

Helping Regional Organizations Offer Energy Options and Spur Economic Growth

WHAT Is SolSmart?

SolSmart is a national designation and **free** technical assistance program that helps local governments and regional organizations encourage solar market growth.

As of 2024, over 500 cities, towns, counties, and regional organizations have achieved SolSmart designation, sending a signal that they are 'energy ready.'

WHY Join SolSmart?

When you join SolSmart, you will be connected to free technical assistance to help you adopt and implement nationally recognized best practices.

SolSmart can help you:

- Streamline local permitting and inspection processes.
- Reduce and stabilize energy costs for homeowners and businesses.
- Increase jobs in the energy sector and spur economic development.
- Remove barriers to energy options for your residents and businesses.
- Achieve your community's energy and development goals.



WHO Is Eligible to Join the SolSmart Program?

All local governments and regional organizations in the United States are eligible to participate in SolSmart, regardless of their level of solar expertise. The reward is a prestigious SolSmart designation of Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum.

Join SolSmart Today!

Ready to become a SolSmart-designated community?

Visit [SolSmart.org](https://solsmart.org) or follow the QR code to our website to get started.

Already designated?

Consider taking action to "level up" and reach a higher designation level.



Community Spotlights

SolSmart designees range from major metropolitan areas, to suburbs, to counties, to rural communities. 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.

In **Wisconsin**, the **Capital Area Regional Planning Commission** helped guide multiple local governments through the SolSmart program, including Dane County—the first Platinum-level county in America.

The **North Central Texas Council of Governments** worked to educate staff from over 20 cities and counties about solar through webinars, trainings, and meetings so that they would be better equipped to review proposed projects and implement locally-driven strategies.



Centre Region Council of Governments,
Pennsylvania (SolSmart Silver)

Designation

There is no one path to achieving SolSmart designation. A local government or regional organization will follow one of three designation pathways—Standard, Modified, or Regional—depending on what processes are available in their jurisdiction. A technical assistance provider will work with you to determine the appropriate pathway.



Criteria

To earn SolSmart designation, local governments need to earn a certain number of points in several different categories, including Permitting and Inspection, Planning and Zoning, Community Engagement, Market Development, and others.

Upon completing a certain number of criteria, the municipality, county, or regional organization earns a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum designation.



About SolSmart

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

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