



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Office of the Director**

FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Paul L. Scarlett, Director  
Phone: (503) 823-7308  
Fax: (503) 823-7250  
TTY: (503) 823-6868  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

## **Proposed Change to Prescriptive Residential Solar Permits**

BDS is pleased to announce a proposed fee change for Prescriptive Residential Solar Permits, effective July 1, 2014, from the current level of \$707 to \$416.59. BDS, along with Commissioner Fritz, held discussions with representatives from the Solar Industry in late 2013 and early 2014 to review current practices and fees related to permitting of prescriptive solar projects. Based upon review and research, BDS will be reducing prescriptive residential solar permit fees a total of 41% to \$416.59. This reduction stems partially from an assessment with the industry that prescriptive solar permits can typically complete the building permit process with one structural inspection, and any additional inspections could be paid for as required.

Additional savings were generated in the elimination of a zoning inspection fee by retaining permit review by planning staff and development services techs. Minimizing the opportunity for field related zoning code issues in this proactive manner, along with existing mandatory reviews if the installation is proposed within historic or conservation districts or attached to a historic structure provides us with this opportunity.

Overall, the prescriptive residential solar permit fee retains cost recovery levels for the Bureau, while achieving a level of review and inspections that ensures compliance with applicable building, electrical and land use codes. Field inspections verify installations are per approved plans, assuring safety and code compliance at the time of panel installation.