



## Planning & Development Services

Boise City Hall, 2nd Floor  
150 N. Capitol Boulevard  
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Boise, Idaho 83701-0500

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Website: [www.cityofboise.org/pds](http://www.cityofboise.org/pds)

### Planning & Development Services Building Division Policy

**Title:** Solar Photovoltaic Systems Building Permit Fees Policy

**Code Name:** *International Building Code*  
*International Residential Code*

**Code Sections:** 109.2 Schedule of Permit Fees (as amended)  
R108.2 Schedule of Permit Fees (as amended)

**Scope of Policy:** To clarify how residential and commercial solar photovoltaic systems building permit fees are to be calculated utilizing the schedule of permit fees established in the Boise City Building Code ordinance.

**Policy:** Unless otherwise approved by the building official, building permit fees for residential and commercial solar photovoltaic systems shall be calculated utilizing the following procedures:

#### **Residential Solar Photovoltaic Systems**

Building permit fees for residential solar photovoltaic systems shall be calculated as follows:

1. Utilize Table No. 1-A Building Permit Fee Schedule in the Boise City Building Code ordinance.
2. Under “Other Inspections and Fees” of Table No. 1-A, use the inspection and plan review hourly rate of \$46.31 per hour.
3. Establish a flat rate permit fee based on a total of 3.5 hours of plan review and inspection time to cover costs (3.5 hours x \$46.31/hour = **\$162.09**).

#### **Commercial Solar Photovoltaic Systems**

Building permit fees for commercial solar photovoltaic systems shall be calculated as follows:

1. Request or reference the total project valuation amount provided by the applicant.
2. For purposes of calculating fees, the total project valuation shall be reduced to half the amount that is specified by the applicant.
3. Utilize Table No. 1-A Building Permit Fee Schedule in the Boise City Building Code ordinance.
4. Calculate building permit fees and plan review fees as is typically done using Table No. 1-A Building Permit Fee Schedule.

**Note:** Electrical permits are obtained separately with a separate permit fee established under the Boise City Electrical Fee Schedule.

**Intent:** This policy establishes procedures to calculate building permit fees for solar photovoltaic system installations. The valuation for solar photovoltaic systems is typically high due to actual equipment costs. This high valuation then artificially inflates building permit fees to an amount that is higher than reasonable to cover the actual cost of service for plan review and inspection. It is the desire of Boise City to keep fees reasonable for these sustainable product installations while still covering costs to conduct plan review and inspections.

Residential solar photovoltaic systems are smaller than commercial systems and take less time to plan review and inspect. On average, these systems take a total of 3.5 hours of plan review and inspection time. Thus, calculating the permit fee using the plan review and inspection hourly rate of \$46.31 is reasonable. This results in a flat rate of \$162.09 for each residential solar photovoltaic system permit.

Commercial solar photovoltaic systems are larger and do take more time to plan review and inspect. However, calculating permit fees using the typical method from the applicant provided valuation still inflates building permit fees (due to actual equipment costs) when compared to the services provided. The building official or designee can establish valuation per the building code and it is reasonable to reduce the applicant valuation to half the amount for the purposes of calculating fees. Building permit fees can then be calculated from this reduced valuation utilizing Table No. 1-A Building Permit Fee Schedule in the Boise City Building Code ordinance. This adequately covers costs of service for plan review and inspection of these systems.

Jason Blais  
**Building Official**

6/2/2016  
**Effective Date**



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Jason Blais  
Building Official

6/2/16  
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Effective Date

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Date Retired