

**From:** Gretchen Kennard  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** Residential Front-Yard Solar Panel Installation

Dear Planning Commission:

Recently, residents at 2815 Brockman Boulevard sent a letter to concerned next-door neighbors stating they intend to proceed with the front-yard installation of a solar collector.

The proposed ground-mounted solar collector in the front yard of 2815 Brockman is **extremely large**: 44 feet long, 9 feet wide (396 square feet, larger than many garages), and nearly 9 feet high. The average setback of neighboring houses from the sidewalk is 103 ft; proposed installation will be 40 ft from the sidewalk.

Ann Arbor needs a specific set of solar zoning rules and a permitting process. There are no zoning ordinances for ground-mounted solar collectors in residential neighborhoods. This issue was first brought to the attention of City Council, the Planning Commission, and the Energy Commission in early December 2016.

Hank Vanderploeg and John Godfrey expressed views of neighbors at meetings of the Council and both commissions' **Council members and commissioner agreed that front-yard installations were not appropriate in residential neighborhoods**. This installation will create a city-wide precedent and open the door for similar projects in residential front yards.

We understand that the Planning Commission is in the process of preparing recommendations to the Council for changes in zoning to **prohibit solar installations anywhere in the front yard**. David and I, as well as many other residents in our neighborhood, are pleading with you to make this very prohibition clearly stated in the zoning laws.

How would you feel about your very close next-door neighbor installing such a panel in their front yard? How would that affect the worth and sale of your house?

Thank you for listening and adhering to the concerns of voting residents.

Sincerely,

David and Greta (Gretchen) Kennard