

APPENDIX E: COSTS OF PERMITS

Each jurisdiction may have different internal costs structures and approaches to working with solar PV systems. The following section is provided as a suggestion in developing the cost structure for a local jurisdiction.

Explanation: Costs for permits are often based on the overall project cost. This works well for many conventional projects because this accurately represents the scale of the project. However, with a PV installation, the equipment costs are much higher than with other projects of similar scope. It is therefore recommended that an alternative permit fee scale be used for PV system installations. The scope of a PV installation is similar to that of installing a retrofitted residential HVAC system. The permitting costs for a PV system should be similar to those for an HVAC system.

Although initial plan review and field inspection costs may be slightly higher for the first few systems, those costs should reduce as the local jurisdiction becomes familiar with the installations. A subdivision of more than 10 units should be considered for an additional fee reduction based on the repetitive nature of the reviews. A suggested fee schedule is as follows:

Small PV system (up to 4 kW): \$75 - \$200

Large PV system (up to 10 kW): \$150 - \$400

For systems of 10-50 kW, consider a permit cost of \$15 - \$40 per kW.

For systems of 50-100 kW, consider a permit cost of \$1,500.

For systems of 100-500 kW, consider a permit cost of \$3,000.

For systems up to 1000 kW, consider a permit cost of \$3,000-\$5,000.

