



SOLAR IN OUR SURROUNDINGS

Solar panels cause less glare than standard home windows, snow, white concrete, and energy-efficient white rooftops

NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY
LABORATORY

What are setbacks?

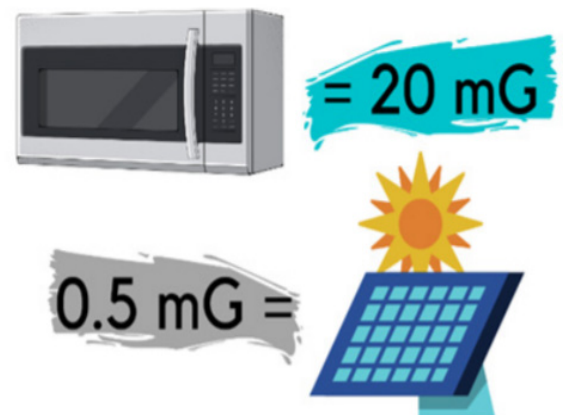
Solar setbacks are distancing requirements that separate solar projects from residences and private property. Ground-mounted solar projects must be sited a certain distance from homes to ensure visibility and access, traffic safety, ventilation, and vegetation management. Setbacks are typically determined locally, allowing communities to determine the best practices for their area and landscape.

What is screening?

Screening can provide visual cover of a solar project, minimizing disruption to surrounding scenery, especially in historic areas. Screening often consists of greenery; hedges, bushes and trees. It should be noted that screening requirements can block sunlight and decrease the efficiency of solar installments, with over-regulation being detrimental to our ability to develop vital solar projects.

What is EMF and how does it relate to solar?

Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) are produced by solar panels at levels similar to those created by household appliances. Solar panels generate non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF), which are different from the ionizing radiation produced by x-rays. Non-ionizing radiation makes enough energy to heat things, but does not displace electrons from their atoms and molecules or damage DNA. At the boundary of a solar project, EMF exposure is low: about 0.5 mG (milligauss – the unit used to measure EMF strength). In comparison, standing within four feet of your microwave while in use can result in up to 20 mG of EMF exposure.



1 "Solar & Property Value." SEIA - Solar Energy Industries Association, July 2019, www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-property-value

2 Mikhitarian, Sarah. "Homes With Solar Panels Sell for 4.1% More." Zillow Research, Zillow, 16 Apr. 2019, www.zillow.com/research/solar-panels-house-sell-more-23798/

3 Ibid. Footnote 1

4 "Solar Energy: SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments. Planning, Zoning, & Development." SolSmart, U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, <https://solmart.org/solar-energy-a-toolkit-for-local-governments/planning-zoning-development/>.

5 "Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework." Dvrpc.org, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Feb. 2015, www.dvrpc.org/EnergyClimate/ModelOrdinance/Solar/pdf/2016_DVRPC_Solar_REOF_Reformatted_Final.pdf.



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