



CITY OF DUBLIN

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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF DUBLIN ADOPTS AUTOMATED PERMITTING TOOL TO LOWER THE COST OF INSTALLING SOLAR

DUBLIN, Calif., September 7, 2022 – The City of Dublin has launched SolarAPP+, an automated application for permitting new residential rooftop solar and storage systems. Dublin is one of only a handful of cities in California to launch SolarAPP+, which will lower costs and expedite solar installations, encouraging property owners to invest in generation renewable and sustainable energy. By using artificial intelligence, SolarAPP+ makes it possible to obtain a residential solar permit in as little as 15 minutes, entirely online. As an online plan check and permitting program, the system is available 24/7.

Research has shown lowering the cost and increasing the speed of rooftop solar installation will have a significant impact on a system's cost. The installation currently costs twice as much in the United States as compared to countries such as Australia or Germany, despite similar wages and equipment costs. The difference is caused, in part, due to installation costs like interest on home equity loans and other costs incurred while waiting for applications to be processed. For a solar customer, these added expenses can amount to as much as \$5,000 for a typical residential solar system.

SolarAPP+ helps governments and providers cut rooftop solar permitting costs. Developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy, SolarAPP+ provides a web-based portal that streamlines and automates permit reviews. The app integrates into existing local government permitting software and is free for local jurisdictions.

The move to make solar more affordable to all communities has been applauded by local and state leaders as an important step in the local and national fight against climate change.

“The increase in the use of rooftop solar and storage systems will not only provide a cost savings for residents, but it will go a long way in helping the City of Dublin to achieve its goals set in the *Climate Action Plan*,” said Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez. “I’m proud that we are making it easier for our residents to purchase and install solar through SolarAPP+.”

For more information, please visit <https://dublin.ca.gov/2490/Solar-App>.

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