



## INSTALLING ROOFTOP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN DESIGNATED DISTRICTS / BUILDINGS

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide an overview of key considerations and requirements for installing rooftop solar energy systems in City of Atlanta designated districts and buildings. These guidelines are meant to balance access to solar energy while protecting areas, buildings, and sites of significance to the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and the United States.

### KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS / REQUIREMENTS\*

#### solar modules

- on secondary and/or non-character-defining roof surfaces that are the least visible from a public right-of-way, especially front the front;
- in parallel to roof surfaces, including on flat roof surfaces;
- without removing historic or character-defining materials; and

#### install mechanical equipment

- on non-primary, non-character-defining façade that are invisible from a public right-of-way, especially a primary view; and

\*For additional information, contact the Preservation Planner.

### CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

**Applicability:** The City of Atlanta has many locally-designated historic buildings, sites and districts ([City of Atlanta Historic Buildings, Sites, and Districts](#)). The guidelines apply to all designated buildings, sites, and districts, and will apply to any future designated districts and buildings. All permits to install solar energy systems are required to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the City of Atlanta Urban Design Commission or Commission Staff before other permits can be issued. To determine if your property is a designated building or in designated district, see "[City of Atlanta's Zoning Map](#)" on the City of Atlanta's GIS website, or contact the Office of Design staff member at the contact information below.

**Process:** See "[Application for Certificate of Appropriateness](#)" for detailed instructions and the application form. Applications can also be obtained at our offices or requested at the phone and fax at numbers listed on this sheet.

### EXPRESS SOLAR PERMIT

Do not apply for other permits before obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness. After obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness, the recipient must also receive permit application approvals from the Department of City Planning. For rooftop residential and commercial systems under 25 KW, and for detailed application instructions, see "[Express Permits for Residential and Small Commercial Rooftop Solar Arrays](#)." Other requirements may apply.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Assistant Director

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