

15440 CENTRAL AVENUE  
OAK FOREST IL 60452-2104



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February 3, 2022

The City of Oak Forest  
15440 S. Central Avenue  
Oak Forest, IL 60452

Re: Solar Panels – Determination of Use

To Whom It May Concern,

Section 9-101 of the City of Oak Forest Zoning Ordinance addresses regulations and requirements of Accessory Structures and Uses. This section of the Zoning Ordinance does not specifically list solar panels, but accessory structures and use are defined as follows:

An accessory structure or use is a structure or use that:

1. Is subordinate in area, extent and purpose to, and serves, a principal structure or use;
2. Is customarily found as an incident to such principal structure or use;
3. Contributes to the comfort, convenience or necessity of those occupying, working at or being served by such principal structure or use; and
4. Is except as otherwise expressly authorized by the provision of this Code; located on the same zoning lot as such principal structure or use; and
5. Is under the same ownership and control as the principal structure or use.

As such, a determination by the Zoning Official as to whether or not a solar panel type use is an accessory structure is required. As the designated Zoning Official for the City of Oak Forest, I can confirm that a solar panel is indeed considered an accessory structure to a principal use, such as a residence or business.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Cage, AICP

Director of Community & Economic Development  
City of Oak Forest