



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF MILTON
DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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Town of Milton Solar Ready Zones Guidance

The Town of Milton adopted the [MA Stretch Code](#) in 2010 at our September 20 [Special Town Meeting](#), and it came into effect of [July 1, 2011](#). The [Massachusetts State Building Code](#), including the base energy code, is mandatory in all cities and towns in the Commonwealth and is not required to be adopted locally, only the Stretch Energy portion needed to be specifically adopted.

The state Stretch Code is updated every few years, and in their 2018 update included a new requirement for “Solar-Ready Zones.” As of April 20, 2018, these requirements went into effect in the Town of Milton and are enforced without modification or amendment by our Inspectional Services Department. These requirements have been maintained in the most recent iteration of the code and are currently enforced.

These “Solar Ready Zones” are in the State’s Stretch Code as [Appendix RB](#), which defines them as “A section or sections of the roof or building overhang designated and reserved for the future installation of a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal system.” Appendix RB does not require solar systems to be installed for a building, but it does require that there be the space for installing such systems, providing pathways for connections, and requiring adequate structural capacity of roof systems to support the systems.

This requirement has applied to all new single-family home construction in Milton, except for those which have a permanent on-site renewable energy system or those where the roof of a home would be in shade for more than 70 percent of the day, since its addition to the State’s Building Energy Code in 2018.

If your home was built after April 20, 2018, and doesn’t yet have on-site solar power, you can learn more about Milton’s process for granting solar permits as well as find some helpful resources, including potential rebates or financing options, at the following places:

<https://www.townofmilton.org/inspectional-services/pages/solar-checklist>

<https://www.townofmilton.org/department-public-works/pages/energy-and-conservation-initiatives>