Do I Need Planning Permission for a Solar Panel?

April 2007

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is keen to promote energy efficiency throughout the Council. However it also has a duty to protect the quality of the existing built and natural environments, particularly with respect to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. In some cases, therefore the need to preserve the local environment will outweigh the need to encourage residents to use solar power. Accordingly, a balance needs to be struck between energy efficiency and environmental considerations.

Where planning permission is required, the Council will want to ensure that solar panel(s) are sited where they do minimal harm to the appearance of the property and to the area. If you can site the solar panel at the rear or side of the property, this may be the best approach and may not need planning permission. The Council may refuse applications for solar panels that are attached to the front elevations of houses or are prominently sited.

In order to provide you with an informal opinion as to whether planning permission is required please fully complete and return the form overleaf.

On receipt of the completed form and following an assessment based solely on the information provided, a letter of reply will be sent giving an informal opinion as to whether a planning application is required. We aim to reply within 20 working days of receipt of all the necessary details.

Alternatively a formal opinion may be obtained by making an application in accordance with Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and forms for this may be obtained from the Planning and Transportation Division at the above address or by telephoning (01446) 704656 or 704657, or from the Council’s website. An application fee of £79.50 would be payable for such Section 192 application. We are required to make a decision on such an application within 8 weeks of the date of receipt of a valid application unless you agree an extended time period.

Please note that this advice note and any opinion given does not relate to any other form of consent which may be required, including Building Regulations approval. Building Regulations approval may be required depending on the specific type of installation and you should discuss this matter directly with them on 01446 704638.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
**INFORMAL OPINION**

**Do I need Planning Permission for a Solar Panel?**

Please complete fully this form and return it to: Development Control Group, Planning & Transportation Division, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT

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**1 - Applicant**

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**2 - Address of Property concerned (if different from above)**

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**3 - Please sketch a site plan in as much detail as possible in the box below, showing your dwelling and the boundaries of your garden. The location of the Solar Panel should be marked on the site plan accurately in red. The elevation drawing should detail the proposed Solar Panel in relation to the elevation of the house on which it is sited.**

![Site Plan](image1)

![Elevation Drawing](image2)

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**4 - Please confirm the following:**

- Distance (at its nearest point) of the panel from the nearest boundary of the site: ........... metres
- Maximum height from ground level to the top most part of the panel: ........... metres
- Ridge height of the dwelling: ........... metres

This completed form should be supported by manufacturers' brochures and photographs of the property / site to assist us in dealing with your enquiry

**5 - Signature and Date**

Signed................................................................. Date.......................