

**Rooftop Residential Solar Panels Electrical Permit
County of Maui, Department of Public Works (DPW)
Maui Electric Company (MECO)**

Purpose: This process covers installation of residential photovoltaic (PV) systems within a residential lot.

Regulations / Authority: Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 269-101 to 269-111; Maui County Code (MCC) 16.16A, 16.18B; MECO Net Energy Metering (NEM)

Potential Approval Prerequisites: Review the U.S. Department of Energy Homebuilder's Guide to Going Solar: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/pdfs/44792.pdf>

Fees: Application Fee is required – Refer to fee link below.

For Permit Application, Guidelines and Fees:

- <http://www.mauielectric.com/meco/Clean-Energy/Clean-Energy-Generation/Net-Energy-Metering-in-Hawaii> for NEM information.
- <http://www.mauielectric.com/vcmcontent/MECO/RenewableEnergy/MECO%20NEM%20FORM%20A%202013.pdf.pdf> for MECO NEM project equal to or less than 10kW.
- <http://www.mauielectric.com/vcmcontent/MECO/RenewableEnergy/MECO%20NEM%20FORM%20A10%202013.pdf.pdf> for MECO NEM projects greater than 10kW.
- http://www.co.maui.hi.us/documents/20/81/83/Permit_Reg_For_PhotovoltaicSystems_WindTurbines_Windmills_Dec2009.PDF for electrical and building permit requirements from DPW, Development Services Administration.
- http://www.co.maui.hi.us/documents/20/81/86/2013FY_FeeSchedule_Elec_201402041926544343.pdf for fees which are based on size and quantity, and are set by an ordinance.

Master Application Form: MECO NEM applications are available online at the NEM information link above, and electrical and building permit applications are available at the DPW, Development Services Administration.

Contact Information: MECO NEM (808) 871-8461, ext. 2445; DPW Electrical Permit & Inspection Office (808) 270-7255

Checklist / Process	Chronology
1. Hire a solar contractor with an electrical contractor's C-13 license. Additional licenses may apply. For information on license requirements, contact the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA): http://cca.hawaii.gov/	
2. Submit NEM application to MECO including all requirements as listed in the application form and appendices. It is important to provide a complete application to avoid time delays.	
3. MECO reviews NEM application for completeness.	15 business days
4. MECO conducts an initial technical review, if required.	15 business days
5. MECO conducts a supplemental review, if required.	20 business days
6. MECO or applicant conducts an interconnection requirement study, if required.	150 calendar days
7. For rooftop PV, submit an electrical permit to DPW which must include a letter from an architect or structural engineer licensed in the State of Hawaii verifying that the roof is structurally adequate to support the PV system. If an	

applicant is unable to obtain a letter verifying the roof is structurally adequate, submit a building permit along with the electrical permit. A letter from MECO, or other documentation, is needed before DPW will process and issue the Electrical Permit.	
8. For free standing or ground mounted PV, submit an electrical permit to DPW by a license electrical contractor, and a building permit to DPW by an architect or structural engineer licensed in the State of Hawaii.	
9. The DPW reviews the electrical and/or building permit applications for completeness.	
10. The DPW will require MECO to approve the electrical permit.	
11. The DPW issues the electrical permit.	30 days from Step 9
12. Install the PV system.	
13. MECO inspects the PV system.	10 business days
14. MECO executes the NEM Agreement.	5 business days
15. MECO installs the NEM meter.	10 business days
Estimated Time from Completed Application Acceptance	3 months to 1 year

Other Application Considerations:

1. Review MECO's NEM information website for list of eligible inverters, eligible PV modules, and approved equipment.
2. Electrical Permits shall expire if the initial required inspection is not approved within one year from the date of issuance. Once the initial required inspection is approved, the permit shall be allowed to remain active up to a maximum of 5 years from the date of issuance, or until the Final Inspection is Approved, whichever occurs first.
3. For free standing or ground mounted PV systems, building permits may potentially be routed to State of Hawaii State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) for approval. SHPD's approval typically takes 30 to 90 days.
4. Fire risks must be considered, particularly for projects with batteries. Building and Electrical Permits are routed to the Maui County Fire Department for review.
5. Permits are routed to the Planning Department for compliance with applicable zoning codes. For ground-mounted installations, additional permits may apply (ground preparation, run-off, etc.).
6. Review DCCA's "Information for Consumers About Going Solar" at:
<http://cca.hawaii.gov/rico/files/2014/09/CLB-140903-Information-for-Consumer-About-Solar.pdf>