



2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code – Code Review Committee

RE: August 3rd meeting and Solar Ready Construction

July 29, 2020

Code review committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider our recommendation for inclusion of Appendix U of the International Residential Code (IRC) as elements of a sound, reasonable and cost effective Solar Ready Construction code for Oregon. As a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies, with members including businesses, non-profit groups, and other solar industry stakeholders with extensive experience in solar design and installation, Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association (OSEIA) is well poised to provide Oregon specific, experienced based, input on this timely topic.

A well-crafted solar ready code will result in new home design and construction practices that regularly incorporate the basics of space and chase. “Space”, in the form of unobstructed southern, western, and/or eastern sloping roofs & in the electric panel and “Chase”, in the form of conduit from the electric panel to the solar roof. When assimilated upfront into the design of homes these practices result in nominal additional costs and a home that is truly Solar Ready.

The interim amendment, as previously presented for adoption by staff, aptly provides for the “chase” side of the equation and we support it as an essential element in Solar Ready code. However, if it was to be adopted without additional provisions accommodating for “space”, it would result in homes being constructed that, while touted as solar ready, would not accommodate a solar installation at all. This outcome would neither meet the goals related to EO 17-20, EO 20-04 or save money for solar system owners in the future.

Appendix U of the International Residential Code (IRC) provides a thorough, yet simple, set of “space” requirements ensuring that new construction is, indeed, solar-ready to accommodate cost effective installations with higher levels of clean electricity production. The code is practical, accommodates allowances for homes with less than 600 square feet of solar roof space and is the basis upon which Oregon homes have been designed, received financial incentives and will continue to produce superior solar performance for decades to come.

Again, thank you for making time to consider these straight-forward, time tested, cost effective additions to our future Oregon Solar Ready construction codes. If OSEIA or our members (some of which are listed below) can be of any assistance on this or future solar and energy storage considerations, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In service,

**Shannon Souza, PE**  
Board Director, Policy Chair



**PO Box 14927, Portland, OR 97293-0927**

**Email: [admin@oseia.org](mailto:admin@oseia.org)**

**[www.oseia.org](http://www.oseia.org)**