

SO L S M A R T A P P L I C A T I O N :

M o d i f i e d P a t h w a y



The Modified Pathway is designed for communities that ***do not*** control permitting, planning and zoning, and/or inspection processes. If your community does control these processes, please use our [Standard Designation application](#).

There are three levels of SolSmart designation for communities – below are the requirements for each:

BRONZE:

- Complete four prerequisite actions:
 - Solar Statement (PR-1)
 - Planning and zoning guidance (PR-2)
 - Inspection checklist (PR-3)
 - Permitting training (PR-4)
- Earn a total of 40 points from actions across the four Special Focus Categories: Solar Rights; Utility Engagement; Community Engagement; and Market Development and Finance.

SILVER :

- Fulfill SolSmart Bronze prerequisites.

- Complete the Silver planning prerequisite (PR-5).
- Earn 80 points overall from actions taken in the Special Focus Categories.

G O L D :

- Fulfill SolSmart Silver prerequisites.
- Earn 150 points overall from actions taken in the Special Focus Categories.

S P E C I A L A W A R D S :

- Communities that earn 60% of the points in a given category are eligible for special recognition.

Community Data

Community applying:

State:

Community website:

Population:

Other solar awards/recognition earned by community:

kW of installed solar or number of installations:

Contact Information

Local contact:

Contact title:

Organization:

Department:

Contact email:

Contact phone:

- I am authorized to apply for and seek recognition for my community.
- I understand that community data submitted through this application will be shared online.

SOLAR STATEMENT (PR -1)

PR-1: Solar Statement – Required for all levels of designation

Our Solar Statement: *(Cut and paste your Solar Statement in the box below)*

Communities interested in pursuing SolSmart designation must indicate their commitment to supporting solar development in their community.

These letters should include:

- A commitment to participate in the SolSmart designation process*
- A statement of solar goals, areas of focus or community priorities (e.g. Encouraging solar PV development on vacant lots or supporting non-profit led initiatives)*
- Past achievements or programs related to solar PV and/or renewable energy*
- Commitment to tracking metrics related to solar PV and/or provide benchmark of available solar metrics (i.e. number of installed municipal systems or growth in residential installations)*
- A commitment of staff time and resources to improve the local environment for solar PV*

These letters do not need to be more than a page in length. SolSmart encourages you to use the [Solar Statement template](#).

Documentation: *(Please share a link to a public webpage where your Solar Statement is displayed or attach it as a document.)*

ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITES



- To earn SolSmart Bronze designation - complete **PR-2, PR-3, and PR-4.**
- To earn SolSmart Silver designation - complete all Bronze prerequisites and **PR-5.**

Action	Points	We've done this!	Documentation
<p>Planning and Zoning Guidance</p> <p>PR-2: Provide guidance on planning, zoning and development best practices to communities in the county through webinars, in-person meetings, one-on-one calls or trainings.</p>	Req'd for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
<p>Inspection Checklist</p> <p>PR-3: Collaborate with local inspection departments to develop an inspection checklist for the region, and share results publicly through webinars, in-person meetings, training and/or the county's website. Encourage communities to integrate the checklist into their inspection processes.</p>	Req'd for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
<p>Permitting Training</p> <p>PR-4: Host regional training or discussion on best practices in permitting for communities in the county.</p>	Req'd for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
<p>Silver Planning Prerequisite</p> <p>PR-5: Incorporate solar into county-wide comprehensive plans and/or economic development plans, including quantifiable targets or metrics.</p>	Req'd for Silver & Gold	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:


SPECIAL FOCUS CATEGORIES

- To earn SolSmart Bronze designation – **achieve 40 points** (and complete PR-1, PR-2, PR-3 and PR-4).
- To earn SolSmart Silver designation – **achieve 80 points** (and complete all Bronze prerequisites and PR-5).
- To earn SolSmart Gold designation – **achieve 150 points** (and complete all Bronze and Silver prerequisites).


Special Focus: Solar Rights

Action	Points	We've done this!	Documentation
SR-1: Post an online summary of state policies related to a property owner's solar access and solar rights, including links to state-level policy.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
SR-2: Post consumer protection resources on solar PV online.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
SR-3: Enable solar rights through a local solar access ordinance.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
SR-4: Post an online checklist detailing the steps for recording solar easements for property owners.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
SR-5a: Engage homeowners and neighborhood associations to discuss restrictive requirements for solar PV with the goal of reducing or eliminating them. Compile summary and next steps in a memo.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
 Earn additional points: SR-5b: Encourage subdivisions to consider shared solar allowances.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
 Earn additional points: SR-5c: Develop design guidelines for solar PV in partnership with homeowner associations.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
Total Points: Add up the total number of points you believe you have achieved in this category.			

Special Focus: Utility Engagement


Action	Points	We've done this!	Documentation
U-1: Inform staff of best practices for integrating interconnection with electrical inspections.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
U-2: Discuss community or shared solar PV programs with the local utility. Compile summary and next steps in a memo.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
U-3a: Discuss community goals for solar PV, net metering, and/or interconnection processes with the local utility and explore areas for future collaboration. Compile summary and next steps in a memo.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
 Earn additional points: U-3b: Coordinate with regional organizations or other local governments to engage utilities.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
U-4: Demonstrate coordination between local government inspectors and utility staff to reduce Permission to Operate timeline.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
U-5: Launch or support a utility-provided community solar program.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
U-5b: Encourage low-to-moderate income (LMI) participation in utility-provided community solar program through program design and/or financing support options.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
U-6: Provide residents with Community Choice Aggregation/Energy that includes solar PV as a power generation source.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
Total Points: Add up the total number of points you believe you have achieved in this category.			



Special Focus: Community Engagement

Action	Points	We've done this!	Documentation
CE-1: Convene an active energy task force or solar working group that meets at least three times per year.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-2: Post a solar landing page on local government's website with information on the community's solar goals and local resources for solar development.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-3: Provide technical assistance and/or programs or processes to support solar PV development on non-profit and/or community-service orientated facilities.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-4a: Support or host a community-wide group purchase program (e.g., Solarize). Program must have occurred within the last 5 years.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
 Earn additional points: CE-4b: Encourage low-to-moderate income (LMI) participation in community-wide group purchase program through program design and/or financing support options.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-5a: Host a solar workshop open to the general public and/or local government staff explaining solar PV opportunities and policies. Workshop must have occurred within the last 5 years.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-5b: Distribute educational materials at relevant community events and/or through local government channels.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-5c: Establish partnerships with local organizations within your community on solar PV multi-year goals and/or planned initiatives.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-5d: Demonstrate local government support for local solar projects through speeches, press releases, blog posts, opinion articles, etc.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-5e: Engage the community through recurring public meetings, focus groups, or other similar events around climate, energy, or sustainability plans and/or goals.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-6: Distribute solar job training and career opportunities in coordination with local colleges and/or workforce development organizations.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-7: Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV on brownfields, landfills, formerly contaminated lands and/or other under-utilized properties.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-8: Install or lease land for solar PV development on brownfields, landfills, formerly contaminated lands and/or other under-utilized properties.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-9: Engage with regional organizations on advancing solar PV policies in the region such as unified permitting processes and group procurement opportunities.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-10: Demonstrate activity in state-level conversations regarding solar PV.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:

CE-11: Post an online solar map for your community.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-12a: Support a third party-provided community solar program. Note: this cannot be the same community solar program for which credit was received under Utility Engagement.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
CE-12b: Encourage low-to-moderate income (LMI) participation in third party-provided community solar program through program design and/or financing support options.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
Total Points: Add up the total number of points you believe you have achieved in this category.			

Special Focus: Market Development and Finance

Action	Points	We've done this!	Documentation
MDF-1: Provide online resources on active solar installers and/or local incentives for solar PV.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-2: Make solar PV metrics publicly available.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-3: Provide information to consumers about residential and commercial solar PV financing options	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-4: Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV installations on/at local government facilities.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-5: Install solar PV on/at local government facilities.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-6a: Provide PACE financing in your community.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
 Earn additional points: MDF-6b: Demonstrate that PACE financing has been used to finance solar PV in your	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-7a: Provide local incentives (e.g. permit fee waivers or rebates) or locally-enabled finance (e.g., a revolving loan fund) for solar PV.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-7b: Provide local incentives for solar PV to low-to-moderate income (LMI) households, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), and/or non-profit organizations that provide community services.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-8: Engage local banks, credit unions, foundations and/or community funds about lending for solar PV projects through in-person meetings, discussions, and/or workshops. Compile summary and next steps in a memo	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-9: Demonstrate that the community's installed per capita capacity is above top 20% of states (>99 watts/person).	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-10a: Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV integrated with other technologies such as combined heat and power or electric vehicle charging on/at a local government facility.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:

 Earn additional points: MDF-10b: Install solar PV integrated with other technologies such as combined heat and power or electric vehicle charging on/at a local government facility.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
MDF-11a: Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV plus storage on/at a critical local government facility.	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
 Earn additional points: MDF-11b: Install solar PV plus storage on/at a critical local government facility.	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link:
Total Points: Add up the total number of points you believe you have achieved in this category.			

INNOVATIVE ACTIONS

The actions identified in the categories above represent many of the most common and impactful efforts communities are taking to reduce soft costs and make going solar easier and more affordable for residents. However, we know that communities across the country are developing innovative ways to help reduce soft costs. If your community has taken action to reduce soft costs that wasn't captured in the above application, please share it with us in the table below. Innovative actions will be reviewed by a team of solar experts and each action may be worth up to 20 points.

Category	Action(s)	Documentation
Solar Rights		Share link:
Utility Engagement		Share link:
Community Engagement		Share link:
Market Development and Finance		Share link:

DESIGNATION CHECKLIST

	Points	Step Completed
SOLAR STATEMENT		
PR-1: Solar Statement	Required for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITES		
PR-2: Planning and Zoning Guidance	Required for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>
PR-3: Inspection Checklist	Required for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>
PR-4: Permitting Training	Required for Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>
PR-5: Planning	Required for Silver & Gold	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPECIAL FOCUS CATEGORY POINTS		
Solar Rights	Points:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utility Engagement	Points:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement	Points:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Market Development and Finance	Points:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Points	0	
Need 40 for Bronze, 80 for Silver, and 150 for Gold.		