

DCD to transition to fully electronic submittal process

The Lee County Department of Community Development (DCD) is transitioning to a fully electronic submittal process beginning April 19 for building permit, zoning, planning and development review applications.

Contractors, design professionals and agents will be required to submit applications and supporting documents through the DCD Public Portal, which is called eConnect. Any paper submittals received before April 19 will remain a paper process through issuance and/or approval.

Customers currently have two options for submitting permit applications:

- Online
- Paper drop-off, in which a customer leaves the paper application and supporting documents at the front information counter or designated table in the lobby for intake staff to process later.

As DCD transitions to a fully electronic process on April 19, paper drop-offs will no longer be accepted unless the customer qualifies for an exception, including:

- Property owners who qualify as “owner-builders” may submit building permit applications in-person.
- Property owners without a professional agent may submit zoning, planning and development review applications in-person.
- Submission of documents required by state statute, Lee County or other agencies to be provided as original signed hard copies are exempt from electronic submittal; for example, bond riders, bond reductions, conservation easements, plat recording documents and easement agreements. Application submittal requirements will indicate which documents must be provided as hard copies. Anyone who is unsure may contact DCD Planners or Reviewers at 239-533-8585.

Training:

To ease the transition, DCD will offer eConnect training this month. This free training will cover the eConnect Public Portal and how to register for an account, apply for and track permits and petitions, and how to upload documents to resolve conditions. The training will be offered online throughout March and April. Dates and times will be published on the [E-Permitting Webpage](#) and in future announcements.

Resources:

To learn about the online process at Lee County DCD, please visit www.leegov.com/dcd/eServ
For additional information email econnect@leegov.com or call 239-533-8343.