HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL · OCTOBER 15, 2026

Faster Solar Permits, Lower Costs for Your Residents

Justin Slusarski Jurisdiction Outreach Lead, SolarAPP Foundation

SolarAPP+



THE COST GAP

Americans pay 3× more for solar.

Solar APP+®

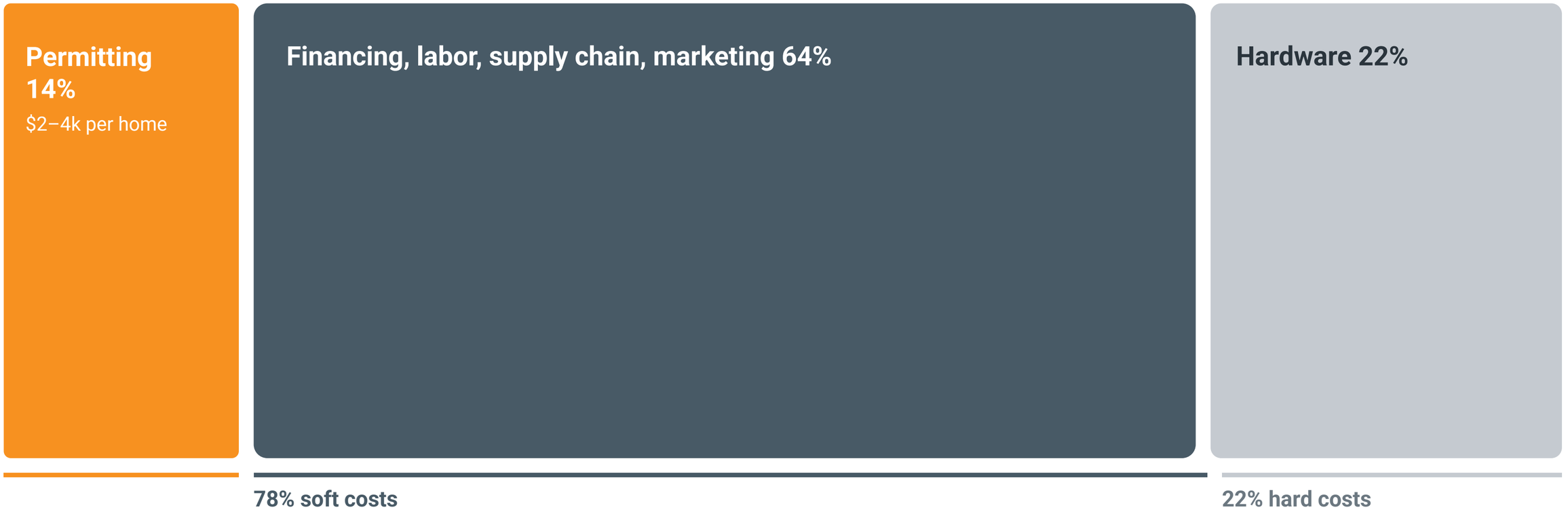


Same equipment. More paperwork.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The problem is soft costs, not hardware.

Solar APP+



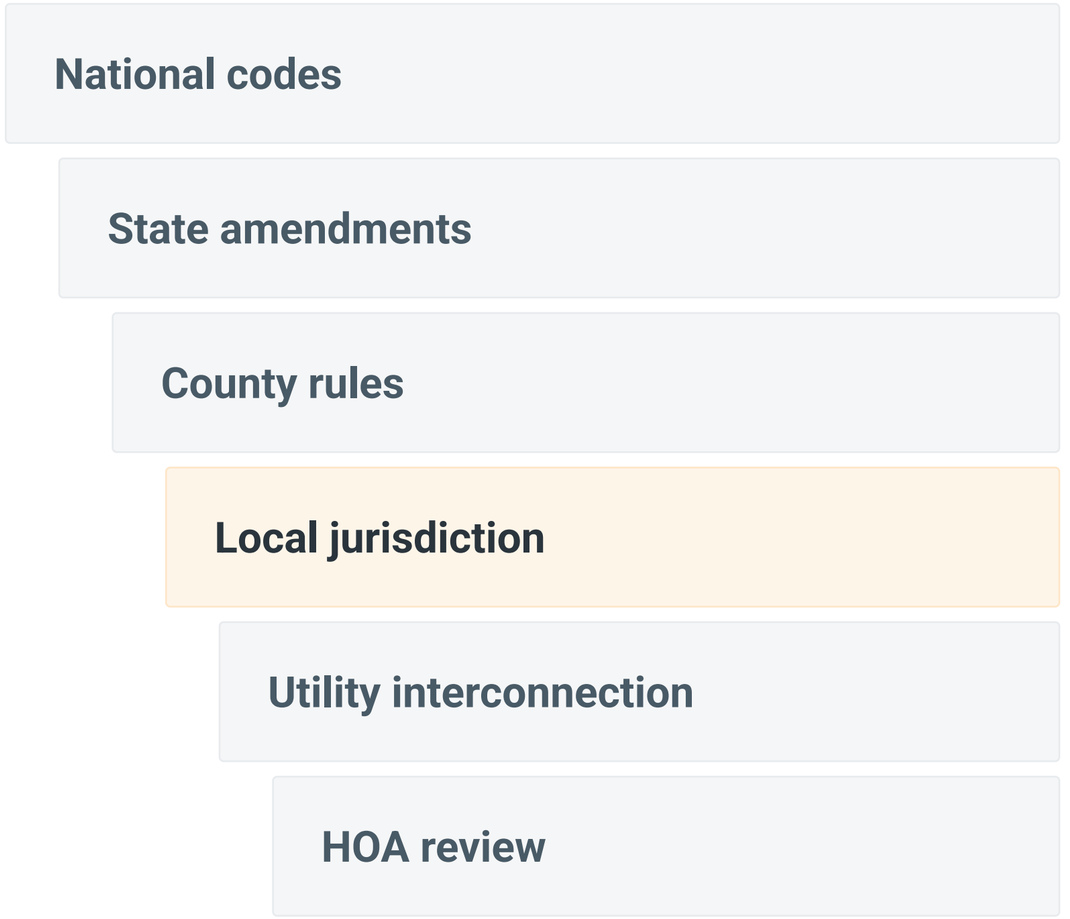
Permitting adds roughly eight weeks to a project, compounding financing costs, customer churn, idle crews, and inventory risk.

Solar APP+

THE BARRIER

22,000 local governments, each with its own process.

Every major home project needs a permit and an inspection. Most permits require a plan review, a manual check of safety code against what the contractor proposes. Houses in neighboring towns can be subject to entirely different rules.



HOW IT WORKS

SolarAPP+ standardizes the permit.

STEP ONE

Installer submits the project

STEP TWO

Plans are checked against hundreds of codes

Eligibility, structural, electrical, fire

STEP THREE

The permit issues instantly

Free for governments, deployable in an hour. What once took weeks takes minutes, without compromising safety.

PROVEN AT SCALE

Impact delivered so far.

Solar APP+®

145,000+

Permits processed

472 MW

Of solar reviewed

2.1M days

Of permitting delay eliminated

~$3,000

Removed from a typical residential project

ARIZONA CASE STUDY

Easier permits grow local solar business.

SolarAPP+®

SOLARAPP+ JURISDICTIONS

140%

increase in solar adoption

Standardized, instant permits.

Contractors can plan and price with confidence.

OTHER JURISDICTIONS

66%

increase in solar adoption

Same state.

Traditional, town-by-town review.

WHAT IT MEANS

2×

the growth in solar adoption

More business for local solar contractors.

More homes lowering their energy bills.

WHAT STAYS LOCAL

Your town stays in control.

YOUR CODE

Local rules don’t change

Projects that don’t qualify go through your normal review.

THE BENEFIT

Home rule stays intact.

YOUR INSPECTIONS

Your inspector still inspects

Your building department inspects every finished system, just as it does today.

THE BENEFIT

Safety stays in local hands.

YOUR FEES

Your permit fees stay yours

SolarAPP+ is free to the town, and the town keeps its own permit fees.

THE BENEFIT

No new cost to the town or its taxpayers.

NO NEW LAW

Kingston gave its go-ahead through an executive directive. No local law and no procurement needed.

NEW YORK TODAY

New York’s start is in the Hudson Valley.

COMMITTED

Kingston

Gave the go-ahead. Technical setup in progress.

JUST RELEASED

New York code eligibility

SolarAPP+ is ready for New York projects.

ALSO COMMITTED

Saugerties and Marbletown

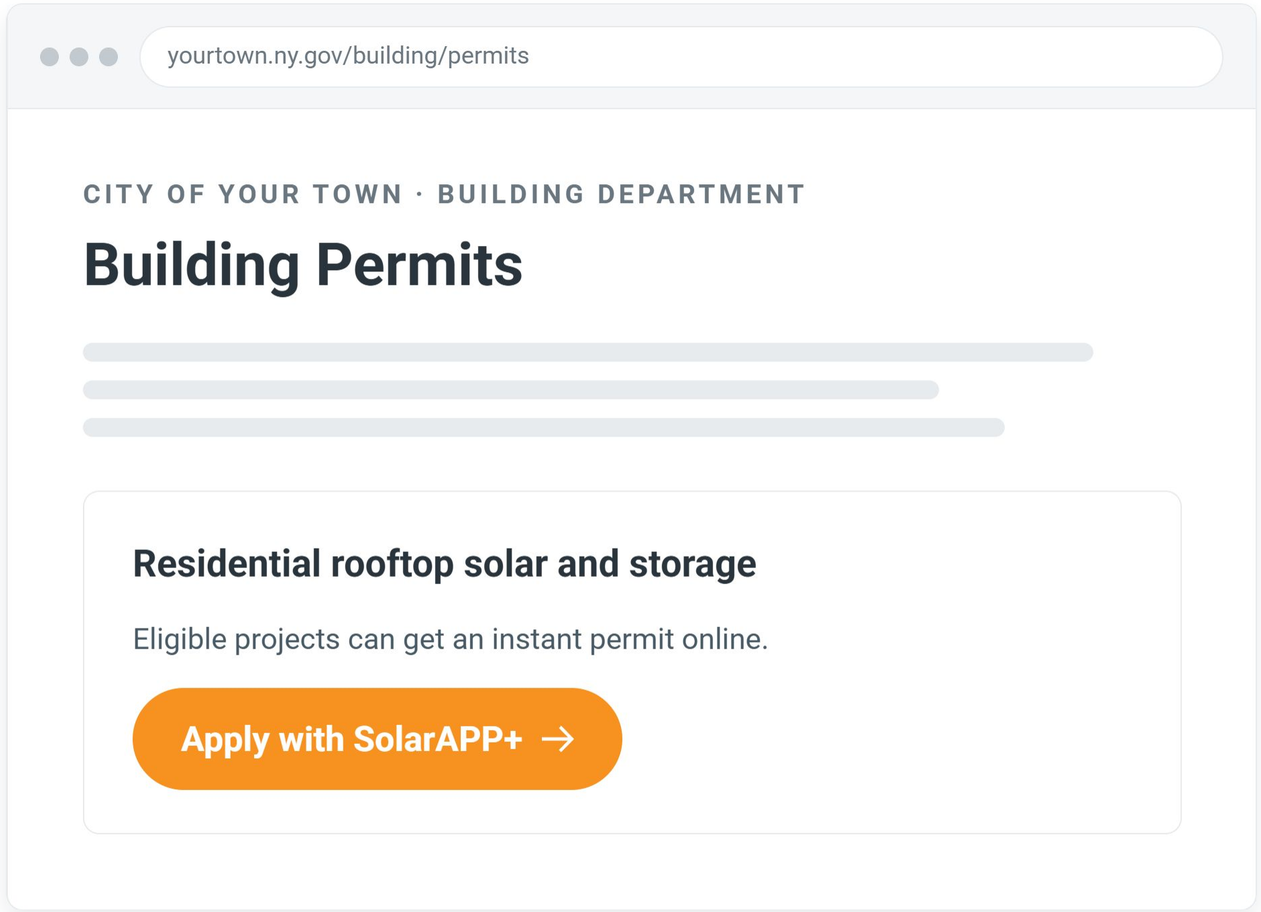
10 GW

New York’s goal for distributed solar by 2030, set under the state’s Climate Act.

HOW ADOPTION WORKS

A new workflow, not new software.

SolarAPP+



1–2 hrs
of staff time

<30 days
to go live

Nothing to install. Nothing to procure. Your town's existing permitting system stays exactly where it is.

Your building official lets SolarAPP+ review and approve eligible permits. Contractors upload the approval into your existing system.

Illustration: a town permitting page with a SolarAPP+ link.

NEXT STEPS

What your town can do next.

SolarAPP+®

1

Start the conversation

Ask your sustainability office or building official to take a look.

2

Schedule consultation

We'll analyze your current permitting process to see if SolarAPP+ may be a good fit.

3

Begin local setup

Create an account. Configure your local settings. Add a link. Go live!

No new law, no procurement, no cost to the town. Just start the conversation.

UP NEXT · JULIE NOBLE, CITY OF KINGSTON

Kingston’s experience

Questions? Let’s connect.

SOLARAPP FOUNDATION

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SolarAPP+

APPENDIX

Frequently asked questions

FAQ · FITTING INTO YOUR TOWN

How SolarAPP+ fits your process.

Does this replace our permitting system?

No. SolarAPP+ reviews and approves the design. The contractor then brings that approval into your existing permit process, like any other application.

We don’t have an online permitting system. Does that matter?

No. SolarAPP+ is web-based, so contractors apply online either way. Your town can accept the SolarAPP+ approval by email or at the counter.

Do we need to pass a local law?

No. Building officials already decide how they carry out the code. Towns typically adopt SolarAPP+ by administrative or executive direction.

Do contractors have to use it?

No. It adds an option. Contractors can still apply the traditional way, and projects that don’t qualify go through your normal review.

FAQ · CODES AND LOCAL RULES

Your codes, checked automatically.

Is this just a checklist contractors submit?

No. Contractors enter the full system design, including equipment, structural and electrical details, and SolarAPP+ runs 260+ automated code checks. A design that fails can’t be approved.

How do you handle zoning and other local requirements?

SolarAPP+ covers building, electrical and fire code. Zoning, historic review and other local approvals stay with your town, and those steps stay in place.

How are New York’s state code amendments incorporated?

SolarAPP+ is set up for New York’s adopted code. During onboarding, we review your local design values and amendments and configure SolarAPP+ to match.

Which projects qualify?

Standard residential rooftop solar and home battery systems. Anything outside those parameters goes through your normal review.

FAQ · INSPECTIONS AND SAFETY

Your inspectors stay in charge.

SolarAPP+®

How do you inspect without a site plan?

The inspector gets the SolarAPP+ approval documents, which spell out the approved design and equipment. The inspection confirms the installed system matches what was approved.

Who has final authority?

Your building official. They authorize SolarAPP+ for eligible projects, and your inspector still inspects and signs off on every installed system.

Is it safe?

Every design is checked against code before installation. Contractors see 29% fewer inspection failures because errors are caught up front.

Does it cover batteries?

Yes. SolarAPP+ covers residential rooftop solar and home battery storage, a fast-growing share of permit volume.

FAQ · COSTS

Who pays, and who saves.

Does this increase fees for contractors?

Contractors pay a small per-permit SolarAPP+ fee, and your town keeps its own permit fee. In exchange they get an instant permit and fewer revisions, which saves far more.

How do soft costs reach residents?

Delays, revisions and extra site visits get built into every installer's price. Faster, predictable permits mean lower bids: roughly $2,000 to $4,000 per project.

What does it cost the town?

Nothing. SolarAPP+ is free to local governments, and setup typically takes one to two hours of staff time.

Who is behind SolarAPP+?

The SolarAPP Foundation, a nonprofit. SolarAPP+ was built at a U.S. Department of Energy national lab, and our board includes SEIA, ICC, IREC, Sunrun and Tesla.