

Village of Bellport Historic Preservation Program  
Guidelines for Solar and Other Energy Conservation/Production  
Systems in Bellport's Historic Districts

In anticipation of growing environmental concerns and efforts to retrofit homes to provide greater energy efficiency and clean energy sources, the Bellport Historic Preservation Commission has prepared the following guidelines to assist applicants in presenting proposals for installing solar or other energy conservation/production systems on buildings located within the various designated Historic Districts in the Village of Bellport. These Guidelines are designed to facilitate the use of these new energy systems while protecting the historic character of our beautiful Village.

The Commission recognizes that there are many different types of solar systems – photovoltaic, solar shingles and freestanding systems being some of the current general categories – and that technology is moving swiftly to develop even more varieties of such systems. In view of this, these Guidelines are of necessity general in nature. The Commission welcomes advanced consultations from applicants who are in the process of preparing solar or other energy conservation/production system applications.

When reviewing applications for the installation of such systems, the over-all objective will be to preserve the character-

defining features and historic fabric of our historic buildings, and streetscapes of our Historic Districts, while facilitating the installation of such energy systems to the extent possible.

Before installation of such a new system, owners should first consider maximizing the energy efficiency of their existing historic building and its systems. Installation of solar panels or other energy conservation systems on historic buildings often entails reinforcing existing roof structures and other costly measures. It may be far less expensive to reduce heating, cooling and lighting costs than to introduce new energy conservation/production systems on historic buildings.

#### Guidelines:

1. Placing solar panels or other energy conservation/production systems on the primary, street façade of buildings in the Historic Districts should be avoided. Such a location has the most adverse effect on the buildings' historic character and has the greatest negative impact on the streetscape.
2. Solar panels or other energy conservation/production systems should be installed on rear slopes of roofs, below the ridge line, or on secondary buildings (such as garages or other out-buildings) or other locations not seen from the street during all seasons of the year.
3. Mature trees should not be removed to accommodate these new installations. Trimming of mature trees to permit additional sunlight to reach the new system should be avoided or kept to a minimum. Any proposed trimming of mature trees should be addressed specifically in the application for installation.
4. Solar panels or other energy conservation/production systems should be located behind existing architectural features of the building such as parapets, dormers and

chimneys and otherwise prevent their visibility from the street. They should not obscure significant historical features of the building.

5. On flat roof buildings, solar panels or other energy conservation/production systems should be set back from the edge of the roof to prevent visibility from the street.
6. Solar panels or other energy conservation/production systems should be located as far back from the street as possible. Regardless of their location, they should be installed in a compositionally balanced manner and not in irregular patterns.
7. Use of solar or other energy conservation/production systems in windows or on walls, siding or shutters should be avoided.
8. Utilization of low-profile solar panels is recommended. Solar panels should be installed flat, should follow the slope of the roof and should not alter the slope of the roof.
9. Solar panels or other energy conservation/production systems should be removable in the future without causing damage to the existing architectural features of the historic structure.
10. Solar panels and mounting systems should be compatible in color with existing roof materials or painted non-reflective black.
11. Mechanical equipment associated with the solar or other energy conservation/production systems should be housed inside the building. If this is not possible, then such equipment should be obscured from view from the street by plantings or fencing appropriate to the streetscape, effective during all seasons of the year.
12. If free-standing detached solar panels or other energy conservation/production systems are being considered, they should be installed in locations that prevent visibility from the street. They should be screened from the street with fencing or plantings appropriate to the streetscape,

effective during all seasons of the year. Placement and design should not detract from the historic character of the site.

Provided a solar or other energy conservation system application clearly meets the guidelines set forth above, it shall be entitled to Expedited Review in accordance with Village of Bellport Code Sec. 22-4(4).

The above Guidelines address primarily the use of solar technology currently available. Solar and other energy conservation/production technology is swiftly evolving. Applicants should explore all alternatives available from time to time and should choose the alternative that has the least negative impact upon their building and the streetscape of which it forms part.

Bellport Historic Preservation  
Commission