



What are the Requirements?

Section C405.14 and Appendix CB Solar-Ready Zone requires new commercial and multifamily residential construction projects to designate a solar-ready zone on the building plans. The requirement applies to all new buildings with occupancy classifications A, B, E, M, R1, and R2. This solar-ready zone can be located on the roof of the building, overhangs, or on a nearby structure such as covered parking. The solar-ready zone must be equal to 40% of the available roof area of the building and must consider shading and other obstructions. Buildings with six or more stories and buildings that already have a photovoltaic (PV) system 1 Watt/sf of roof area or 5 kW (whichever is larger) are exempt.

International Building Code Section 302 – Occupancy Classification and Use Designation	
Occupancy Classification	Group
Assembly	A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5
Business	B
Educational	E
Mercantile	M
Residential	R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4

How Does this Apply to Your Project?

If a project is not already installing a permanent renewable energy system, the project team will need to provide a solar-ready zone on the roof and meet the other solar-ready requirements.

Why is this Important?

The goal of section C405.14 is to allow for the future installation of a PV system. To meet Denver's climate goals and Xcel's renewable energy goals, more building level renewable energy will be needed in Denver. C405.14 ensures that buildings will be able to install Solar PV in the future if desired.

What is the Climate Impact?

The 2022 Denver Energy Code will reduce operational carbon emissions for commercial new construction by 15% over the 2021 IECC. C405.14 does not directly reduce carbon emissions in Denver but is important to allow for future renewable installations.

