



## CITY OF EDMONDS

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

DAVE EARLING  
MAYOR

April 15, 2014

Tim Nogler  
State Building Code Council  
1500 Jefferson Ave SE  
Olympia, WA 98504  
via email: tim.nogler@des.wa.gov

To members of the State Building Code Council,

I am writing on behalf of the *City of Edmonds* to express support for the proposed amendments to the Washington State Building Code submitted by Northwest SEED and WSU Energy Program that would exempt certain rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems from requiring a building permit.

In the last 2 years, the city of Edmonds has worked with NW SEED to identify ways to reduce the barriers that have hindered the permitting process for standard rooftop solar PV systems. We helped to develop the standardized checklist for identifying PV projects that are eligible for streamlined permitting. The city itself has established very low permit fees as well as created an online solar/PV presence with helpful information and the ability to obtain a building permit online. In the years prior to 2013, Edmonds had issued a very limited number of building permits for either residential or commercial PV installations, but after implementing our streamlined permit process online, we issued a total of seven PV permits in the year 2013 alone, quite a dramatic increase.

This proposal would reduce the permitting time and expense for both solar installation companies and homeowners while ensuring an appropriate level of safety is maintained. By further streamlining the permitting process for standard rooftop solar PV systems, we hope to encourage and accelerate utilization of solar energy in our jurisdiction.

We support and encourage full adoption of either of the two proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Leif Bjorback  
Building Official  
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