

SKYLINE  
INNOVATIONS

**SOLAR MARKET BARRIERS;  
*BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS***

**MIKE HEALY**

GUARANTEED SAVINGS THROUGH GREEN ENERGY

# THE PERMITTING PROCESS IS A SIGNIFICANT BARRIER TO SOLAR MARKET GROWTH



# PERMITTING - WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

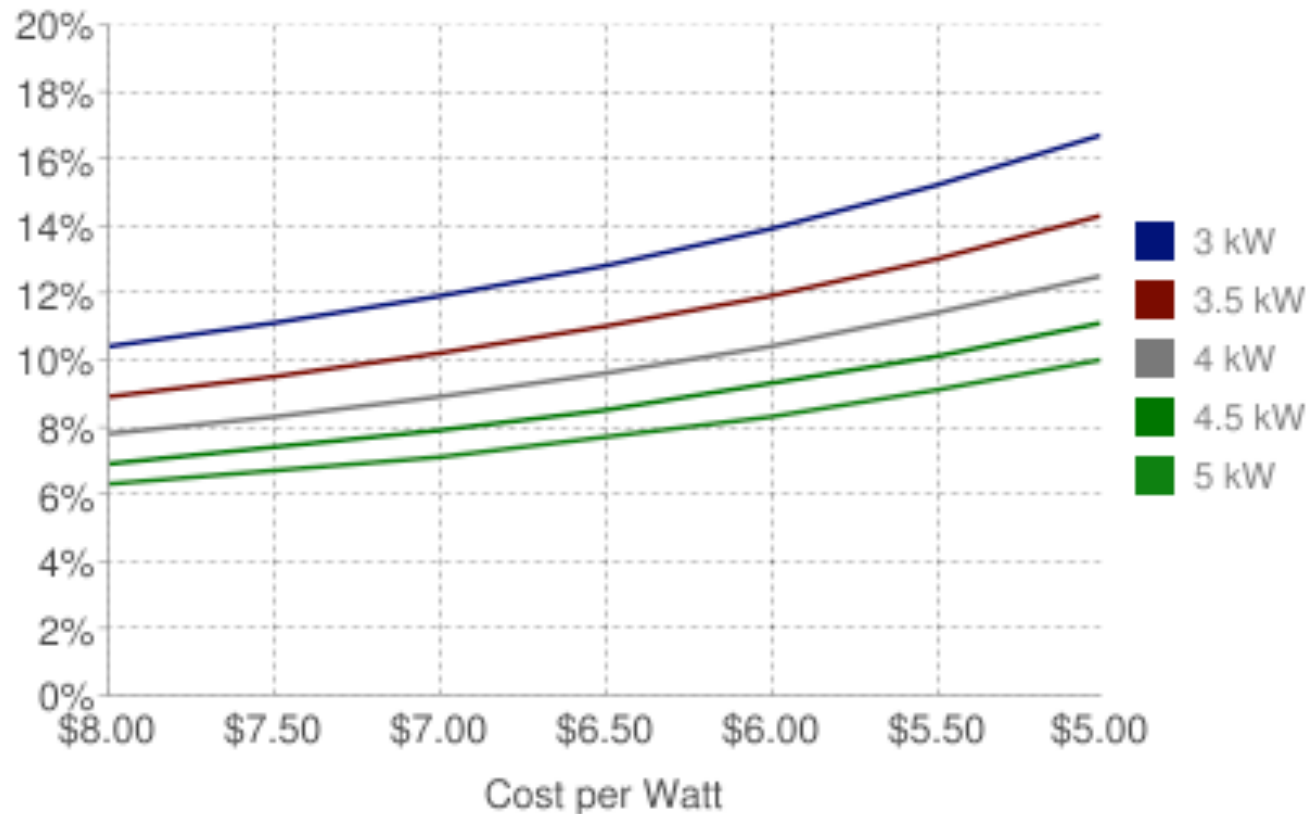
- Cost
- Inefficiencies
- Nebulous & ambiguous process



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# NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF EXCESS PERMITTING COSTS

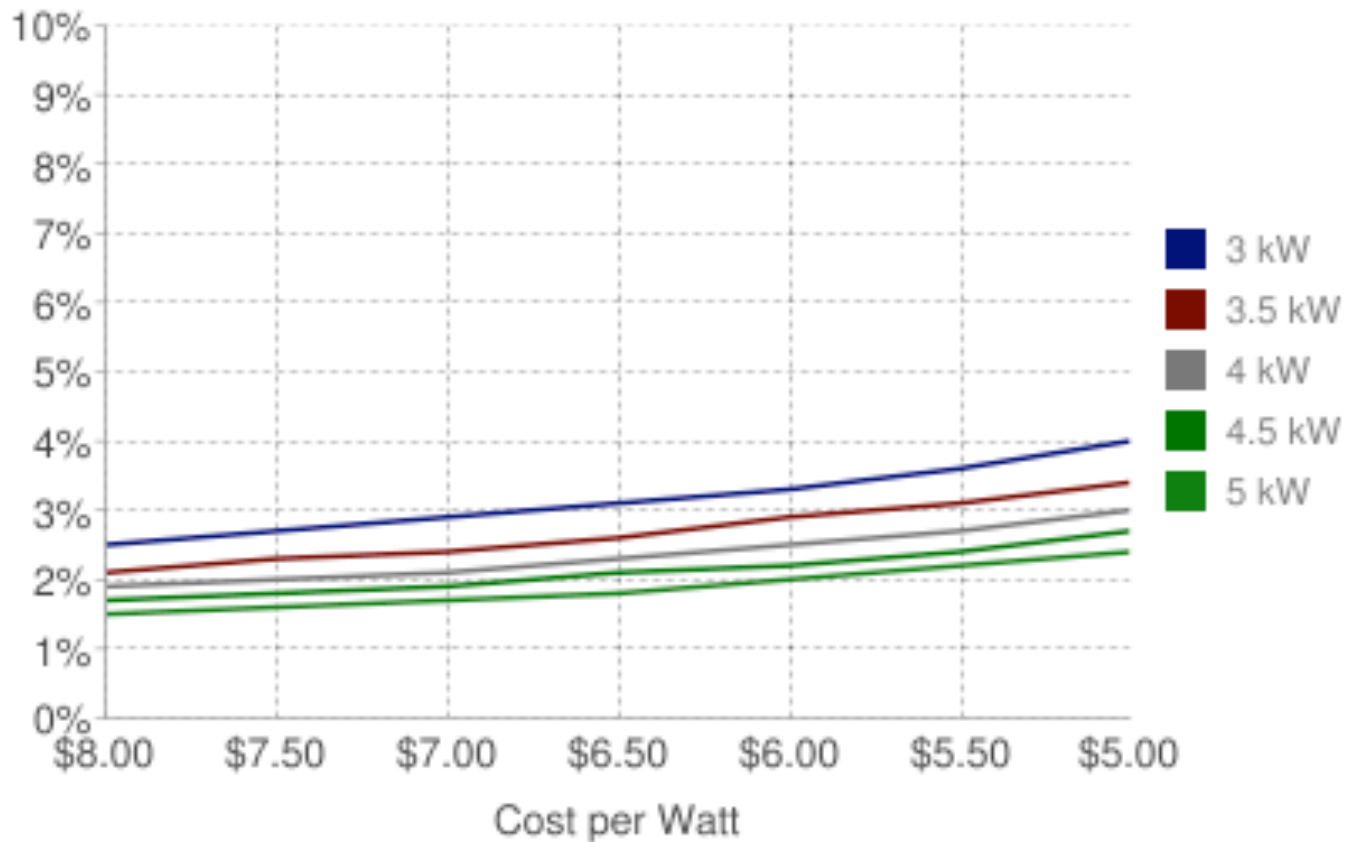
Percent of Residential Solar PV Project Cost From Permitting  
(Current Permit Costs)



- Local Permitting and inspection add \$0.50 per watt, or about \$2500 per residential install
- Permitting costs are equivalent to a \$1 billion tax on solar over the next 5 years

# THE COSTS OF PERMITTING

Percent of Residential Solar PV Project Cost From Permitting  
(Best Practice Costs)



- Countries like Germany and Japan have streamlined permitting giving them a price advantage over the U.S.
- Germany has the lowest installed cost in the world, **40% lower than the U.S.**, even though total incentives are expected to be lower in Germany in 2011.4

# STREAMLINING PROCESS

- Fair, flat fees
- Over the counter issuance
- Standardize permit requirements throughout the region
- Make all material available online
- Allow online permit application submissions
- Remove excess reviews
- Reduce inspection appointment windows
- Train staff



# BENEFITS TO JURISDICTIONS

- Save jurisdictions time and increase installations quality
- No need to reinvent the wheel and/or expend excess budget dollars
- Reduce re-submissions and failed inspection
- Reduce customization leading to less errors



***Streamlining permitting processes does not sacrifice safety, but simply eliminates inefficiencies***

## 4 NEXT STEPS TO STREAMLINING PERMITTING

1. Allow permitting applications to be submitted online
2. Reduce inspection appointment times
3. Form working group between industry stakeholders and government to specifically focus on streamlining permitting process
4. Make the permitting process completely transparent





# CASE STUDIES

## ■ Germany

- Streamlined, and in some cases eliminated, the permitting process
- Germany has the lowest installed cost in the world, **40% lower than the U.S.**, even though total incentives are expected to be lower in Germany in 2011
- Germany leads the world in installed solar capacity

## ■ Arizona

- High permitting costs were hindering solar development. City built strong coalition between council members and industry to tackle problem
- City streamlined, and expedited review process, and costs dropped as much as 80%

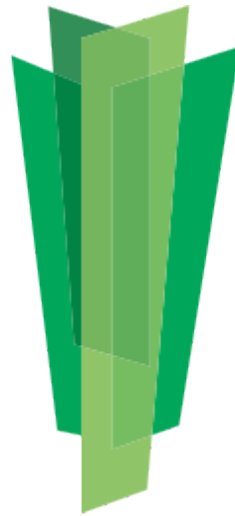
## ■ Colorado

- Likely a new national model for lowering solar fees, the **Fair Permit Act (CO)**
- Reduced inefficiencies in permitting process, capped fees at \$500 for residential and \$1000 for commercial projects, requires line-item costs for permitting agencies.
- Prevent local governments from exceeding costs caps

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Solar American Board of Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs). <http://www.solarabcs.org/>
- Vote Solar. *Permitting Best Practices*. <http://votesolar.org/best-practices/>
- SunRun. *The Impact of Local Permitting on the Cost of Solar Power*. <http://www.sunrunhome.com/cost-of-solar/solar-panels/local-permitting>
- Solar America Cities. <http://solaramericacommunities.energy.gov/>





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thank you.

# THE COSTS OF PERMITTING EXPLAINED

- Complete permit applications: \$505
- Submit permit application in person: \$149
- Pay permit fee: \$431
- Variation in building requirements: \$726
- Field inspection: \$236
- Average delay: 3.5 weeks
- Reduce inspection appointment windows
- Sales and marking costs: \$845
- Untrained inspectors: \$350 (and time delay)