



Regional Codes Coordinating Committee
Opinion Paper
2021 International Energy Conservation Code Appendix RB and
2021 International Residential Code Appendix AT
Solar-Ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses

The **2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) [Appendix RB](#)** and **2021 International Residential Code (IRC) [Appendix AT](#)**, Solar-Ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses, herein referred to as “Solar-Ready Provisions”, are voluntary and cities are not required to adopt these appendices if they adopt the 2021 IECC or IRC. The Regional Codes Coordinating Committee (RCCC) of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) recommends that if jurisdictions consider adopting the Solar-Ready Provisions of the 2021 IECC and IRC, that they incorporate the recommended amendment included in this document.

The Solar-Ready Provisions apply to new construction and do not require solar systems to be installed at the time of construction. Both appendices do require the space(s) for installing such systems, called a Solar-Ready Zone, which is a section or sections of the roof or building overhang designated and reserved for future installation of a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal system. Adoption of the Solar-Ready Provisions can make future PV system installations more cost-effective by reducing the need for future infrastructure upgrades, ensuring technical feasibility, and planning for system optimization.

At the request of NCTCOG staff, the RCCC Energy and Green Advisory Board (EGAB) reviewed Appendix RB of the 2021 IECC. The EGAB supported the recommendation of one amendment that would be relevant to both Appendices. The Fire Advisory Board and the Building and Residential Board both concurred with EGAB’s review and recommended amendment. The RCCC approved this Opinion Paper on October 12, 2021.

Recommended Amendment

*****Appendix RB, Section 103.7; delete Section 103.7 and change to read as follows: 103.7 Roof load documentation.** The structural design loads for roof dead load and roof live load shall be clearly indicated on the construction documents. At the time of solar energy permitting, a Texas licensed professional structural engineering letter from the solar installer indicating that the roof can withstand the load shall be required.

*****Appendix AT, Section 103.7; delete Section 103.7 and change to read as follows: 103.7 Roof load documentation.** The structural design loads for roof dead load and roof live load shall be clearly indicated on the construction documents. At the time of solar energy permitting, a Texas licensed professional structural engineering letter from the solar installer indicating that the roof can withstand the load shall be required.

Jurisdictions interested in reducing the barriers to solar adoption can consider adoption of the Solar-Ready Provisions to streamline their jurisdictional processes and provide consistency amongst local governments in the region. NCTCOG’s Go Solar Texas website (gosolartexas.org) has additional resources for local governments, such as a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Permit Application Checklist.

For questions regarding the contents of this Opinion Paper, please contact the NCTCOG Environment and Development Department at EandD@nctcog.org or (817) 695-9210. Additional NCTCOG Recommended Codes and Regional Amendments can be found here: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/regional-building-codes/amendments>.