

## **WOODSTOCK VILLAGE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD SOLAR PANEL GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are designed to assist applicants and the Village Design Review Board ("VDRB") in the review of applications for the installation of solar panels on properties or on building roofs within the Woodstock Village Design Review District ("DRD"). These guidelines should be provided in advance to solar panel applicants.

### **Regulations**

The DRD is not a legislative Historic District. However, the age of a building, its architectural significance, or its visual relationship to historic buildings or spaces can affect the visual sensitivity of a solar panel installation. Designation as a "contributing" building within the federal, state, and local Historic District may also impact the installation of solar panels.

### **Efficiency**

Compass orientation of the property, building, and roof slope are often unlikely to be optimum for maximum solar gain. Therefore, it is assumed that proposed solar panel installations represent some form of compromise with an acceptable economic pay back for the applicant. However, if a proposed solar panel installation includes a random scattering of panels on the property or the angling of panels different from the slope of the roof, the resulting appearance may become visually inappropriate.

### **Contrast**

Most solar panels are generally blue to black in color and may contrast with the background roof or surrounding property. Application to a wood shake roof, for example, will maximize the contrast in both texture and color, whereas mounting on a standing-seam roof of a similar color could be visually less apparent.

### **Pattern**

The layout of solar panels can affect the appearance. An installation that follows closely the size and shape of the roof is likely to attract less attention than one that consists of random placement of panels in an attempt to avoid dormers, skylights, chimneys, etc., even though the number of panels may be the same.

### **Visibility**

The location and position of the building roof or the freestanding array as seen from the public way is critical. The more conspicuous the proposed installation, the more important the above criteria will become.

### **Mitigation**

In certain instances, visibility might be mitigated by the position of trees or other structures that don't conflict with the solar array.