

Walden Woods Association

Solar Energy Policy Statement

Effective as of April 1, 2026

The Homeowners' Energy Policy Act, MCL 559.301 et seq. ("HEPA"), invalidates certain provisions in homeowners' association agreements that prohibit the replacement, maintenance, installation, or operation of certain energy-saving improvements or modifications or the installation of solar energy systems. HEPA also requires homeowners' associations to adopt a written solar energy policy statement that complies with the act's terms and conditions.

Article VIII of the Master Deed states, in relevant part, that "[n]o Co-Owner shall do anything which would change the exterior appearance of a Dwelling Unit or any other portion of the Condominium Project except by the following procedures"

Article XII, Section 3 of the Bylaws, as amended by the Third Amendment to the Master Deed, states that "[t]he Board of Directors shall have the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Association" Article VI, Section 6 of the Bylaws states that the ". . . Board of Directors of the Association may make rules and regulations from time to time to reflect the needs and desires of the majority of the Co-owners in the Condominium. Reasonable regulations consistent with the Act, the Master Deed and these Bylaws concerning the use of the Common Elements may be made and amended from time to time by any Board of Directors of the Association" Article II, Section 1(i) of Walden Woods Association's (the "Association") Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation also states that the Board of Directors (the "Board") may "make and enforce Rules and Regulations concerning the Condominium."

The Association notes that the plain language of HEPA does not indicate that it applies to condominium associations; however, the Association will adopt and maintain the written solar energy policy statement required by HEPA for so long as HEPA remains in effect. Therefore, in compliance with MCL 559.309, the Board now adopts the following Solar Energy Policy Statement pursuant to Article VI, Section 6 of the Bylaws and Article II, Section 1(i) of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation.

Solar Energy Policy Statement

Section 1. Conflict Between Condominium Documents and HEPA. According to MCL 559.305 and MCL 559.307, to the extent one or more provisions within the Condominium Documents violate HEPA, those provisions are invalid and unenforceable as contrary to public policy, and HEPA will control.

Section 2. Conflict Between HEPA and Policy Statement. According to MCL 559.309(1)(e), to the extent any provision within this Solar Energy Policy Statement ("Policy Statement") contradicts HEPA, that provision is void and unenforceable, and the language within

HEPA will control.

Section 3. Applicability to Shared Roofs and Common Areas. According to MCL 559.313, HEPA does not apply to any shared roofs or common areas in Walden Woods (the “Condominium”). A “shared roof” is defined as a “roof that serves more than one home or unit, including, but not limited to, a contiguous roof that serves adjacent homes or units.” “Common areas” are defined as portions “of a building, land, or amenities owned or managed by the homeowners’ association that are generally accessible to all members of the association.” There are no shared roofs in the Condominium; however, there are “common areas.” The “common areas” include, but are not necessarily limited to, the general common element land and woodlands, general common element roadways, general common element sidewalks, and general common element wetlands.

Section 4. Review and Approval of Solar Energy Systems.

A. Definition of Solar Energy System. MCL 559.303(j) defines a “solar energy system” as “a complete assembly, structure, or design of a solar collector, or a solar storage mechanism that uses solar energy for generating electricity or heating or cooling gases, solids, liquids, or other materials. Solar energy system includes the design, materials, or elements of a solar energy system and its maintenance, operation, labor components, and the necessary components, if any, of supplemental conventional energy systems designed or constructed to interface with a solar energy system.”

B. Review and Approval Specifications and Requirements.

- i. Co-owners who wish to install a solar energy system must submit a written application to the Board prior to installation. As a reminder, **solar energy systems may not be installed on the common areas.**
- ii. The written application must include the following information under MCL 559.311:
 1. The Co-owner’s name.
 2. The Co-owner’s street address.
 3. The name and contact information of the person who will install the solar energy system.
 4. An image that shows the layout of the solar energy system on the Co-owner’s home.
 5. A description of the solar energy system to be installed.
- iii. The Board may not ask the Co-owner about their energy usage. The

Board may not consider the identity of the entity that owns the solar energy system or the financing method chosen by the Co-owner when considering whether to approve their application.

- iv. Any fee that the Association may charge to review the application must be charged at the same rate as other alteration and modification requests.
- v. When reviewing a Co-owner's application, the Board will consider all the following:
 - 1. Solar energy systems may be installed on a roof face.
 - 2. No specific technology, such as solar shingles or traditional solar panels, is required to be utilized in the installation of a solar energy system.
 - 3. The approval of an adjacent Co-owner is not required.
 - 4. Any standards enforced under this Policy Statement may not result in a reduction in the estimated annual production of electricity by the solar energy system by more than ten (10%) percent.
 - 5. Any standards enforced under this Policy Statement may not increase the total cost of the installation of the solar energy system to the Co-owner by more than \$1,000.00.
 - 6. No conditions that impair the operation of the solar energy system may be imposed.
 - 7. No conditions that negatively impact any component industry standard warranty may be imposed.

C. Denying Applications to Install Solar Energy Systems. The Board may deny a written application to install a solar energy system if one or more of the following apply:

- i. A court has found that the installation violates a law.
- ii. The installed solar energy system does not substantially conform with the Co-owner's approved application.
- iii. The Board has determined that the solar energy system will be installed on the roof of the Co-owner's home and:

1. The solar energy system will extend above or beyond the roof of the home by more than six (6") inches;
 2. The solar energy system does not conform to the slope of the roof and has a top edge that is not parallel to the roof line; or
 3. The solar energy system has a frame, support bracket, or visible conduit or wiring that is not silver, bronze, or black in tone that are commonly available in the marketplace.
- iv. The Board has determined that both:
1. The solar energy system will be installed in a fenced yard or patio rather than on the roof of a home; and
 2. The solar energy system will be taller than the fence line.

D. Deadline to Approve or Deny Application. The Board will either approve or deny the Co-owner's application within thirty (30) days of its receipt. If the Board does not approve or deny the Co-owner's application within thirty (30) days of its receipt, the Co-owner may proceed with the installation of the solar energy system in compliance with HEPA, and the Association may not impose fines or otherwise penalize the Co-owner for complying with HEPA.

Section 5. Resubmission of Solar Energy System Applications. If the Board previously denied a Co-owner's application to install a solar energy system before the enactment of HEPA, the Co-owner may submit another written application to the Board, and the Board will reconsider the application under HEPA. If the Board denies a Co-owner's application to install a solar energy system that was submitted after the enactment of HEPA, the Co-owner may later resubmit another written application to install a solar energy system.

Section 6. Post-Installation Reporting. After the Co-owner installs a solar energy system, the Association will not require post-installation reporting.

Section 7. Compliance with State and Local Laws. Co-owners will comply with all state and local building codes and permit requirements when installing solar energy systems.

Section 8. Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement. Co-owners who have a solar energy system are responsible for maintaining, repairing, and replacing it so that it remains in good condition and repair. Damage to the common elements resulting from a failure of the Co-owner to adequately maintain, repair, or replace the solar energy system is the Co-owner's responsibility. See Article VIII(E) of the Master Deed.

Section 9. Removal of Solar Energy Systems. The Association may require the removal of a solar energy system if it is not maintained in accordance with Section 8 above or if

one or more of the conditions outlined in Section 4(C) above apply.

Section 10. Energy-Saving Improvements. This Policy Statement does not address energy-saving improvements under MCL 559.305.

Section 11. Distribution and Availability of Policy Statement. This Policy Statement was made available to the Association's members no later than thirty (30) days after its adoption and will be made available to the Co-owners upon request. If the Association maintains an Internet website, this Policy Statement will be posted and maintained on that website.


Section 12. Invalidity or Repeal of HEPA. If HEPA is found to be unenforceable under Michigan law or is repealed, this Policy Statement will automatically be rescinded and no longer in effect.

Section 13. Severability. If any one or more of the provisions in this Policy Statement is, for any reason, held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability will not affect any other provision of this Policy Statement, and this Policy Statement will be construed as if it never contained any invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision.

This Solar Energy Policy Statement was adopted by the Board of Walden Woods Association at a Regular Meeting on March 23, 2026.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Walden Woods Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Allie", is written over a horizontal line.

By: Michael Allie

Its: President