



## Executive Summary

### City Council Workshop

|                            |                                                                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>        | SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Software Incentive Grant Application |
| <b>PREPARED BY:</b>        | Kevin Larson, Assistant City Administrator                      |
| <b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b> | <b>Discussion</b>                                               |

#### Background

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, is offering financial incentives and technical assistance to local governments that adopt SolarAPP+. SolarAPP+ is a free, automated online platform designed to streamline the permitting process for residential solar projects. The program standardizes solar project plan reviews and permit issuance, helping cities reduce processing time and promote renewable energy adoption.

In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature created the SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Software Incentive Program to assist cities that issue solar permits. Eligible applicants may receive between \$5,000 and \$20,000, based on population size and additional bonus qualifying factors.

#### Maple Plain Incentives and Grant

The City of Maple Plain is upgrading the permitting method to a paperless permit management system through Baseline Technologies. Integrating SolarAPP+ into this system would further improve permitting efficiency, particularly for residential solar projects. The City's adoption of this platform would align with strategic goals related to technology modernization, sustainability, and customer service improvement.

Staff have reviewed the program guidelines and confirmed Maple Plain's eligibility under the population threshold (<50,000) for a base incentive of \$5,000, with the potential in \$10,000 bonus eligibility through integration and sustainability participation. No local match or cost share is required. Funds would be used to support implementation, training, and integration activities related to the SolarAPP+ system.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Council authorize staff to prepare and submit an application to the Minnesota Department of Commerce for the SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Software Incentive for Local Units of Government.

**Exhibits**

- A. SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Software Incentive for Local Units of Government
- B. SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Software Grant Application
- C.