



## Sunshine Coast Regional District Building Division Policy

Solar Readiness

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

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**Subject: Sunshine Coast Regional District Solar Readiness**

### **Policy:**

In line with a request from the Province of BC Solar Readiness program, the SCRD Board has resolved, (recommendation #15, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2010), to register with the Province ahead of the official 2011 Code change process to be a "solar readiness community" for all new Single Family Residential buildings effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

A solar ready home will require the following:

- *a roof or wall location of suitable size, pitch and orientation*
- *labelled conduits from the mechanical room to the attic or other location, (where no attic exists, then though the roof and properly weather capped, or where a wall location is contemplated weather capped at the exterior wall.)*
- *extra plumbing valves and fittings on the water heater*
- *an electrical outlet at the planned solar tank location*
- *construction plans that indicate the future component locations interior or exterior, ( See BC Government link for further information:  
<http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation/shwr/index.htm#top> )*

A "Solar Ready" home would have features provided that will make it easier to install solar energy systems at some future date, enabling both photovoltaic and solar hot water technology.

What this means to the designer and builder is that Building Division Inspectors and Plans Examiners will be looking for the above provisions at the Building Permit application stage for solar readiness in the form of space allocations and provisions for:

1. Future holding/reservoir tanks and heat exchangers, and their locations
2. A 4 inch labeled duct, or two 2 inch labeled ducts complete with caps possibly through the roof or at least into the attic space or exterior wall with a code compliant slope and future access to facilitate connection and drain down to the mechanical room installed.

There will be certain situations where a building may be exempt from the requirements for example where no possible present or future solar gain is available. This will be determined by the Building Inspector at the pre permit site inspection stage.