



City of Columbia Heights | *Community Development*

3989 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 ▪ Ph: 763-706-3670 ▪ www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

August 29, 2024

Debra Perry: International City/County
Management Association
777 North Capitol St. NE, Ste. 500
Washington, DC 20002

Brandy O'Quinn: Interstate Renewable
Energy Council
125 Wolf Road, Suite 100
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Debra Perry and Brandy O'Quinn:

On behalf of (the City of Columbia Heights) I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, our dedicated staff members will work to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for our residents and businesses to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of local processes related to solar development, which may save our local government time and money.

We will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following solar goals:

The City of Columbia Heights seeks to utilize SolSmart to achieve the solar access and energy conversation goals, policies, and implementation strategies identified in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan such as SolSmart designation, identifying barriers and adding beneficial language to renewable energy within the zoning code, and improving energy conservation throughout the community.

The City of Columbia Heights intends to implement SolSmart best practices to continue further encourage public and private partnerships and investment in solar energy resources such as energy procurement, installation of solar systems within public buildings or properties, and providing resources for businessowners, homeowners, and landlords in purchasing renewable energy or installing systems.

The City of Columbia Heights aims to implement SolSmart best practices to supplement and realize other programs that the City is participating in such as Partners in Energy to support the eventual development of the City's Energy Action Plan as well as the goals in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the updated 2050 Comprehensive Plan when it is implemented.

These goals demonstrate that our community is committed to making continual improvement in our solar market. This includes ensuring solar development is inclusive and equitable. We're looking forward to learning more from the SolSmart program how to expand access to solar for all our residents and support solar energy adoption for those that are under resourced or underserved.

To measure progress along the way, we will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar, permitting processing time, and growth in residential installations

SolSmart – Solar Statement

We understand that the SolSmart program has criteria and point requirements as outlined in the SolSmart Program Guide needed to achieve each tier of designation. We're excited to submit this solar statement to complete the first requirement of the program.

Inquiries related to our SolSmart participation can be directed to (Andrew Boucher – City Planner) at (aboucher@columbiaheightsmn.gov) or 763-706-3673.

Sincerely,



Andrew Boucher, AICP | City Planner (he/him)

[City of Columbia Heights](#) | Community Development Department

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