



# Cromwell SOLAR

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Cromwell Solar is working on a new project here in Lawrence partnering with Mid-America Bank to get solar installed on homes and businesses throughout the region with lease payments (hopefully) under what customers will save on their electric bills. We anticipate our typical project will be residential and small commercial systems which tend to have higher electrical rates.

If we can accomplish lower lease payments than energy savings the project is cost neutral or cash positive and we estimate an additional annual \$10-20m in local (taxed) sales and hiring 10+ additional local employees (we have a total of 16 today). While not asking for an abatement or incentive we would like help regarding the way our permitting fees are calculated.

Up until a few years ago solar permit fees in Lawrence were calculated based upon the actual work being performed to the home's electrical system (the AC portion which is done by a licensed electrician), at some point this shifted to encompass the entirety of our project (panels on the roof, etc). The difference between the calculation methods resulted in a residential system permit fee going up from about \$50 to over \$500.

Many progressive communities have forgone any fees whatsoever for the permitting/inspection of solar projects. While a total lack of permit fees would be helpful, a simple return to the original, electrician based calculation of fees is what I am requesting. Additionally, thus far we have only been required to obtain stamped engineering documents for commercial systems. We would like this policy to continue as small systems can not bear the additional cost of an engineer and do not need one provided the installation is flush with the roof using a professionally designed rack.

The result of the lower fees/engineering expenses is that the cost of the city inspection of the system is covered but the cost to consumers is low enough that we can achieve parity between the lease payments and the customer's energy savings and we will be able to exponentially increase our local solar work, hire more people and pay more taxes.

I would appreciate an opportunity to visit with whoever would be appropriate to further discuss this request and solar inspection requirements in general.

Most Sincerely,

Aron Cromwell  
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