

# SOLSMART ADVISOR PROGRAM



The SolSmart Advisor program offers intensive, on-the-ground assistance to help communities meet solar energy goals and achieve SolSmart designation. These Advisors have been crucial to the program's success in designating over 300 communities nationwide.

Communities are selected to host Advisors based on a competitive process. The Advisors are professionals with expertise in their fields who also receive training from SolSmart staff. Some of the Advisors work as individuals, while others represent larger organizations. Each Advisor works across local and state boundaries to help communities share ideas and adopt best practices at the regional level. What follows is an introduction to the most recent SolSmart Advisors and some of their key accomplishments, within and outside of the SolSmart program.

## HERE'S MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LATEST ROUND OF SOLSMART ADVISORS.

### Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

**Advisor: Peter Lindstrom**

**Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota**

**Accomplishments:**

- Supported over ten communities in Minnesota in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Offers small grants every two years to help communities implement local projects. Since 2006, \$1.2 million was granted to 355 projects.
- Provides clean energy technical assistance to businesses, cities and counties, farmers, residents, schools, and utilities.

### EcoMotion

**Advisors: Ted Flanigan and Shaun Miller**

**Location: Los Angeles, California**

**Accomplishments:**

- Supported eight communities in the South Bay region of metro Los Angeles, California in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Completed a 48-site solar and storage feasibility analysis for the Chula Vista Elementary School District in California.
- Served as a consultant to the city of Miami, Florida, advising on solar feasibility, improving energy efficiency, and stormwater management.

### Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**Advisors: Adam Beam and Elizabeth Compitello**

**Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**Accomplishments:**

- Assisted 17 municipalities and counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Developed a Solar Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework for municipalities to use as a resource as they develop and update ordinances to govern the siting of small-scale renewable energy systems in their communities.
- Supports a goal to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2035.



In 2018, SolSmart Advisors gather in Washington, D.C. for a two-day training.

## Great Plains Institute

**Advisors:** Jenna Greene and Brian Ross

**Location:** Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Accomplishments:

- Supported over 35 Midwest communities in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Co-leads Drive Electric Minnesota, a program dedicated to encouraging the deployment of electric vehicles (EV) and the establishment of EV charging infrastructure through public-private partnerships, financial incentives, education, technical support, and public policy.

## ICLEI

**Advisors:** Kale Roberts and Hoi-Fei Mok

**Location:** Denver, Colorado

### Accomplishments:

- Worked with six communities across four states in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Led the Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) program, the world's first and largest program supporting cities in climate action planning using a Five Milestone process to measurably and systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## Metropolitan Council

**Advisor:** Cameran Bailey

**Location:** Saint Paul, Minnesota

### Accomplishments:

- Supported 26 municipalities and counties in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul region in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Spearheaded the "MN Brightfields Initiative," which has led to a statewide study on solar on closed landfills.
- Committed to shifting the Minneapolis-Saint Paul region to 100% electric bus procurements by the year 2022.

## Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

**Advisors:** Edith Makra and Charles Dabah

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

### Accomplishments:

- Led 31 municipalities and four counties in the Chicago metropolitan area in receiving SolSmart designation.
- 127 Chicago-area communities have formally adopted the Greenest Region Compact, demonstrating a commitment to sustainability by taking action together and working toward common goals.

## Michiana Area Council of Governments

**Advisor:** Leah Thill

**Location:** South Bend, Indiana

### Accomplishments:

- Supported seven municipalities and counties in Northern Indiana in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Led the Solarize Northern Indiana initiative, resulting in 97 new solar projects for homes, businesses, and faith congregations in the region in 2017.
- Manages the Northern Indiana Green Fleet Program, which aims to significantly improve the environmental performance of business and governmental vehicle fleets across Northern Indiana through utilizing alternative fuel technologies.

## Midwest Renewable Energy Association

**Advisor:** Eric Rehm

**Location:** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

### Accomplishments:

- Supported over ten communities in Wisconsin and Iowa in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Leads the Grow Solar initiative, a coordinated effort among Midwest organizations and municipalities to build an open and advantageous solar market that provides long-term benefits to communities.
- Offers industry-leading professional training for solar PV, solar thermal, and small wind systems.



2017 SolSmart Advisor Solar Training Session.

## North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center

**Advisors:** Anna Tazewell and David Sarkisian

**Location:** Raleigh, North Carolina

**Accomplishments:**

- Supported seven communities in North Carolina and Virginia in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Authored the 50 States of Solar report, a quarterly look at state legislative and regulatory actions related to distributed solar policy and rate design.

## South Florida Regional Planning Council

**Advisor:** Jennifer Barenholtz

**Location:** Hollywood, Florida

**Accomplishments:**

- Supported 14 communities across Broward, Miami Dade, and Monroe counties in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Developed Seven50 (“seven counties, 50 years”), a 50-year plan and a blueprint for growing a more prosperous, more desirable Southeast Florida during the next 50 years and beyond.
- Provides technical assistance to its local jurisdictions on strategic regional policy planning, comprehensive plan review, intergovernmental coordination and review, and more.

## Southwest Virginia Cohort

**Advisor:** Gary Hearl

**Location:** Southwest Virginia

**Accomplishments:**

- Helped eight communities in receiving SolSmart designation.
- Pursued economic development initiatives for the region through solar energy projects.
- At least seven large-scale solar projects are soon to begin construction in the area.

## Winneshiek Energy District

**Advisor:** Joel Zook

**Location:** Decorah, Iowa

**Accomplishments:**

- Created the Green Iowa Americorps Home Efficiency program which has helped over 1,000 homes in northeast Iowa become more energy efficient, saving the average homeowner over \$120 on utility bills annually.
- Offers Farm Energy Planning services, which include a site assessment and inventory, economic analysis, and more.

### Previous SolSmart Advisors: 2018 and 2017

#### *Organizations*

- Colorado Solar & Storage Association
- Connecticut Green Bank
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Mid-America Regional Council
- Montana Renewable Energy Association
- North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Sustainable CUNY

#### *Individuals*

- Brandon Kiger – Adam County and Lafayette, CO
- Connor Birkeland – Duluth, MN
- David Grantham – Oklahoma City, OK
- Lauren Vunderink – Providence, RI
- Lusenii Watson – Atlanta, GA
- Sarah Conley-Ballew – Southeast Ohio Communities
- Tish Tablan – Albermarle County and Charlottesville, VA



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