

1 **[SAN FRANCISCO SOLAR REQUIREMENTS]**

2 COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SAN FRANCISCO  
3 SOLAR POLICY FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION.

4 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco, under Ordinance 81-08,  
5 endorsed a goal for the City to have a greenhouse gas (GHG)-free electric system by  
6 2030 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide to 40% below 1990 levels by  
7 2025 and 80% by 2050; and,

8 WHEREAS, Energy consumption in buildings is responsible for 52 percent of all  
9 carbon emissions in San Francisco; and,

10 WHEREAS, Locally produced renewable energy benefits the health, welfare and  
11 resiliency of San Francisco and its residents and reduces carbon emissions associated  
12 with energy consumption in buildings; and,

13 WHEREAS, On-site production of renewable energy saves property owners or  
14 tenants money by lowering utility bills and increasing the stability of energy costs; and,

15 WHEREAS, rooftops are underutilized and valuable real estate with multiple  
16 potential uses, including solar installations, which can play a key role in reaching San  
17 Francisco's greenhouse gas and sustainability goals; and,

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco is already a leader in promoting the use of renewable  
19 energy, including solar energy, with more than 4,000 solar energy systems currently  
20 installed on building rooftops; and,

21 WHEREAS, The cost of installing rooftop solar photovoltaic systems in San  
22 Francisco has declined by 50 percent in the last 5 years; and,

23 WHEREAS, Solar power infrastructure is less expensive to install during new  
24 construction than when installed on existing buildings due to a number of reasons  
25 including (1) workers are already on-site, (b) the sales cycle is significantly shorter, (c)

1 permitting and administrative costs are lower, and (d) it is more cost-effective to  
2 finance solar systems through the existing construction; and,

3 [WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2014, California State Energy Code, Title 24, includes a](#)  
4 [solar ready requirement "to provide penetration free and shade free portion of the](#)  
5 [roof, called the solar zone, so that the future installation of a solar energy system is not](#)  
6 [precluded by the original design and layout of the building and its associated](#)  
7 [equipment"; and,](#)

8  
9 WHEREAS, In March 2013 the city of Lancaster, California, became the first city in  
10 the nation to establish a policy requiring solar energy installations on new residential  
11 construction beginning January 1, 2014; and,

12 WHEREAS, In May 2013 the city of Sebastopol, California became the second city  
13 in the nation to require solar installations on new development on residential  
14 construction and the first city to require solar installations on new commercial buildings  
15 and residential alterations that exceed 75% of the building structure; and,

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco has established its own groundbreaking clean energy  
17 initiatives, such as the landmark GoSolarSF incentive program, the Solar@Work and SF  
18 SunShares group purchasing programs, and the newly re-launched GreenFinanceSF  
19 [Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy \(PACE\) program, that help reduce the cost](#)  
20 [of solar installations and allow qualified developers and property owners to finance](#)  
21 [solar installations over the useful life of the system; and,](#)

22 WHEREAS, Increasing solar installations in San Francisco not only supports the  
23 city's environmental policy goals but also promotes environmental justice regionally  
24 and statewide by helping to eliminate dirty fossil fuel power plants often located in low-  
25 income communities of color; and,

1           WHEREAS, Solar power helps increase housing affordability by decreasing energy  
2 costs for the eventual occupants of solarized homes and apartments in the form of  
3 reduced energy bills; and,

4           WHEREAS, Solar installations also create good-paying clean energy jobs that  
5 benefit San Francisco's workforce and local solar installation community; now,  
6 therefore, be it,

7           RESOLVED, That the Commission ~~supports~~ directs the Department of Environment  
8 ~~in to~~ exploring the development of policies that would require the inclusion of solar  
9 energy systems on newly constructed buildings and potentially on existing buildings  
10 undergoing substantial alterations, under appropriate conditions, throughout the City  
11 and County of San Francisco; and, be it,

12           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission ~~supports~~ directs the Department of the  
13 Environment ~~to~~ consulting with relevant stakeholders including, but not necessarily  
14 limited to, business (including local real estate developers, contractors, and solar  
15 industry professionals), labor, environmentalists, and community representatives, along  
16 with relevant City departments (including the Department of Building Inspection, the  
17 Planning Department, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission) in drafting such  
18 policies.

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