# SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS
## (BUILDING MOUNTED)



## BAR Review Levels

These levels of review are applicable in most cases. Please note that during the administrative review process, Staff may determine that a project must be reviewed by the Board. Contact Staff at 703.746.3833 to confirm which level of review is required for your project.

| NO BAR REVIEW | ADMINISTRATIVE (STAFF) REVIEW | BOARD REVIEW |
|---|---|---|
| New solar energy systems on non-street facing sides | New solar energy systems on street-facing sides | Any project referred to the Board by staff |

## Introduction

Since the mid-1970s, the use of solar energy systems has increased throughout the country. However, on historic structures, inappropriately mounted solar energy systems may detract from the historic architectural character. The Board supports sustainable design and solar energy in the historic district, but these features should be balanced with the historic architectural character of the individual structure and the district as a whole.

## Guidelines

- Solar energy systems should not damage historic building materials.
- Solar energy systems should be minimally visible from the public right-of-way.
- Solar energy systems on flat and low-sloped roofs are considered to be not visible by the Board and thus do not require BAR review in most cases.
- Roof-mounted solar energy systems should be low-profile and mounted at an angle which is as close to the adjacent roof slope as possible.
- If the roof will be replaced, an architecturally compatible and appropriate color replacement material should be used so that the solar panels visually blend in with the roof.
- The Board encourages solar energy systems on non-primary structures where feasible. Refer to chapter on accessory structures.

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## Additional Information

- Solar energy systems must meet all the building height, front, rear, and sideyard setback requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.
- A building permit from Code Administration is required for all solar energy system installations.

Example of a minimally visible roof mounted solar panel.