

# City of Bellingham Policy

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**Policy No. 2017-001**

**Title: Roof Mounted Photo-Voltaic Solar Panels for IBC Structures**

**Code: Bellingham Municipal Code**

**Chapter: 17.10**

**Level of Policy: Departmental**

**Date Issued: July 11, 2017**

**Developed by: Jim Tinner, CBO**

**Date Revised:**

**Revised by: N/A**

**Approved by:**

Supersedes: None

See Also:

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## **Purpose**

To encourage private electric generation capability while assuring that such electric generation capability does not create structural, fire or life safety hazards.

## **Scope**

All buildings which fall under the scope of the International Building Code or the International Existing Buildings Code.

## **Definitions**

PV means Photo-Voltaic

IBC means International Building Code

IEBC means International Existing Building Code

## **Policy/Conditions**

Fees for building permits and plan review will be assessed based upon project cost less the cost of the PV panels but in no case will the building permit fee be less than two hours at the hourly rate determined by the Bellingham City Council. The value of professional design services, mounting frames, supports and electrical installation (minus the PV panels themselves) will be included in the project value.

Fees for electric permits will be based upon the fair market value of the electrical installation only with a minimum fee of one hour at the hourly rate determined by the Bellingham City Council. The value of PV panels, PV panel frames, and PV panel supports or professional design will not be included in the project value for purposes of assessing electric permit fees.

Exception: For those buildings for which state law requires a professional engineer plan review, such review will be charged at the actual hourly rate charged to the City by the plan reviewer.

## **Explanatory Notes**

Fees charged for permits are intended to approximate the cost of providing permitting services such as permit processing, plan review and inspections. Building permit fees are normally charged based upon the value of the project. Due to the extremely high cost of PV panels, assigning fees based on project valuation results in permit fees far in excess of the cost of services provided.

**References/Sources**

RCW 82.02.020

**Appendix/Attachments**