

Community Development Department

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In the event of an Emergency...

As hurricane season approaches, the Town would like to encourage property owners to make sure they are prepared to rebuild in the event of a disaster on Hilton Head Island.

Owners should bring the information below to the Community Development Department to review and pre-approve. You can bring the information on paper or digitally, either on a cd or memory stick. This pre-approval will allow an owner to build back what they had without review for compliance with the Land Management Ordinance (LMO). Please note that all building codes will still be required to be met.

Single Family or Duplex Home Owners:

- Two (2) copies of building elevation drawings **OR** photos of all four sides of your home.
- Two (2) copies of a site plan drawing **OR** an as-built survey.

Business or Multi-Family Unit Owners:

- Two (2) copies of approved Development Plan Review (DPR) drawings **OR** two (2) copies of an as-built survey.
- If the property is located within the Corridor Overlay District, two (2) copies of approved Design Review Board (DRB) drawings **AND** two (2) copies of building elevation drawings **OR** photos of the property layout including parking lots, pools, and buffer areas **AND** photos of all four sides of each structure on the site.



Customers are strongly encouraged to bring the information to us digitally. If you bring it in digitally we will keep a copy; however, we are not able to keep any copies of the paper files. You also don't need to provide any multiple copies if submitting electronic files.

For questions on the process of emergency permitting or what you need to bring in, please contact a Community Development Assistant at (843) 341-4757 or go to the Town's website at: www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov



RESIDENTIAL ENERGY TAX CREDITS

Planning for Next Year's Taxes

The home does not have to be your primary home. It must be located in the United States. This is the link to the current Energy tax form which should be extended for next year's taxes. Link for 2009: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f5695.pdf>

Doors and Windows

If you replace any exterior doors or windows you will be eligible for a tax credit. Qualified costs include labor costs allocated to the onsite preparation, assembly, or original installation of the property.

Geothermal Heat Pump

You may be able to take up to 30% of the qualified costs as a credit if you made energy improvements to your home, the credit is limited to \$2,000.00.

Qualified geothermal heat pump property is any equipment that uses the ground or ground water as a thermal energy source to heat your home. To qualify for the credit, the geothermal heat pump property must meet the requirements of the Energy Star program that are in effect at the time of the purchase. Qualified costs include labor costs allocated to the onsite preparation, assembly, or original installation of the property.

Roof

A metal roof with appropriate pigmented coatings, or an asphalt roof with appropriate cooling granules, that are specifically and primarily designed to reduce the heat gain of your home, and if the roof meets or exceeds the Energy Star program requirements in effect at the time of purchase or installation.

Solar Electric

Enter the amount you paid for any property that uses solar energy to generate electricity for use in your home. You may not include costs allocated to a swimming pool or hot tub. Costs include assembly, preparation, installation, piping and wiring.

Solar Water Heating

Solar water heating property costs are costs to heat water for use in a home where at least half of the energy used is derived from the sun. This includes costs relating to the use of a solar panel or similar device, and not allocable for a pool or hot tub.

Small Wind Energy

You may be able to take up to 30% of the qualified cost as a credit if you made energy saving improvements to your home. The credit is limited to \$4,000.00.

Qualified small wind energy property costs are costs for property that uses a wind turbine to generate electricity for use connection with your home. Qualified costs include labor costs allocated to the onsite preparation, assembly, or original installation of the property.

For more information, contact Robert Klein, Building Official at 843-341-4664.

Are you ready to go digital?

Do you dread getting in your car to drive to Town Hall on sometimes numerous occasions?

Do you dread printing sometimes massive amounts of paper documents, just to have them recycled later by Town Staff?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions and have a development application ready to submit to Town Hall, please contact a Community Development Assistant **before** you click print to get access to electronic application assistance – 843-341-4757.

Town staff is eager for the public to use this service, less paper means less waste, and more efficient reviews, file management and customer service and communication.

Planning & Development Applications have been revised to have a more uniform look and to make them easier to use. These new forms will be released in May and will be available on the Town's website.



NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

INSULATION INFORMATION is required for Single Family Residences (New, Additions and Renovations)

Please note on your application which method you are using:

Prescriptive: -- All R values meeting those listed in Section 402 of the International Energy Conservation Code (2006)

Or

Performance Base: -- Requires a copy of the **RES**check

MANUAL J – Residential HVAC loads

This information is required upon application for single family permits (New, Additions and Renovations) that include HVAC work.

ENGINEERING – An addition greater than 100 square feet in size will require engineering calculations, except for enclosures that consist of three existing walls. Keep in mind that in unique situations the inspector can still require calculations for the smaller additions.

*****NOTE:** THE 2006 IECC ZONE 3 REQUIREMENTS MUST BE POSTED NEAR THE ELECTRICAL PANEL PRIOR TO THE CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY OR FINAL ***

(contact a Community Development Assistant if you need a form 843-341-4757)

An Open Letter to the Businesses of Hilton Head Island

Dear Merchant:

The Town of Hilton Head Island is an attractive community that draws visitors from all over the world. We all know that visitors come for our wonderful beaches but they also come for our Low Country beauty and natural setting. The visual image of our Town is something that we continually work to protect and improve.

This image is the result of a number of efforts but it is the goal of the Town's sign ordinance to preserve and enhance that image by preventing the "tourist trap" atmosphere that exists in many resort areas. We have a fairly strict sign ordinance but it helps us to promote Hilton Head Island in our competition with other beach communities. While it can seem somewhat difficult for individual businesses at times, our sign ordinance works to strengthen the overall economy of Hilton Head Island by maintaining the Town's charm. It is part of our effort to create a place that continues to attract an ever growing number of visitors. We believe that the rising tide of visitors lifts all boats.

We are asking your assistance in keeping the Town of Hilton Head Island an attractive place for our residents and guests. **Please remember that portable signs, banners and any signs that do not have a permit are not allowed.** If you have any questions feel free to call us in the Community Development Department at 843-341-4757. With your help we can make this the most beautiful beach resort in America.

Good luck in the coming season.

Sincerely,

Community Development Department



With sign ordinance



Without sign ordinance

Sea turtles are *AMAZING* beings!

Did you know that:



There are 4 species of sea turtles that are found in the waters around Hilton Head Island: Kemp's Ridley, Leatherback, Green, and Loggerhead. Of these, the Loggerhead is our most common nester.



Loggerheads have to be about 25 years old before they begin to breed.



Many sea turtles travel long distances between their feeding and breeding grounds. For example, some green turtles migrate about 1,300 miles from their feeding grounds near the coast of Brazil to their nesting grounds on Ascension Island.



The temperature in the nest of a sea turtle during incubation determines the sex of the hatchlings. In general, cooler temperatures produce males and warmer temperatures produce females.



Hatchling turtles emerge from the nest at night and head toward the ocean, using the downward slope of the beach and natural light reflected off the water to reach the sea. If man-made lights on the landward side of their nest can be seen by them and are brighter, they will head away from the water and will be killed by predators, cars or dehydration.



Despite numerous protections given them by governments and conservation programs, Loggerhead populations continue to decline worldwide. In South Carolina, Loggerhead turtle populations have declined 3% per year since 1980, when population records were first kept.



Major threats to sea turtles continue to be habitat loss, various commercial fishing practices such as gill netting and long lining, plastic trash in the oceans that the turtles mistake for food and eat (which causes intestinal blockage), and artificial beachfront lighting.

Many people who read about the plight of endangered or threatened species feel the problems these species face are too great for them to be able to help. But there are many very simple things we can do to promote the survival of Loggerheads on Hilton Head Island:



If your house is visible from the beach, turn off your outside lights at 10 p.m. from May 1 – October 31, the nesting and hatching season for Loggerheads.



If any of your interior lights are visible from the beach or cast light on the beach, close blinds or drapes at 10 p.m. or turn them off.



Never leave beach umbrellas, chairs, or any other beach accessories on the beach overnight. Nesting female turtles may get tangled in them, and for hatchlings they are often impassable and disorienting.



Place all trash and recyclables in the appropriate receptacles.



Never disturb a sea turtle nest, a nesting sea turtle or a hatchling. To report any of these, call the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Hotline (1-800-922-5431), the Town of Hilton Head Island (843-341-4690) or the Coastal Discovery Museum (843-689-6767).

To learn more about sea turtles, visit <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/cc.htm>. To read the Town's Sea Turtle Protection ordinance, visit our website www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov and look for Chapter 5 in the Municipal Code.

Community Development Department Staff Directory

website: www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov					
Administrative Staff			Development Review & Zoning (DRZ)		
Charles Cousins	Director	843-341-4692	Teri Lewis	LMO Official	843-341-4698
charlesc@hiltonheadislandsc.gov			teril@hiltonheadislandsc.gov		
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Community Development Services			Mike Roan	Urban Design Administr	843-341-4688
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nancyh@hiltonheadislandsc.gov			Sally Krebs	NR Administrator	843-341-4690
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sarahh@hiltonheadislandsc.gov			Inspections / Compliance		
Donna Horsman	Cmty Dev. Assistant	843-341-4605	Bob Klein	Building Official	843-341-4664
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Comprehensive Planning			Charlie Forton	Codes Inspect Administr	843-341-4679
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			Buddy Wilson	Codes Inspector	843-341-4656
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*If you would like to receive this
quarterly newsletter via e-mail,
please let us know by e-mailing us at:*

eileeno@hiltonheadislandsc.gov