



### **NY-Sun Quality Assurance Vision**

Going forward NY-Sun's primary focus will be on the actual quality of the installation rather than the upfront design review. We will still be performing design reviews but the picture submission will bear more weight on the actual build than the preliminary design. We don't want to oversee the entire process but want to make sure good quality solar systems are built as we move to a mature market. The pictures will serve as proof of the quality of the installation.

We will be further expanding the adoption of the Unified Solar Permit in NYS. This will enable us to provide a mechanism which allows installers and local code officials to be on the same page, and we believe we can do this by standardizing the solar permitting and inspection process.

As a part of this effort, we will be providing a tool kit for the Authority having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to review and approve permitting and inspections in a timely manner and to enable solar contractors to provide the required permitting and inspection documents in a standardized format platform. In doing so we recognize that engaging and winning the support of local AHJ's is an important component in or in the facilitation of widespread adoption using a holistic approach. Broad adoption will require the involvement and endorsement of local permitting officials and other governmental decision makers. The *Tool kit* will help lead to the aggregation of all local codes in a centralized place.

As NYSERDA began the review and revision process for the *Unified Solar Permit*, and the development of *Technical Guidelines* we looked at what was done in other states, such as California, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

We soon realized that we had the opportunity to do something unique. We didn't want to develop a paper document that would sit on a shelf and collect dust, but instead create something that would be useful to Contractors/ Developers, the Code Officials, 3rd Party Inspectors, Financiers, and Utilities.

This would be in line with our NY-Sun goal to install 3-5 GW of PV, while helping to build a self-sustaining solar industry in New York State.

The idea is to tie together the design, permitting, code review, quality assurance, interconnection, and inspection processes. With the end goal to simplify the process, and drive down the (BOS) Balance of System Cost as it relates to these items.

We can't get there in a single move, so we will be releasing components in stages, and where necessary making revisions.

As outlined above, the first phase would be the requirements to develop a QA plan, and photo documentations of your installations.

The second phase will be to roll out a *Tool Kit*. The *Tool Kit* will be a set of documents to assist everyone through the process. All items in the *Tool Kit* will reflect the new codes which will be adopted in 2016 (2015 IBC, 2015 IRC, 2015 IFC, Energy Code, and the 2014 NEC)

1. Building on the earlier work by CUNY, the revised ***Unified Solar Permit*** will be released. After a lengthy review process, with code officials, NYS DOS, and design professionals, we believe that we have captured the essence of what is required for permitting in NYS. Since NYS is a home rule state, there may be local laws or standards that may also apply. The major changes addressed in this revision will be increasing the system size from 10KW to 25KW, and also including ground mounted and pole mounted systems.
2. The ***Submittal Requirements***, is a list of items along with instructions of what is required to be submitted with the permit application in New York State. This document has a section for the (AHJ) Authority Having Jurisdiction to add local requirements.
3. The ***(MOU) Memo of Understanding***, is a template for the (AHJ) that can be used under the guidance of their own legal counsel to enter into agreements with other authorities and or fire department/ districts, in relation to permitting and inspections.
4. ***Other AHJ template documents***, related to correspondence are being considered.
5. ***Standard Construction Documents*** these are form fillable templates, developed as design and construction documents for systems up to 25KW. There are six templates as there are six basic types of systems which are:
  - a. *Supply Side Connected Micro Inverter Based System*
  - b. *Supply Side Connected DC Optimizer Based System*
  - c. *Supply Side Connected String Inverter Based System*
  - d. *Load Side Connected Micro Inverter Based System*
  - e. *Load Side Connected DC Optimizer Based System*
  - f. *Load Side Connected String Inverter Based System*
6. ***Design Review Check Lists***, by system types above will be provided to assist Code Official in review and issuance of permit.
7. ***Inspection Check Lists*** also by system types above will be provided to assist AHJ or 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspector.
8. ***Process Flow Chart*** will be provided to assist all parties in the flow work, and how to take advantage of the various documents.

The first item to be implemented will be the QA photos which will not only be extremely helpful to NY-Sun and our QA process, but may be something that the AHJ's and 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspectors will be able to use to speed up the process, perform a more effective review, and reduce their associated costs. These photos will also be helpful to the contractors in documenting "As-Built"

conditions and defend against unwarranted claims down the road, should the site conditions be modified by others.

NY-Sun is aware that the photos and other documents may contain proprietary company and customer personal information and recognize that a future sharing platform would have to be done while maintaining confidentiality.

Thank you again for all the hard work to get to where we are today. Now let's get to the next level together to grow your companies and make NY a model for success.

### **About NY-Sun**

NY-Sun, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth in the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers. NY-Sun brings together and expands existing programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), PSEG Long Island, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA), to ensure a coordinated, well-supported solar energy expansion plan and a transition to a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry. To learn more about NY-Sun, visit [ny-sun.ny.gov](http://ny-sun.ny.gov)

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