

## PHOTOVOLTAIC GUIDELINES

### ALL CONNECTIONS MUST BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

To start the permit process for a Photovoltaic install you must submit an application, site plan, roof plan and if needed structural calculations and fire chief approval.

structural calculations are not required if **all** of the following conditions are met:

- Roof covering is maximum of 1-layer of roofing material.
- Weight of the solar panels does not exceed four pounds per square foot (4 psf).
- The maximum concentrated load imposed by the support device onto the roof structure is a maximum of 60 pounds.
- For wood construction, the maximum spacing for the support devices shall be 48" on center, and shall be anchored to solid roof rafters or to solid blocking with the appropriate connection as recommended by the manufacturer.
- The clear space between the roof and solar panels does not exceed 12 inches.

If all of the above conditions are not met then Structural Calculations are required:

When structural calculations are required, calculations shall demonstrate that the structure will support the additional vertical and lateral loads from the solar panels and related equipment.

### Roof access and pathways

For roofs greater than 2:12 pitch you must have a 3-foot clear access pathway from eave to ridge on each side

**Hips and valleys:** panels can be placed no closer than 18 inches to a hip or valley. Where panels are to be located on only 1 side of a hip or valley that is of equal length, the panels shall be permitted to be placed directly adjacent to the hip or valley.

**Allowance for smoke ventilation operations:** panels and modules shall be located not less than 3 feet from the ridge.

*Exception: panels and modules shall be permitted to be located up to the roof ridge where an alternative ventilation method approved by the fire chief or where the chief has determined vertical ventilation will not be employed.*

**Non-habitable structures** are not subject to the requirements in this section. Examples of non-habitable structures include, but are not limited to Sheds, detached garages, solar trellises, etc.

**Ground mounted photovoltaic arrays.** Ground mounted photovoltaic arrays shall comply with all applicable provisions of the City of Tuscola accessory structure setbacks and requirements.

A clear brush area of 10 feet is required for ground mounted photovoltaic arrays.

Accessory Buildings and other structures are not allowed in the front yard setback or street facing yard. Setbacks for accessory structures are 10' rear and alleys and 6' side yards (and must be at least 5' from the main structure) Exception – if 400 square feet or less AND 10 feet or less in height, they may be 3 feet from rear and side PLs and 10 feet from alley PLs,