

Residential Energy Backup System

Generators (up to 50kw) and SOLAR/ESS

Effective September 1, 2025

The Texas legislature passed Senate Bill 1252 (2025), which changes how municipalities regulate residential backup power generation systems. Under this new law, municipalities are no longer allowed to regulate the installation or inspection of residential energy backup systems for generators up to 50kw and solar/ESS up to 100kw of storage capacity.

To comply with the new law, the City of Sugar Land has updated its permitting process for a residential energy backup system that is capable of providing up to 50 kW of electricity to the residence or has a storage capacity of no more than 100 kW hours.

what This Means for Homeowners and Contractors

Beginning Sept 1, 2025, the following process will apply to all new residential energy backup systems (up to 50 kW of electricity or has a storage capacity up to 100 kW hours)

Gas Piping

1. Applicants must obtain a Residential Plumbing GTO Express permit.
2. This permit is required when gas piping is installed or modified to serve any appliances or fixtures.
3. Inspections will follow the International Residential Code (IRC) and include testing for leaks and verification of gas line requirements.

Electrical Service

1. Applicants must obtain a Residential Electrical Service Express permit.
2. This permit covers service modifications related to the homes service equipment.
3. No plan submittal required
4. The city's inspections will be limited to the main disconnect/emergency disconnect, grounding and bonding of service equipment, other components such as the ATS or Gateway systems that are part of the residential service equipment.
5. The city will not inspect components of the generator, solar panels, inverters, batteries or ESS units themselves.

Utility Coordination

The city will continue to release notices to Center Point Energy for gas and electrical meter connections. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the Sugar Land permit office at PERMITS@SUGARLANDTX.GOV