

How can consistency be achieved?

Adoption of Model Forms and Guidelines

- IREC and other organizations provide model forms and processes, which AHJs can adopt and modify as needed
- to fit their local contexts. Many AHJs are already familiar with the Solar America Board for Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs) [Expedited Permit Process for PV Systems](#), which addresses permitting typical small rooftop solar installations. Solar ABCs offers both a model permitting process, which allows AHJs to process these sorts of installations quickly and efficiently, as well as associated model forms, including a model application form. Similarly, IREC has developed a model checklist for solar permit inspections (forthcoming Sept. 2013), as well as model [Field Inspection Guidelines for PV Systems](#). By adopting such models, AHJs can take a significant first step toward making their permitting processes and forms consistent regionally, statewide and even nationally.

Regional Collaboration with Other AHJs

To ensure consistency in their region, AHJs may voluntarily collaborate to standardize their permitting processes. This may entail coordinated adoption of model forms and processes, as discussed above, or development of specific requirements that match the region's particular needs. Such a regional approach allows AHJs to take into account their region's particular housing stock, as well as the types of solar installations and solar installers operating in their regions. A number of regional collaborations have already achieved significant permitting reform including the [Long Island Unified Solar Permitting and the New York State Unified Solar Permit Initiatives in New York](#), and the [East Bay Green Corridor Initiative](#) in California. In addition, there has been successful permitting reform at the county level, including in Pima County, Arizona, and Sonoma County, California.

Conformance with Statewide Legislation and Guidance

States usually have the ability to influence or control the local process to some degree. For example, states like California, Colorado and Arizona have implemented statewide solar permit fee statutes, which dictate how AHJs may calculate permit fees and set fee caps. In addition, statewide permitting guidance can provide AHJs with useful resources related to streamlining the permitting process, including documents clarifying solar permitting best practices, or providing model application forms, checklists or other documents. For example, along with various other resources, the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research provides a [Solar Permitting Guidebook](#), which clarifies requirements for solar installations and offers a toolkit of model documents.

For more information on how to encourage permitting process consistency in your region, visit www.projectpermit.org or www.irecusa.org/regulatory-reform/permitting, or contact:

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