



# County of Santa Cruz

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## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## PRESS RELEASE

Release: Immediately  
Contact: Ryan Coonerty  
County Supervisor  
(831) 212-3776

### COUNTY SUPERVISORS LOWER SOLAR FEES

Taking action to support rooftop solar and further environmentally friendly practices, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors this week voted to cut solar permitting fees by half for residents in unincorporated areas of the county.

The unanimous vote came after several months of discussion, and implements a \$250 fee for solar permits and inspections, along with a streamlined approval process. The County has developed a series of standard photovoltaic plans for use at the Planning Department or with online application submittals, and has created a dedicated email for solar permit applications.

“This initiative is about increasing renewable energy, supporting local green jobs and making the permitting process easier,” said Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, who initiated the changes. “It’s a win-win-win and hopefully a model for how the County can support the environment and local economy going forward.”

The vote makes the County more competitive with other jurisdictions and encourages the expansion of residential solar panels. It comes the same week that the California Public Utilities Commission voted against steep hikes on solar fees sought by the utility industry.

In 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Climate Action Strategy that calls for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The County, along with governments throughout the Central Coast, is also participating in an exploration of community-choice energy, which would give local residents greater control over their environmental footprint.

For more information, go to [www.sccoplanning.org](http://www.sccoplanning.org) or email [SolarPV@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:SolarPV@santacruzcounty.us).