

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
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Oonagh Buckley,
Planning Section,
Dept. of Environment Heritage & Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

Date: 4th October 2006.

RE: Planning fees and erection of solar panels.

Dear Ms. Buckley,

At the meeting of the Terenure Rathfarnham Area Committee on October 3rd, the following motion was agreed;

Motion 9:

"That the Manager waive the fee for residents making a planning application for the installation of solar panels on their homes and will he make representations to the Department of the Environment on the matter".

The following report has been provided to the members of the Committee by the Manager;

There is no specific reference to Solar Panels in Schedule 2 (Exempted Development) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. In the absence of any further guidance from the Department of Environment, the following interpretation is made;

Planning permission is not generally required in order to erect solar panels to the rear of a dwelling provided that the panels are installed flush with the existing roof slope and that they resemble small velux roof lights. Payment of a fee would not be required in the case of such a development as an application to obtain permission would not be required.

Planning permission would be required in order to erect panels to the front or side of a dwelling and to the rear of a dwelling where the panels are not flush to the existing roof slope.

Despite the foregoing information, in cases where a prospective applicant is in doubt as to whether their intended development (for example, were it to include large or numerous panels) can be classified as exempted development, they should seek the advice of the Planning officer for their area by calling 4149000 or emailing planning.dept@sdublincoco.ie

In order to erect solar panels on domestic dwellings, in cases where planning permission may be required, a planning application would have to be made. This would at present require the payment of a fee of €34 as set out in Schedule 9 of the Planning and

Development Regulations, 2001. This is the minimum fee payable in respect of a planning application.

Please note that the advice above has been added to the Frequently Asked Questions Section of the Planning Departments website and circulated to Planning staff to ensure consistency in the advice given to customers raising the issue. The Councils Customer Care Centre has been informed of the addition of this information to the website, in order to ensure that front line staff can promptly answer such queries where they arise.

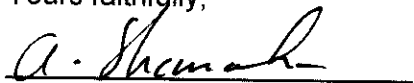
The response from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will be brought to the attention of the Committee members when it is received.

You will be aware that in cases where a planning application is required for such development the Council is presently obliged to require the payment of €34 as the planning application fee. This is in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001. The Committee have indicated that they are concerned that the requirement for payment of a fee could deter the public from engaging in activities that are environmentally beneficial, such as the erection of solar panels on their homes.

Accordingly the Council, on behalf of the Committee, asks that consideration be given to the motion with a view to the issuing of a directive or regulations specifically exempting development of this nature from the payment of a planning fee.

The next meeting of the Committee is on November 7th 2006 and a response would be greatly appreciated before that date.

Yours faithfully,



Anthony Shanahan,
Acting Senior Executive Officer,
Planning Dept.