

Change Request Ruling

Change Request: Ground Mounted solar power generation systems

ID #: CR-000001

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Ruling: **Change Request Approved - with modifications**

Reason for Change Request and Recommended Alternative: 2.5.6 Ground Mounted solar power generation systems
Where ground mounted PV arrays are installed or planned array must not exceed maximum lot coverage or infringe on set backs as required by local Bylaw.
Structural support system must be engineered and a stamped drawing provided to NZEA for review.
Structural design not required for NZEr systems.

Future PV systems must be checked by Builder to be allowed by bylaw, building code and any local regulations.

Discussion:

NZEr homes must plan for future PV solar requirements to meet the acceptable requirements on Technical Requirements, primarily EnerGuide 0 GJ/yr.

The PV ready checklist doesn't clarify requirements around ground mounted systems.
specifically: conduit requirements, size, structure, location.

There must be a regulation to prevent small residential lots to plan on 100% lot coverage if planning around ground based systems to meet 0 GJ in future and to clarify planning and documentation requirements.

At a minimum a conduit should be provided from mechanical room the outside the house and sealed. Where a future below grade conduit could be continued when needed. Since shallow conduits would be easy to install later there is little gained from requiring the rough-in for NZE. The intent is that the house needs no disturbance to install the future PV array.

Additional Comments / Actions: Ground Mount options are acceptable in cases where sufficient non-shaded land is available. The system design must be included with the file submission. Current defined term "on-site renewable energy" specifies "systems installed within the same legally defined property" and the PV Ready Guidelines only provide information for roof mount systems - not ground mount.
Ground mount option will be added to defined terms and ground mount guidelines will be developed for next version release.