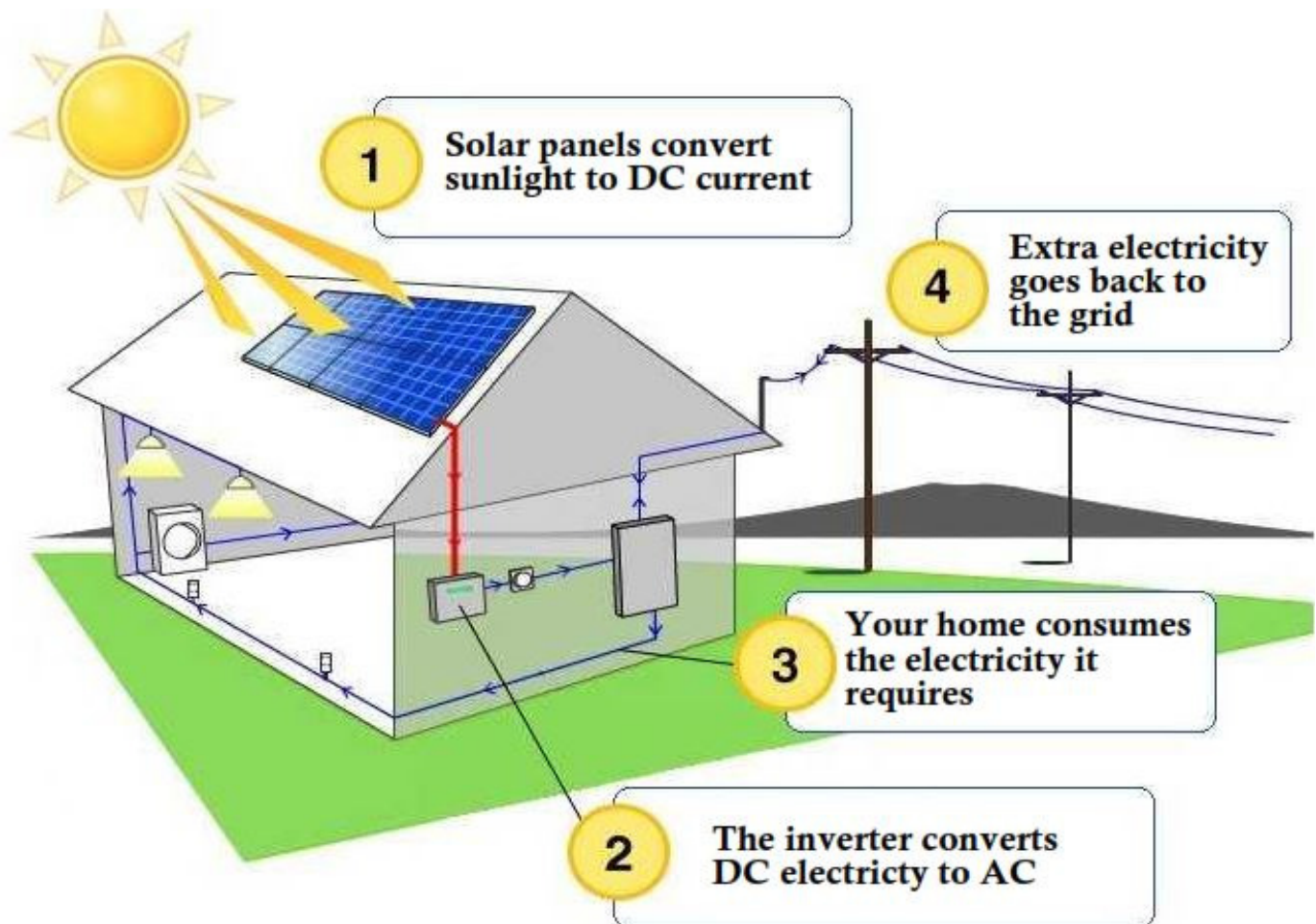
Jaelynn Workman - Administrator

HELPFUL BUILDING GUIDELINES

Photovoltaic Solar Energy System

1. The installation shall be per manufacture's specifications or a design professionals specification.
2. Roof-mounted panels and modules , the roof shall be constructed to support the loads imposed by such modules as confirmed by design professional when installed over habitable space. When mounted above the roof coverings, the photovoltaic panels and modules supporting structures shall be of a noncombustible material or fire-retardant treated wood equivalent.

****Per NEC 690.4 (C) The equipment and system shall be installed only by a qualified individual****



Inspections, Permitting Requirements and Fees

1. All required documents and applications (see page 3) must be completed in their entirety and submitted for review prior to permit issuance.
2. Fees will include; Solar permit fee, based on the total DC Kw and the electrical permit fee (see page 3).
3. A final inspection will be conducted

DISCLAIMER: This handout has been created by Tazewell County Community Development to assist with code compliance under the 2018 International Residential Code and is not intended to cover all circumstances. For further questions please check with the Department.

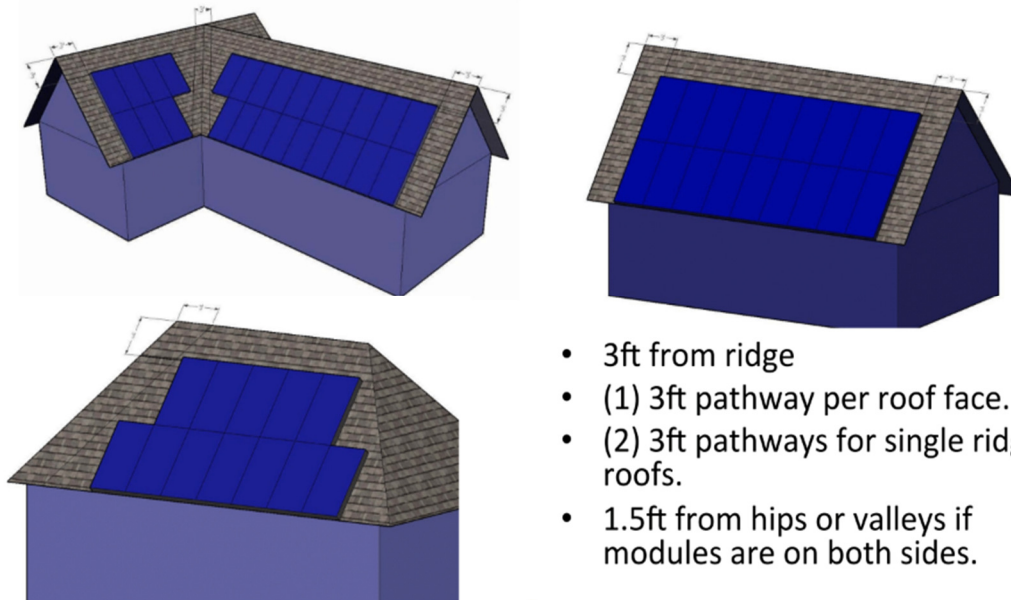


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Photovoltaic Solar Energy System - Roof Access



- 3ft from ridge
- (1) 3ft pathway per roof face.
- (2) 3ft pathways for single ridge roofs.
- 1.5ft from hips or valleys if modules are on both sides.

R324.6 **Roof access and pathways.** Roof access, pathways, and setback requirements shall be provided in accordance with Sections R324.6.1 through R324.6.2.1. Access and minimum spacing shall be required to provide emergency access to the roof to provide pathways to specific areas of the roof, to provide for smoke ventilation opportunity areas, and to provide emergency egress from the roof.

Exceptions:

1. Detached, non-habitable structures, including but not limited to detached garages, parking shade structures, carports, solar trellises, and similar structures, shall **not** be required to provide roof access.
2. Roof access, pathways, and setbacks need not be provided where the fire code official has determined that rooftop operations will not be employed.
3. These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of 2: 12) or less.

R324.6.1 **Pathways.** Not less than **two minimum 36-inch wide pathways on separate roof planes**, from lowest roof edge to ridge, shall be provided on all buildings. At least **one pathway shall be provided on the street or driveway side** of the roof. For each roof plane with a photovoltaic array, a minimum 36-inch-wide pathway from the lowest roof edge to ridge shall be provided on the **same roof plane as the photovoltaic array**, on an **adjacent roof plane**, or **straddling the same and adjacent roof planes**. Pathways shall be over areas capable of supporting fire fighters accessing the roof. Pathways shall be located in areas with minimal obstructions such as vent pipes, conduit, or mechanical equipment.

R324.6.2 **Set back at ridge.** For photovoltaic arrays occupying **not more than 33 percent** of the plan view total roof area, **not less than an 18-inch clear set back is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge**. For photovoltaic arrays occupying **more than 33 percent** of the plan view total roof area, **not less than a 36-inch clear set back is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge**.

R324.6.2.1 **Alternative set back at ridge.** Where an automatic sprinkler system is installed within the dwelling in accordance with NFPA 13D setbacks at ridges shall conform to one of the following:

1. For photovoltaic arrays occupying not more than 66 percent of the plan view total roof area, not less than an 18 inch clear setback is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.
2. For photovoltaic arrays occupying more than 66 percent of the plan view total roof area, not less than a 36-inch clear setback is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.