

Tenino, WA SolSmart Consultation Call

Kelly Aves, January 5th, 2023

Agenda

Introduction

- SolSmart Technical Assistance Provider(s): Kelly Aves
- Tenino WA Representatives: Mayor David Watterson

Intro to SolSmart

- Benefits of Solar Development
- How SolSmart helps
- Overview of Designation Process

Next Steps

Introduction

Thank you for your inquiry and interest in SolSmart!

- How familiar are you with the SolSmart program?
 - City has done solar projects – 64 kw on school
 - Puget Sound Energy Demonstration Project – BESS, emergency center for community
 - Talking with state for solar grants – food warehouse for foodbank, water treatment center/pump

- Tell me about your community
 - Residential interest
 - ~2,000 pop

Washington SolSmart Communities

- 10 communities in WA have been designated under SolSmart
 - 4 Bronze: Bainbridge Island, Edmonds, Bellevue, and Langley
 - 1 Silver: King County, Thurston County, Tumwater
 - 3 Gold: Olympia, Issaquah, and Mercer Island
- Currently working with Lacey, WA

Intro to SolSmart

- SolSmart is a national designation and technical assistance program that has helped over 500 local governments make it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to go solar.
- The SolSmart Designation recognizes communities that have taken key steps to address local barriers to solar energy and foster the growth of mature local solar markets.
- **Technical assistance is available at no cost.**

Benefits of Solar

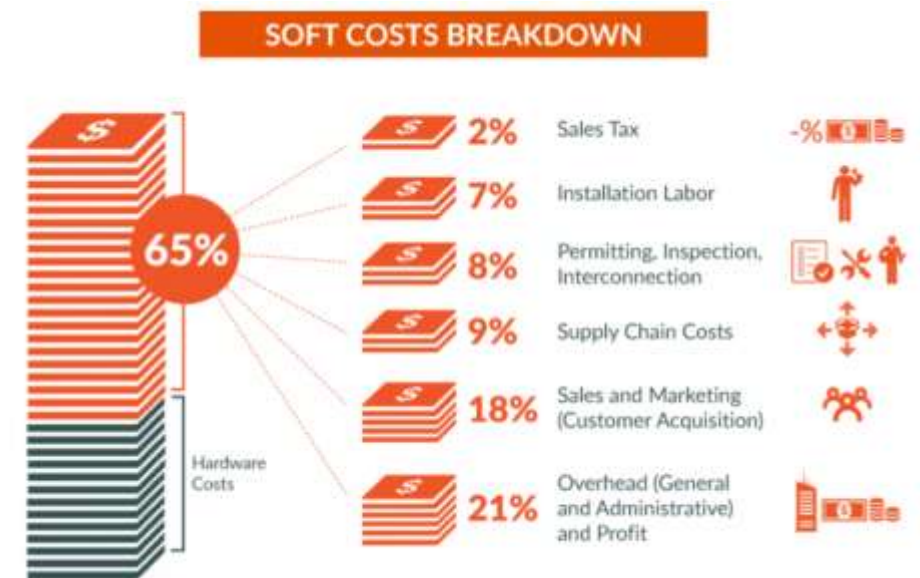


SolSmart's Role in Solar Development

- SolSmart helps **local governments, counties and regional organizations** take action to remove barriers to solar energy growth and make it easier for residents and businesses to go solar
- The program offers **no-cost technical assistance and resources** that help communities become national solar energy leaders
- SolSmart is committed to meeting the goals of the federal **Justice40** program to provide equitable opportunities for underserved communities
- SolSmart helps communities reduce “soft costs” — the costs of solar development that are unrelated to hardware

Local Government Action is Important

- 65% of the cost of a solar PV system is not related to hardware. These “soft costs” can be reduced by action at the local level, including:
 - Streamlining permitting and inspection;
 - Supporting consumer education;
 - Leading by example;
 - Facilitating group purchasing;
 - Filling gaps in financing; and more!
- While the solar energy market is growing nationwide, ensuring that it grows in your community requires a proactive approach.



Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory "U.S. Solar Photovoltaic System Cost Benchmark: Q1 2021"

How the Program Works

Commit to the Program!

Signed
Commitment
Letter,
template provided

TAs provide Baseline
Assessment and Zoning
Review

Complete Actions and Earn
Points in 5 Categories

- Permitting & Inspection
- Planning & Zoning
- Government Operations
- Community Engagement
- Market Development

Become SolSmart Designated!



Completing the Actions to become Designated helps your community:

- Increase transparency
- Increase understanding
- Reduce barriers
- Expand access

Technical Assistance

- SolSmart technical assistance providers help communities update processes using established best practices
- Delivery of technical assistance can be tailored to fit the community needs
 - Online - resource library, email, templates
 - Phone - conference calls, webinars, trainings
- The technical assistance is funded by SolSmart, and there is no cost to the community
 - Communities must commit staff time to working toward SolSmart designation
 - Communities must demonstrate a commitment to achieving designation

Designation Structure

To receive designation, communities must complete the following:



Complete 3 prerequisites

20 pts in Permitting &
Inspection
20 pts in Planning & Zoning
60 pts total



**Attain SolSmart Bronze and
complete 4 silver
prerequisites**

100 total points



**Attain SolSmart Silver and
complete 3 silver
prerequisites**

200 total points



**Attain SolSmart Gold and
complete 4 platinum
prerequisites**

350 total points

Bronze Requirements

Prerequisites

1. **Provide a document that demonstrates your local government's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation (PR-1)**
2. Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s) submittals, and steps of your community's permitting process for small rooftop solar PV (PI-1)
3. Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo (PZ-1) – **Completed by TAs**

Point requirements

1. 20 Points in Permitting and Inspection
2. 20 Points in Planning and Zoning
3. 20 Points in Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development

Total Point Requirements: 60

Silver Requirements

Prerequisites

1. Meet all Bronze prereqs
2. Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years (PI-2)
3. Train inspection staff on best practices for inspecting solar PV and/or storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years (PI-3)
4. Complete one of the following two criteria
 - (a) Post an online document from the Planning/Zoning Department that states accessory use solar is allowed by-right in all major zones (e.g. via a zoning determination letter) (PZ-4)
 - (b) Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones. Zoning ordinance language should include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use solar, such as limits to visibility from public right-of-way, excessive restrictions to system size, glare studies, subjective design reviews, and neighbor consent requirements (PZ-5) (Also required for Gold designation)
5. Post a solar landing page with goals, educational materials and tools that promote solar, and resources for solar development (CE-1)

Total Points Requirements: 100 (at least 20 in P&I, 20 in P&Z, and 20 across Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development).

Gold Requirements

Prerequisites

1. Meet all Bronze and Silver prereqs
2. Post an online statement confirming a three-business day turnaround time for small rooftop solar PV (PI-4)
3. Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones. Zoning ordinance language should not include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use solar, such as limits to visibility from public right-of-way, excessive restrictions on systems size, glare studies, subjective design reviews, and neighbor consent requirements (PZ-5)
4. Ensure zoning language doesn't include intentional or unintentional barriers (PZ-6)

Total Point Requirements: 200 (at least 20 in P&I, 20 in P&Z, and 20 across Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development).

Platinum Requirements

Prerequisites

1. Meet all Bronze, Silver, and Gold prereqs
2. Demonstrate pathway for instant/automatic approval of residential rooftop PV systems (e.g. using SolarApp+) (PI-5)
3. Post community metrics related to the number of solar PV and solar + storage permits (PI-6)
4. Install solar PV on local government facility and/or local-government controlled land (GO-1)
5. Establish partnerships with community-based organizations to define solar equity goals and development implementation strategies (CE-2)

Total Point Requirements: 350 (at least 20 in P&I, 20 in P&Z, and 20 across Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development).

The SolSmart Designation Process



SolSmart Resources

SolSmart Resources

- Resource Page - <https://solsmart.org/resources/>
- SolSmart Program Resource Guide - <https://solsmart.org/resource/solsmart-program-guide>
- SolSmart FAQ - <https://solsmart.org/faqs/>

Next Steps

Notes

- TA Provider Next Steps:
 - Send Slides, PR-1 Commitment Letter Template, Bronze prerequisites, Program Guide
- Tenino Next Steps:
 - Commitment Letter, Signed, Send to TA