

13. GUIDELINES FOR SOLAR ENERGY PANELS & SOLAR THERMAL COLLECTORS

The Dulwich Estate supports residents who wish to reduce their carbon footprint by better insulating their homes or installing domestic renewable energy sources such as solar panels.

Most installations require prior approval from the Estate.

If in doubt whether prior approval is required, please contact us.

When submitting your application for solar panels, the following guidance applies.

- Solar panels should not be conspicuous when viewed from the road or other public spaces, such as parks and shared amenity spaces.
- Solar panels on the front roof of a property or a side roof directly facing the main road, are highly unlikely to be approved. Instead, consider installing them on flat roofs, rear extensions, behind parapets and on garden buildings.
- Panels should not visually dominate the roof. The layout should be regular in appearance and should not appear overly crowded. They should be positioned no less than 0.6m from the edge of the roof plane including the eaves, and no closer than 0.3m from the ridge. The installation should not project from the wall or roof slope by more than 20cm.
- An installation to a side roof of a mid-row property should be set back from the front elevation to reduce the visual impact.
- Where panels will cover a significant area of the roof consideration should be given to integrating these into the roof finish. The material of the solar panels should be appropriate to the original roofing material and dark grey or black frames are recommended. Integrated solar panels may be less visually intrusive than those mounted 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.
- Panels should be removed as soon as reasonably practicable when they are no longer needed.

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.
- Dimensioned details of the installation (in-line, integrated or raised).
- Three dimensional drawings may be required to demonstrate the visual impact



Integrated solar tiles



In-line solar panels