SolarAPP+

SolarAPP+ for Minnesota | FAQs

Your jurisdiction can instantly issue permits for code-compliant, residential solar systems

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is providing support for jurisdictions interested in adopting Solar Automated Permit Processing Plus (SolarAPP+) — a free, online automated permitting platform for local governments that standardizes and automates the residential solar permitting process to ensure code compliance and promote safety.

What is SolarAPP+?

SolarAPP+ is an online web portal that automates the plan review and process for issuing permits to qualified businesses or individuals to install code-compliant residential photovoltaic (PV) systems with or without energy storage (ST). Based on model building, electrical, and fire codes, SolarAPP automatically performs a compliance check on inputs supplied by the contractor to ensure the proposed system is safe and code compliant. Installation practices, workmanship, and adherence to the approved design are then verified by the AHJ through the inspection process.

How much does it cost to implement SolarAPP+?

SolarAPP+ is free to use for jurisdictions. SolarAPP+ also offers hands-on support for implementing SolarAPP+ for free. A jurisdiction will incur indirect costs such as staff time spent in registration and training - these costs, however, can be covered by SolarAPP+ Permitting Incentive.

How does SolarAPP+ work?

Installers answer standardized questions, and SolarAPP+ verifies 250-300 code compliance datapoints, using equipment lists and code checks. It also verifies the contractor's business licensure and confirms that the project address falls within the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). If the system meets all criteria, the applicant can proceed to payment and permit issuance.

By the Numbers

$0 for Jurisdictions

Live in **~300** Jurisdictions

Across **15** States

85,000+ Permits Processed

29% Reduction in Initial Installation Failure

How long does it take to implement SolarAPP+?

Jurisdictions can implement SolarAPP+ in 1-3 weeks with consistent engagement.

Can we keep our current permit systems?

Yes. SolarAPP+ works alongside existing systems and workflows, offering both standalone and GovTech-compatible options.

What model building code years does SolarAPP+ support?

SolarAPP+ supports 2017, 2020, and 2023 NEC, 2018 and 2021 I-Codes, and California Title 24. It adapts to local code amendments and future updates, ensuring compatibility with your jurisdiction's requirements. Support for the 2024 I-Codes will be available by January 1, 2026. Jurisdictions that have not yet adopted these code editions can still permit projects under SolarAPP+ using the supported model codes. See our FAQs for more details.

How much is the SolarAPP+ incentive?

Local governments may receive between **$5,000 and $20,000** for adopting SolarAPP+. The base incentive is determined by population size, and additional bonus amounts are available based on factors like solar permitting history, participation in sustainability programs, and recent permit software integration. Incentives are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For full eligibility details and bonus criteria, visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce incentive page.

Who qualifies for the incentive?

Eligible applicants are Minnesota local governments that issue permits for residential solar or solar-plus-storage systems. To qualify, jurisdictions must launch SolarAPP+, make it available on their permitting website, and submit their application **within 12 months** of going live. Applications may be submitted by the jurisdiction or on its behalf and must include all required documents. Full eligibility details can be found here.

Is SolarAPP+ another new system my staff will have to learn?

No. SolarAPP+ operates separately. Your jurisdiction simply posts a link to the SolarAPP+ portal and accepts completed permits submitted through it. Staff continue using your existing systems for permit tracking and inspection scheduling.

Are installers required to use SolarAPP+ for all projects?

No. SolarAPP+ is optional. It's designed for the most common, straightforward residential solar projects. Installers can still choose to submit through your regular permitting process if they prefer.

Where can I apply for the incentive?

Once they have adopted SolarAPP+, applicants can apply here.

Get Started With SolarAPP+

Book a call with the SolarAPP team to learn more.

❝ The process the SolarAPP+ gives us on the inspection sheet is quite intensive and it's great. Our inspectors love it and all the contractors that are using it, are doing better inspections. They are passing a lot better. They are making sure that everything is grounded like it's supposed to be. ❞

— *Kimberly Norman-Rosedam, CBO, Town of Guilford, CT*