



# Legal provisions for installing photovoltaic panels

Are solar access laws illegal?

With that being said, unpermitted systems are illegal to operate in many American jurisdictions, even in states with solar access laws. What is the difference between solar access laws and solar easement laws?

Are photovoltaic solar energy systems safe?

The safe and reliable installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar energy systems and their integration with the nation's electric grid requires timely development of the foundational codes and standards governing solar deployment.

Can a zoning ordinance prohibit solar energy?

Massachusetts law Chapter 40A states that "no zoning ordinance or by-law shall prohibit or unreasonably regulate the installation of solar energy systems or the building of structures that facilitate the collection of solar energy, except where necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare."

How do HOAs protect homeowners rights to use solar power?

HOAs should consider at least two categories of limitations which protect homeowner rights to use solar power: 1. Solar Access Laws and 2. Solar Easements. Solar Access Laws Solar access laws are generally found in state statutes and ensure that HOAs cannot strictly prohibit solar panel systems in their subdivision.

Should homeowners associations regulate solar panels?

Homeowner associations (HOAs) across the country should be aware of the bounds of their authority for regulating installation of solar panel systems on members' homes. Mastering this delicate balance will help HOAs maintain both aesthetics and property value while, to some degree, honoring the individualized wishes of their residents.

Can I install a solar energy collection device on my property?

Taking several forms since the policy was originally enacted in 2008, Virginia Law  $\S$  55.1-1820.1 states that "no association shall prohibit an owner from installing a solar energy collection device on that owner's property unless the recorded declaration for the association establishes such a prohibition."

Learn how to secure long-term property rights for solar energy projects, including leases, easements, and addressing title and water rights issues. This chapter of The Law of Solar Guide offers essential insights for developing and operating ...



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