

TO: City Council  
FROM: Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Coordinator – Water Resources & Sustainability  
DATE: January 17, 2023  
SUBJECT: SolSmart Solar Statement

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1) Recommended Action:

Staff requests City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a solar statement to begin the process of seeking SolSmart accreditation. The Public Works Committee recommended approval at their January 5, 2023 meeting.

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2) Background:

SolSmart is a national technical assistance and designation program designed to recognize local jurisdictions for encouraging solar energy growth and addressing barriers to solar energy. This program was created in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office. Within SolSmart there are Bronze, Silver, and Gold designation levels. Eight (8) communities in Washington have been designated under SolSmart:

4 Bronze: Bainbridge Island, Edmonds, Bellevue, and Langley  
1 Silver: King County  
3 Gold: Olympia, Issaquah, and Mercer Island

SolSmart is included as Action B5.5 in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan which was accepted by City Council via Resolution 2021-001 on January 19, 2021.

The SolSmart Solar Statement is the first prerequisite (PR-1) in the SolSmart program and signing this statement qualifies the City to receive technical assistance for the program from a SolSmart consultant.

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3) Policy Support:

- 2023-2024 Strategic Priority: Be a leader in environmental sustainability.
    - Streamline permitting for green projects; and
    - Continue to update and advance the Climate Action Plan
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4) Alternatives:

☐ Recommended revisions to the SolSmart Solar Statement.

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5) Fiscal Notes:

Technical assistance is available at no cost to the City. To achieve Silver designation the City will have to provide staff training for permitting, inspection, and planning staff.

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6) Attachments:

- A. SolSmart Solar Statement
- B. SolSmart Program Guide