



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Request to Include Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Jason Korn, Public Works

Meeting Date: April 19, 2022

Presenter: Jason Korn

Estimated Time: 10 Min

Topic: SolSmart Designation Presentation

Recommended Council Action:

None: Staff Presentation of SolSmart Plaque

Background:

Meridian has been awarded a [SolSmart](#) Bronze designation for implementing best practices to make it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to install and access solar energy. SolSmart is a national designation and technical assistance program funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office. SolSmart recognizes cities and counties for identifying and removing unnecessary obstacles to solar energy development.

Communities must meet requirements across five categories of the [SolSmart Designation Criteria](#): Permitting and Inspection, Planning and Zoning, Government Operations, Community Engagement and Market Development to qualify for SolSmart designation. To date, [more than 400 communities in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands](#) have achieved SolSmart designation since the program launched in 2016.

City staff worked to streamline solar permitting by developing a comprehensive solar energy application checklist and making information to the public and solar installers easy to find on a new solar energy web page. Appropriate Building Department and Planning and Zoning staff also participated in a solar industry "Best Practices" training to help the City achieve the Bronze SolSmart designation.

This SolSmart designation supports the City's strategic goal of implementing financially responsible, sustainable and environmentally conscious projects the Clean Energy Resolution supporting Idaho Power's goal of reaching 100% clean energy by 2045.