



## Building and Permitting Services

1500 Monroe St. Fort Myers, FL 33901 | 239-533-8329 | [connect@leegov.com](mailto:connect@leegov.com)

# Solar-Photovoltaic System and Heaters Application and Permitting Guide

This guide is intended to help you submit the required application and documents to receive a Lee County building permit.

The guide includes these sections:

1. [Permit Description](#)
2. [Complete your general permit application](#)
3. [Attach the required and conditional documents to your application package](#)
4. [Understand the review process and track your application](#)
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## 1. Permit Description

A Solar/Photovoltaic permit is required to add or modify any solar pool heater, solar hot water heater, rooftop HVAC collector, or any photovoltaic power system for any residential or commercial property.

Solar/Photovoltaic projects may require work activities which may require additional permits; therefore, refer to the applicable codes, which may include but are not limited to:

- [Florida Building Code](#) 8th Edition (2023)
- [Lee County Land Development Code](#) Chapter 6
- National Electric Code (NFPA 70) (2020)

**Need Help?** Contact us @ [PODPlanREV@leegov.com](mailto:PODPlanREV@leegov.com) with your detailed questions.

## 2. Complete the General Permit Application

*A complete application package consists of the application (paper or online) and all required supporting documents.*

All applicants are encouraged to use Lee County's eConnect online permitting system to apply for permits. **CONTRACTORS ARE REQUIRED TO USE ECONNECT.**

### A. Paper Application Package

**Paper applications can only be submitted by Owner-Builders.** Complete the [paper application](#) and attach all of the required and conditional documents described in this guide, including the [Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement](#). **INCLUDE THREE COLLATED SETS OF PLANS** for paper submissions.

A paper application package must be submitted in person to the Building Department. The office is located at the Lee County Public Works Building, first floor, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

**B. eConnect Application Package (Electronic Submission)**

**Register for eConnect**

To apply for a Lee County permit online, you must first register at [eConnect](#).  
 Instructions for **New Users: Register for an Account** are included on the eConnect login page.

Review the [eConnect Users Guide](#) for more details about using eConnect.  
 Also see **eConnect Instructions** highlighted throughout this guide.

**eConnect Steps**

Once you have logged into [eConnect](#), select the *Permitting* menu to *Create an Application*. Review the general disclaimer terms and select the checkbox to *Continue Application*.

**1. Select a Record Type**

On the *Select a Record Type* screen, select **Trades >> Solar**. Or search on the term *Solar*. Select the radio button and *Continue Application*.

**2. Provide the Property Information** (\* indicates required fields) to identify the property for which the permit will be used. Lookup the property information using one of the options below, then click *Search*:

- Address (using the required fields Street No., Street Name); or
- Parcel (using Parcel Number).

**eConnect Instructions:** If multiple addresses are found, they will be displayed in the *Address Search Result List*. Use the radio button to select the desired record, then click *Select*.

Once search results are displayed, the other fields on the screen will automatically populate. Review information for accuracy and *Continue Application*.

**3. Applicant and Contacts**

If a licensed contractor is providing the service for this permit, they must have either a State-issued license registered with Lee County or have a Lee County-issued certificate of competency. Both require a current Certificate of Insurance for liability and workers' compensation AND/OR a current workers' compensation exemption status with the State of Florida. Verify Lee County contractor registration at [Contractor Search](#) or contact Contractor Licensing at [ContractorLicensing@leegov.com](mailto:ContractorLicensing@leegov.com) or 239-533-8895.

Note: If the applicant is an owner-builder and not a licensed contractor, an [Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement](#) must be attached to the application.

To associate the Applicant and Contact(s) with the permit application, use either: *Select from Account* or *Add New*.

Note: The Applicant listed in eConnect will receive all notifications from the County related to their application.

**4. Project Detail Fields**

Complete all applicable fields. An explanation of certain fields has been provided below for your reference.

- **Project Name:** What is the name of the project?
  - [For Commercial Projects](#) - input the Project's Business Name (associated with the Business License) as the Project Name

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- **For Residential Projects** - input the name of the community/subdivision or city as the Project Name
- **Brief Description of Proposed Work:** Provide enough detail for the reviewer to understand the permit-related details of the project and *Continue Application*.
- **Type of Permit:** Select the solar equipment type.  
(Options: *Photovoltaic, System Pool & Water Heater, Pool Heater, Rooftop HVAC Collector, and Water Heater*)
- **Commercial/Residential:** Select the permit category  
(Options: *Commercial or Residential*)
- **Private Provider Plan Review:** Is the plan being reviewed by a private provider? If yes, the Private Provider Compliance Affidavit and Notice to Building Officials of the Use Private Provider form must be submitted with this application. [Notice to Private Providers](#)  
(Options: *Yes or No*).
- **Private Provider Inspections:** Will the project be inspected by a private provider?  

Note: Private Provider Inspections are required if electing to use Private Provider Review services.

  
(Options: *Yes or No*).
- **KW:** According to the specification, what is the kilowatt capacity of the solar system?
- **Amps:** According to the specification, what is the ampere output of the solar system?
- **Roof/Ground Mounted:** How is the system mounted?  
(Options: *Ground-Mounted or Roof-Mounted*)
- **Roof Affidavit:** Do you have a roof affidavit?  
(Options: *Yes or No*)
- **Directions:** Provide directions to the job site being permitted.

### 5. Attachments/Documents

- For Electronic Submittals: In the *Attachments* window, *Add* the required and conditional documents.\*
- For Paper Submittals: Provide the completed application, the Owner Builder Disclosure Statement and any other required and conditional documents.\*  
(Use list of documents in Section 3.)

## 3. Attach Required and Conditional Documents

*Notice: Lee County may request additional supporting documentation to process the permit. Additional restrictions applicable to this property may be found in public records, and there may be additional permits required from other governmental entities such as water management districts, state or federal agencies.*

### Required Documents

#### 1. Site Plan / Plot Plan

- Show the location of solar system components;
- Show the location of other mechanical equipment on the structure, particularly the point of interconnection with electrical or water service and the location of electrical or water service equipment.

#### 2. Electrical Diagram

Showing:

- Photovoltaic array configuration;

- Wiring methods;
- Overcurrent protection;
- Inverter;
- Disconnects;
- Required signage; and
- AC connection to building.

**3. Manufacturers' Specifications**

Provide the manufacturer specification sheets for all system components.

**4. Wind Load Calculations Documentation (Photovoltaic Systems Only)**

Provide signed and sealed documentation from a Florida state registered design professional verifying that the proposed system will meet the calculated wind load. Documentation must include the wind uplift zone and the wind uplift pressure for that zone of the roof where the solar system will be installed .

Wind Load Standards:

- Ground-mounted systems must comply with **ASCE 7 1609.1 Applications**.
- Rooftop-mounted systems must comply with **ASCE 7 1510.7.1 Wind resistance**.

**5. Weight Limit Documentation**

Provide documentation verifying that the system will have a distributed weight of less than 5 pounds per square foot and less than 45 pounds per attachment point to roof.

**6. Construction Drawings**

Show the system placement (e.g. on the Roof Plan).

**Conditional Required Documents**

**7. No Rise Certificate**

If work is being done within a regulatory Floodway and involves land disturbing activity (e.g. moving dirt), including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development, an analysis is required showing that the proposed work will not increase the base flood elevation. The analysis (known as a No-Rise or No-Impact Certification) is to be submitted, reviewed, and subsequently approved by the Floodplain Administrator. This analysis must be signed and sealed by a Florida licensed engineer and is to be submitted with the Site Plan. Please review this website for more information:

<https://www.leegov.com/dcd/flood/firm/zones/regulatoryfloodway/>

To determine if the parcel for your worksite is in a Floodway, go to the LeeSpinS website (<https://leegis.leegov.com/LeeSpinS/>); search by STRAP #, Folio ID, Owner, or Address – results returned with icons across the bottom; click on the Flood Info icon; then click on Flood Info to retrieve a report; in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column of the FIRM Floodway row you will see either 'FLOODWAY', 'OUTSIDE FLOODWAY', or the name of a Municipality (such as 'City of Fort Myers').

FLOODWAY means that your parcel is in a Floodway; OUTSIDE FLOODWAY means that your parcel is not in a Floodway; and the municipality name means that you will need to contact that municipality to determine if your worksite is in a Floodway. You may also see a percentage (%) next to FLOODWAY or OUTSIDE FLOODWAY. These percentage of the parcel that is in, or out of, the Floodway.



Select this icon

Lee County contact information: (239) 533-8585

Municipality contact information:

- City of Bonita Springs (239) 444-6150
- City of Cape Coral (239) 574-0553
- City of Fort Myers (239) 321-7925
- City of Sanibel (239) 472-3700
- Village of Estero (239) 221-5036
- Town of Fort Myers Beach (239) 765-0202

**8. Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement**

If the installer is not using a licensed contractor and will act as an owner-builder, submit an [Owner-Builder Disclosure Statement](#).

**9. Proof of Ownership**

If the ownership information on the permit application does not match the property owner information on the Lee County Property Appraiser's website (<http://www.leepa.org>), submit proof of ownership, for example, a recorded Warranty Deed.

**10. Solar Roof Truss Affidavit Form** (Required for Solar Pool Heaters).

If the project includes a roof-mounted system to produce solar heat for a pool, submit a [Solar Roof Truss Affidavit Form](#)

**11. Historical Architectural Review.**

If the project is within a Historic District or is a Designated Historic Property, follow the regulations for [Designated Historic Districts](#) on the Lee County website. Please contact [DCDHistoric@leegov.com](mailto:DCDHistoric@leegov.com) if you have questions.

**12. Notice of Commencement**

If project value is greater than \$5,000, submit the completed [Notice of Commencement](#) to the Lee County Clerk of Court to provide notice that improvement will be made to a real property. **Permit cannot be issued until this notice is recorded with the Lee County Clerk of Court. Tip:** Complete this as soon as possible; the lack of a Notice of Commencement submission commonly holds up issuance of the permit.

## 4. Understand the Review Process and Track Your Application

### Completeness Check

When the application package is first received, it is reviewed for completeness to determine that the general application is complete and that all required documents, signatures, and seals are attached. If the package is incomplete, the applicant must provide missing information before the application package can be forwarded for review (or in some cases before the permit will be issued).

### Application Review

Photovoltaic Systems Only: Complete applications are forwarded to multiple functional areas for

review.

- [eConnect applications](#) can be reviewed simultaneously by the required reviewers.
- [Paper applications](#) are reviewed by one person at a time and must be physically handed off among the required reviewers.

Applicants can use [eConnect](#) at any time to track the progress of the application record through the process, for both Electronic and Paper submittals.

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search* or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application to see the Records Status, Conditions and Record Details.

### Notice of Rejection

If applicable, the final reviewer consolidates all comments and an email notice is sent to the applicant.

**Rejection Notice:** A rejection notice will be sent to the applicant with specific points of failure that must be corrected and resubmitted for approval. Applicants have 30 days to address the points of failure and to resubmit information and documentation. A cover letter addressing the points of failure is required with the resubmittal.

- **Resubmitting an Application via eConnect:** To update the required information and to ensure correct versioning in eConnect, **attachments that are resubmitted should have the same file name as the original.**
- **Resubmitting a Paper Application:** Bring updated documentation to the first floor of the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

### Notice of Approval

**File Verification - Notification:** Staff completes a final document review to determine any outstanding documents and invoice all applicable fees. The “Ready Sheet” outlining outstanding fees and required documents is emailed to the applicant.

## 5. Receive Your Permit

Applicants who applied electronically may access their permit(s) and approved plans from [eConnect](#).

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search* or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application, and select *Attachments*. All documents will be listed. Choose the *Actions* drop-down to review document details. Click on the document name to open or save. Note: The approved plans will be listed as "Final Documents" under Type.

For Paper Applications: The permit and approved plans are issued in person at the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

Note: Owner-Builders are required by Florida Statute to **personally appear** at the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901 to sign for the building permit regardless of how it was submitted.

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Issued permits must pass at least one inspection within 180 days from issuance or the permit will expire.

### 6. Pay Your Fee(s)

All payments must be received prior to scheduling an inspection.

#### Payment Options:

- Make payments through [eConnect](#)
- Deliver the payment in person to the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901
- Make a credit card payment by phone, 239-533-8997, option \*.

**Cash is not accepted;** please pay by credit/debit card, check, eCheck, or money order.

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search*, or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application, select the menu option for *Payments >> Fees*, then click *Pay Fees* button, review fees, select *Continue Application*, enter your payment information and click *Submit Payment*.

### 7. Request Inspection(s)

Reference the issued permit for a list of the required inspections.

When ready, applicants may request inspections through [eConnect](#), as well as by calling the [Automated Inspection System](#), 239-533-8997.

The Permit, Approved Plans and Manufacturers' Specifications are required to be onsite during the inspection.

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search*, or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application, select *Inspections* then select the *Schedule or Request an Inspection* button, select the inspection(s) from the list and *Continue*. Select the date and verify the contact and location information, then click *Finish*.

#### Common Inspections Include:

##### Photovoltaic system (Roof-Mounted)

207 Solar Final  
305 Electrical Final

##### Photovoltaic System (Ground-Mounted)

207 Solar Final  
305 Electrical Final  
101 Foundation/Footing

##### All other Non-Photovoltaic

207 Solar Final

## 8. Obtain the Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Occupancy

Once all inspections have passed, and all outstanding conditional documents and fees have been satisfied, the Certificate of Compliance is issued and the permit is closed. A notification email is sent to the applicant. Applicants may obtain certificate information through [eConnect](#).

**eConnect Instructions:** Search for your permit application using *My Records*, the *Global Search* or the *Search Applications* under the *Permitting* menu. Click on the record number for your permit application. Select *Reports* at the top of the screen, select *Certificate* from the list and a new window will display the document; options to save or print will be displayed.