

Petition for Installing Roof-Mounted Solar Energy Systems

Tom Henkel, September 11, 2018

Whereas: The Chapel Hill Town Council has previously passed a resolution to support local activities which reduce our carbon footprint in support of the Paris Climate Accords; and

Whereas: Energy consumption in buildings represent almost half of the energy use in all sectors of our economy; and

Whereas: Most of this building energy comes from the burning of fossil fuels, so that the reduction in building energy use will reduce the carbon footprint; and

Whereas: The Town cannot require owners to achieve a reduction in building energy use greater than that specified by the North Carolina building codes; and

Whereas: § 160A-383.4, Local Energy Efficiency Incentives, allows the Town to require the installation of certain desired equipment to reduce conventional energy use in new development for which a rezoning with a Special Use Permit is requested.

Therefore, be it resolved: The Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board asks the Town Council to require all new building construction and renovations in Chapel Hill which require a rezoning with a Special Use Permit to install roof-mounted solar energy systems over at least 80% of the unshaded roof areas. This shall include parking garages and pitched roofs facing between southeast and southwest..

§ 160A-383.4. Local energy efficiency incentives.

(a) Land-Use Development Incentives. - Counties and municipalities, for the purpose of reducing the amount of energy consumption by new development, and thereby promoting the public health, safety, and welfare, may adopt ordinances to grant a density bonus, **make adjustments to otherwise applicable development requirements**, or provide other incentives to a developer or builder within the county or municipality and its extraterritorial planning jurisdiction if the developer or builder agrees to construct new development or reconstruct existing development in a manner that the county or municipality determines, based on generally recognized standards established for such purposes, makes a significant contribution to the reduction of energy consumption.

(b) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-95, s. 1, effective June 11, 2009. (2007-241, ss. 1, 2; 2008-22, s. 1; 2009-95, s. 1.)