



Solar energy for homes israel

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The National Council's Subcommittee on Construction and Regulations approved the regulation requiring new non-residential and detached buildings to build a solar system if the roof area exceeds 250 square meters, regardless of the building's height. The decision requires the approval of the National Council and the Minister of the Interior.

Last Thursday, the Sub-Committee on Construction and Regulations of the National Council approved the regulation requiring new non-residential buildings in Israel to build a solar system. At this stage, these include public buildings, offices, industry, etc., but also single-family homes.

The regulations continue the government's decision in February 2023 to set a minimum roof area for installing the systems and not limit the height of buildings. The subcommittee's decision requires the approval of the National Council, which will convene on August 6 and then go to the public for public comment and approval by the Minister of Interior. According to estimates, the National Council is expected to approve the decision.

It was also decided that a team would be established, which would include the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Israel Land Authority, the Planning Administration and the prime Minister's Office, to examine the promotion of measures that would encourage the construction of renewable energy generation facilities in built-up areas and land use.

In 2021, the team presented its conclusions, which included, among other things, examining the anchoring of guidelines for solar energy production in new plans for built-up areas and examining the obligation to build photovoltaic systems on large rooftops in new construction. Another government decision was made a year and a half ago, setting instructions for the Minister of the Interior to install regulations that would require solar panels in new construction. Only after long procrastination did the new regulations come up for discussion last week.

Eitan Parnas, CEO of the Association of Green Energy Companies in Israel, said it was a historic day. "Israel was the first country in the world to require the utilization of solar energy when, in the 1980s, it was mandatory to build solar water heaters in residential buildings. The new regulation is even more dramatic. Solar energy is green, cheap, and readily available, strengthening Israel's much-needed energy security. Some elements oppose the regulation, and we are strengthening the hands of the National Council, which will soon convene to approve it."

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The Israeli National Planning and Building Council has approved regulations requiring new buildings to install rooftop PV systems, according to a statement from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure. The rules apply to all new non-residential buildings with rooftop areas of more than 250 square meters and detached residential buildings with roofs larger than 100 square meters.

"We estimate that these historic regulations will lead to the installation of tens of thousands of additional renewable energy production facilities, with a total installed capacity of up to 3,500 megawatts by 2040," the ministry said.

The regulatory filing states that detached residential houses must install PV systems with a minimum capacity of 5 kW. New non-residential buildings under 42 meters in height must install PV capacity equal to half of their rooftop area divided by 10. However, non-residential buildings can opt for smaller systems if they qualify for another regulatory program designed to expedite installations.

"The regulations include exceptions where they will not apply - for example, sheds or additions to preserved buildings," the statement said. "They also grant city engineers the authority to exempt buildings from installing the photovoltaic system in cases where the building has unique architectural value or where the roof is designated for future construction and installing the system would hinder the realization of that plan."

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