

December 18, 2023

To: All Pastors/Administrators/Principals/and ALL others who have care of Diocesan Facilities and are exploring the possibility of installing solar panels.

From: Very Rev. Piotr Calik, VG and Rev. Fr. Jeffrey Ballou,
Chairman of the Diocesan Facilities and Maintenance Commission

Solar Considerations – Engineering and Design:

- Solar panels cannot be installed on slate or clay roofs, no exception.
- Solar panels cannot be installed on shingle roofs that are older than 5 years.
- Solar panels cannot be installed on flat roofs that are older than 5 years.
- Solar panels installed on flat roofs must be ballasted. The roof has to be able to hold both the ballast material and the solar panels. Ballasted material holds the weight of the solar panel on the roof so that the roof decking is not pierced with fasteners.
- A structural engineer must verify that the roof structure can support BOTH the added wind and dead loads (flat or pitched) to the roof with the addition of solar panels.
- Parking lot canopy systems should be considered if space allows.
- Available field space should be considered as an alternative.
- Verification that the electric supplier can take the surplus power is needed prior to proceeding with ANY solar project.

Solar Considerations - Aesthetic:

- If you are considering solar installation for your building(s), it's very important that the design and layout preserve the aesthetics and presence of the worship space and the design must be approved by either the Diocesan Bishop or the Vicar General.
- Abutters to Diocesan Property:
 - As a courtesy, ALL abutters should be informed of solar field panel projects.
 - Appeal and consideration to ALL abutters should be provided when installing solar field panels. For example, additional landscaping or fencing secluding the field panels may be needed to satisfy abutters of Diocesan Property.
- Disposal costs and process once obsolete should be considered and planned for because it involves hazardous waste.

Finally, if you are considering the installation of solar panels for your parish property, please involve Mr. Russell Sprague in order to provide additional guidance and advice with any solar project.

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