

13. GUIDELINES FOR SOLAR ENERGY PANELS & SOLAR THERMAL COLLECTORS

The Dulwich Estate supports the installation of unobtrusive solar panels as an energy saving measure. Most installations require prior approval.

If you are installing solar panels, please note the following:

- Solar panels should not be conspicuous when viewed from the road or other public spaces, such as parks, public gardens or sports grounds.
- Solar panels on the front roof of a property are highly unlikely to be approved. Instead, consider installing them on flat roofs, rear extensions, behind parapets and on garden buildings. A significant amount of energy can be generated on flat and east or west facing roofs as well as south facing ones.
- Panels should not visually dominate the roof and as a guide this means no more than 50 per cent of the rear roof. Where panels will cover a significant area of the roof, they should be integrated into the roof finish.
- The material of the solar panels should be appropriate to the original roofing material. Solar panels that are similar in appearance to slate roof finishes are now available, and integrated solar panels may be less visually intrusive than those mounted externally, for example, on rails. Fewer panels are required for heating water than for electricity generation. Those which generate electricity do not have to be located on a roof – consider less conspicuous locations at a low level in rear gardens, on flat roofs or on garden buildings.

The installation of solar panels on a roof is normally subject to building regulations and the ability of the existing roof to carry the weight of the panels will need to be checked. Electrical installation is also subject to these regulations. For more information go to Government guidance at www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/51/solar_panels/4.

The Energy Saving Trust (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) gives accurate and independent advice on how to reduce carbon emissions, use water more efficiently and save money on energy bills, including electricity generation.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR APPLICATION

- A scaled roof plan showing the location of the panels.
- Details of the installation (in-line, integrated or raised).