



*This document has been produced by the Highgate Society Sustainable Homes group, to give an overview of the national building regulations.*

## **PLANNING GUIDELINES: SOLAR PANELS**

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Local planning policies are required to conform to the National Planning Policy Framework and, in London, to the London Plan prepared by the Greater London Authority. The Localism Act enables local communities to form Neighbourhood Forums which are entitled to draw up Neighbourhood Plans. These will be another layer of planning policy.

It is worth mentioning here what the national requirements covering the installation of solar panels are.

### **Solar panels**

- **mounted on a house or on a building within the grounds of a house**

#### **All the following conditions must be observed:**

- Panels on a building should be sited, so far as is practicable, to minimise the effect on the external appearance of the building and the amenity of the area.
- When no longer needed for microgeneration panels should be removed as soon as reasonably practicable.

#### **All the following limits must be met:**

- Panels should not be installed above the highest part of the roof (excluding the chimney) and should project no more than 200mm from the roof slope or wall surface.
  - The panels must not be installed on a building that is within the grounds of a listed building.
  - The panels must not be installed on a site designated as a scheduled monument.
- **Wall mounted only**
  - If your property is in a conservation area, or in a World Heritage Site, panels must not be fitted to a wall which fronts a highway.

The policy above can be found at: -

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/commonprojects/solarpanels>

**GW**

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