Hello Chief Building Official / AHJ leader,

I hope you and your team are healthy. Thank you for your service during this nationwide crisis. We appreciate all the work that you do for the solar and storage industry and for society as we fight through this human crisis and this difficult time in our nation’s history.

As a result of COVID-19, the solar and storage industry is seeing permitting authorities around the country move application processing to emailor on-line as a way to allow remote work and to reorder permitting steps to allow PV systems to continue being installed.

For example, the City of Chicago, IL, the City of Prescott, AZ, the City of Sacramento, CA and many, many more local governments have already taken similar steps to streamline permitting.

Please see our [resource page](https://www.seia.org/research-resources/permitting-options-solar-installations-covid19) for more information on project permitting during this crisis.

To enable remote building permit approvals here are three steps to take:

**1. Move applications to email (or on-line):** Set up an email to receive permit applications.

* Allow payment online or over the phone.
* If online payment isn’t possible, then accept payment by mail or dropbox AND/OR allow fee pre-payment based on the volume expectations, which can also help with your headcount planning.
* If you don’t currently have an online payment system another department like your property tax collection team might or we can help you find a solution!
* Nationally available, solar-specific on-line solutions are coming! Learn about NREL’s [SolarAPP](https://solarapp.nrel.gov/) development

**2. Grant conditional building/electrical permit:**

* By filing the application and paying the fee, a solar installer may build the system as long as it complies with all applicable rules and regulations.

**3. Conduct plan checks and inspections post-install**

Benefits of this approach:

* Same safety and design protocols followed before the system is activated just in a different order and without emphasis on applications that are not actually installed.
* Installers take risk that they are out of compliance, which would be flagged by inspectors.
* Permitting authorities can keep working by email and maintain vital fee revenue.
* Solar workers can continue working and installing systems.

Thank you for your time!

If you need any more information, contact us at: permitting@seia.org