



SolSmart Basics

Go Green Illinois

November 13, 2018



What is SolSmart?

- SolSmart provides *free* advisory services to communities to assess and improve policies, ordinances and practices associated with the installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) arrays.
- SolSmart is led by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.
- www.solsmart.org



SolSmart Goals

- **Main Goal:** “Solar Ready”
 - Streamline and optimize processes and rules for those who
 - Want to put PV on their roofs or grounds
 - Install
 - Manage (public entities)
 - Expedites market development and reduces soft costs associated with PV installations.



SolSmart Targets, Process and Recognition

- **Target Areas:** planning, building and zoning ordinances, permitting and inspection procedures, solar rights, community engagement, utility engagement, market development and finance.
- **Process:** communities review current practices and apply some new best practices to improve the various target areas of PV.
- **Recognition:** Participating communities gain a SolSmart designation through which a municipality may be recognized nationally and locally by SolSmart, at one of 3 levels – Bronze (60), Silver (100), Gold (200), based on an achievement-based point system.

Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)

- Illinois is in a unique position NOW due to FEJA
 - Incentives funded through 2021 : federal tax credit and FEJA SRECs*
 - Provides reasonable investment paybacks
- Demand for PV is high in Illinois
- Each community should consider facilitating the processes related to permitting, zoning, building codes and inspection.

* SREC = Solar Renewable Energy Credit

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) Role



- MMC is serving as a SolSmart Advisor to the Chicago-area communities, providing technical assistance to help them achieve their designations.
- MMC mentored a 15-member communities in 2017.
- MMC now mentoring a second cohort of 22 communities (full).
- No new cohorts are currently in the works. The DOE funding ends at the end of 2020.
- SolSmart fits directly into MMC's Greenest Region Compact (e.g. E13, E17, E25, E30, E33)

Communities Interested in SolSmart

SOLSMART APPLICATION

There are three levels of SolSmart designation for communities - below are the requirements for each.

BRONZE:

- Provide a Solar Statement outlining your community's solar goals, and commit to tracking key metrics such as number and capacity of installed Photovoltaic (PV) systems.
- Fulfill required actions in both of the Foundational Categories:
 - Permitting
 - Planning, Zoning, and Development Regulations
- Earn at least 20 points in each of the two Foundational Categories listed.
- Earn a total of 20 points from actions across the six Special Focus Categories: Inspection, Construction Codes, Solar Rights, Utility Engagement, Community Engagement, and Market Development and Finance.

Note: Actions in any of the Special Focus Categories count toward the 20-point target.

- Note: Early Adopter communities will receive 10 extra points applied toward a category of their choice.

SILVER:

- Fulfill the requirements to become a SolSmart Bronze Community.
- Complete the two Silver-required actions in the Planning, Zoning, and Development Regulations and Inspection categories.
- Earn 100 points overall from actions taken in any combination of categories.

GOLD:

- Fulfill the requirements to become a SolSmart Silver Community.
- Complete the Gold-required action in Permitting.
- Earn 200 points overall from actions taken in any combination of categories.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

- Communities that earn 50% of the points in a given category are eligible for special recognition.

Community Data

Community applying: _____ Date: _____

Community website: _____

Population: _____

Other solar incentives/reception earned by community: _____

W# of installed solar or number of installations: _____

Contact Information

Contact name: _____

Organization: _____

Department: _____

Contact email: _____

Contact phone: _____

I am authorized to seek for and seek recognition for the community. I understand that documents that submitted through this application will be shared online.

SolSmart Application Version 2.0.1 | 1

- Can still *work directly* with SolSmart – www.solsmart.org - request a consultation
- Can *self-direct* using SolSmart materials.
 - Resources including best practices and templates for planning, building and zoning ordinances, procedures for permitting and inspection.
 - Documents on solar financing, solar applications for schools, utility engagement strategies, solar installation tips, firefighting and safety practices, solar on historic buildings, land repurposing for solar and more.