Solar Panels

Q. Which application do I need to fill out for Solar Panels?

A. An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Following is a list of what is required for solar panel review:

- 1 Certificate of Appropriateness Application (including owner authorization)
- 4 sets of CURRENT color photos of <u>all</u> sides of the house being sure to capture views from surrounding roadways. (It is preferred that the panels be superimposed to show visual impact.)
- 4 aerial drawings showing the placement/layout design of all panels
- 4 specification sheets from the solar panel manufacturer showing the type of solar panels to be installed (panels must be black with black frame).
- 1 Abutters list (Map and Lot numbers of direct and across the street abutting parcels)
- $40 Application Fee

Q. What are the OKH guidelines/requirements regarding Solar Panels?

A. Following is an excerpt from OKH Bulletin:

Energy Conscious Design: Applicants may consider alternative energy resources when submitting proposals. Skylights, solar panels and wind generators may be approved provided the system will function in a practical manner and adhere to the following:

a. Minimum visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

b. No change to the appearance of the buildings except for the addition of the panels.

c. The installation of the system does not permanently destroy significant historic features of the building.

d. The applicant uses ground level solar panel mountings where possible.

e. Roof mountings positioned so as to match existing roof slopes.

f. Extensive use of vegetation and landscaping so as to minimize the visual impact of the system.

g. Devices should be designed and constructed in such manner as to blend with existing features in the immediate area.

h. Wind generator towers should be located as far as possible from the street line so as to minimize the visual impact of the device.

i. Skylights should be of low profile with a flat pane.

Additional guidelines/requirements:
- Panels should not be visible from a public way
- Panels should be black with black frame
- Panels should have non-glossy finish
- Panels should be installed on black roofing to "blend in"