



Proudly Serving Rural Routt County * City of Steamboat Springs * Town of Hayden * Town of Oak Creek * Town of Yampa * Routt County School Districts

Colorado and Routt County Solar Permit Fee Notice

Colorado HB1199, better known as the “Fair Permit Act”, enacted on July 1, 2011, placed limits on fees for permits for the installation of solar energy devices. This law limits fees for “an active solar electric or solar thermal device or system” to \$500.00 for a residential installation and \$1000.00 for a non-residential systems. Local use and excise taxes are not limited by HB1199.

Quite often solar installations are more complicated than just installing the panels and associated wiring, piping, controls and exchangers. Solar installations can be either free standing or mounted on existing buildings.

Free standing solar installation permits would be subject to the limitations of HB1199.

Installations on existing buildings may require structural modifications. Where structural modifications to existing buildings are required, solar installations will be considered in two distinct parts. We will consider a permit for structural modification work that supports the solar energy devices separately from the solar equipment permit. Normal fees based on valuation of materials and labor for the modification will apply to the permit for the building. The permit for photo voltaic systems or for solar thermal systems and equipment will be based on valuation of materials and labor up to the limitations of HB1199.

The building permit and plan check fees will be the same in all jurisdictions served by the RCBD.

Considering the Colorado statute limitation of \$500.00 for **residential** solar installations, the final analysis of this policy reveals that any residential solar installation will be charged a maximum building permit and plan review fee of \$370.00 (permit fee \$224.25 and plan check \$145.75). Based on location, the jurisdiction(s) permit fees will be: Town of Hayden is 15% of the building permit fee (max \$33.72), Town of Oak Creek is \$50.00 planning fee and Unincorporated Routt County is the \$50.00 County Planning Fee.

Considering the limitations of HB1199, a **commercial** solar installation pay a maximum building permit and plan check fee of \$870.00 (permit fee \$527.27 and plan check of \$342.73). Based on location, the jurisdiction(s) permit fees will be: Town of Hayden is 15% of the building permit fee (max \$79.09), Town of Oak Creek is \$50.00 planning fee and Unincorporated Routt County is the \$50.00 County Planning Fee.

Routt County Regional Building Department

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