

Helping Local Governments Become Solar Energy Leaders

WHAT is SolSmart?

SolSmart is a national program that helps cities, towns, counties, and regional organizations encourage solar market growth at the local level. SolSmart offers no-cost technical assistance to help local governments follow national best practices to expand solar energy use. The reward is a prestigious SolSmart designation of Gold, Silver, Bronze, and a brand-new Platinum designation to recognize exceptional communities.

As of 2023, SolSmart has designated nearly 500 local governments and regional organizations, sending a signal that they are “open for solar business.” Now, we’re ready to help 500 more communities succeed—including yours.

Join SolSmart today! SolSmart’s expert technical assistance team is ready to work with your local government at no cost. If your community has



already achieved SolSmart designation, we invite you to level up to Silver, Gold, or Platinum.

All local governments and regional organizations in the United States are eligible to participate in SolSmart, regardless of their level of solar expertise. SolSmart is committed to meeting the goals of the federal Justice40 program to provide equitable opportunities for underserved communities.

SolSmart is led by the International City/County Management Association and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.

How SolSmart Helps Local Governments

Unique Benefits

- Access no-cost technical assistance from national experts and increase local knowledge of solar energy.
- Get the tools to increase solar energy installations in the community and reduce the time and paperwork to approve projects.
- Strengthen community partnerships to build consensus and support equitable access.

Jobs and Growth

- Send a signal to solar installers and project developers that the community is solar-ready.
- Help the community benefit from a nationwide boom in solar installations.
- Speed up local solar market growth to spur economic development and create new jobs.

Efficient Government

- Streamline local processes and cut red tape, saving taxpayer resources and lowering energy costs.
- Support the community’s goals for sustainability, renewable energy use, and/or climate change action.
- Help residents, businesses, and government facilities reduce electricity bills by using affordable solar energy.

Community Spotlights

SolSmart designees range from major metropolitan areas, to suburbs, to counties, to rural communities and regional organizations. Here are a few of their stories:

The **Centre Region Council of Governments, Pennsylvania** worked with 15 local governments and organizations to develop a solar power purchase agreement.

Blaine County, Hailey, and Ketchum, Idaho pooled their resources and engaged in a collaborative process to increase solar generation locally.

Michigan City, Indiana adopted the Soul Power program to train local residents for solar jobs, with a focus on people of color and low-income communities.

Five municipalities in Puerto Rico achieved SolSmart designation in 2022 as part of a vision to develop more energy-resilient communities.



Michigan City, Indiana (SolSmart Silver)

Designation Levels



There is no one path to achieving SolSmart designation. Each local government works with technical advisors to choose from a menu of options that fits the community's needs and goals. Regional organizations and some counties can follow separate pathways that differ from the key actions listed here.

Join SolSmart

Ready to become a SolSmart-designated community? Start your journey today! Visit [SolSmart.org](https://solsmart.org), or follow the QR code to our website to get started.



Already Designated? Ready to Level Up?

If you are already designated as SolSmart Bronze, Silver, or Gold, you are eligible for no-cost technical assistance to move to a higher level of designation! To begin the process of leveling up, reach out to your SolSmart technical assistance provider directly or visit our website to learn more.

Get Started at [Solsmart.org](https://solsmart.org)