

# Tips to Achieve SolSmart Designation in North Texas

**March 24, 2022**

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# Today's Agenda

**Welcome & NCTCOG SolSmart Goals – Lori Clark, NCTCOG**

**Introduction to SolSmart Designation – Dave Golembeski, SolSmart**

**SolarAPP+ Permitting Tool – Steve Pope, SolarAPP+**

**Solar-Opinion Statement – Wayne Snell, City of Irving**

**Q&A**

Slides and Recording Will be Available:

[www.conservenorthtexas.org](http://www.conservenorthtexas.org) Under 'News/Events'

# Webinar Polling

We will be using Poll Everywhere throughout the presentation. To participate in the polls please:



Visit [PolleEV.com/nctcogenv444](https://PolleEV.com/nctcogenv444)

OR



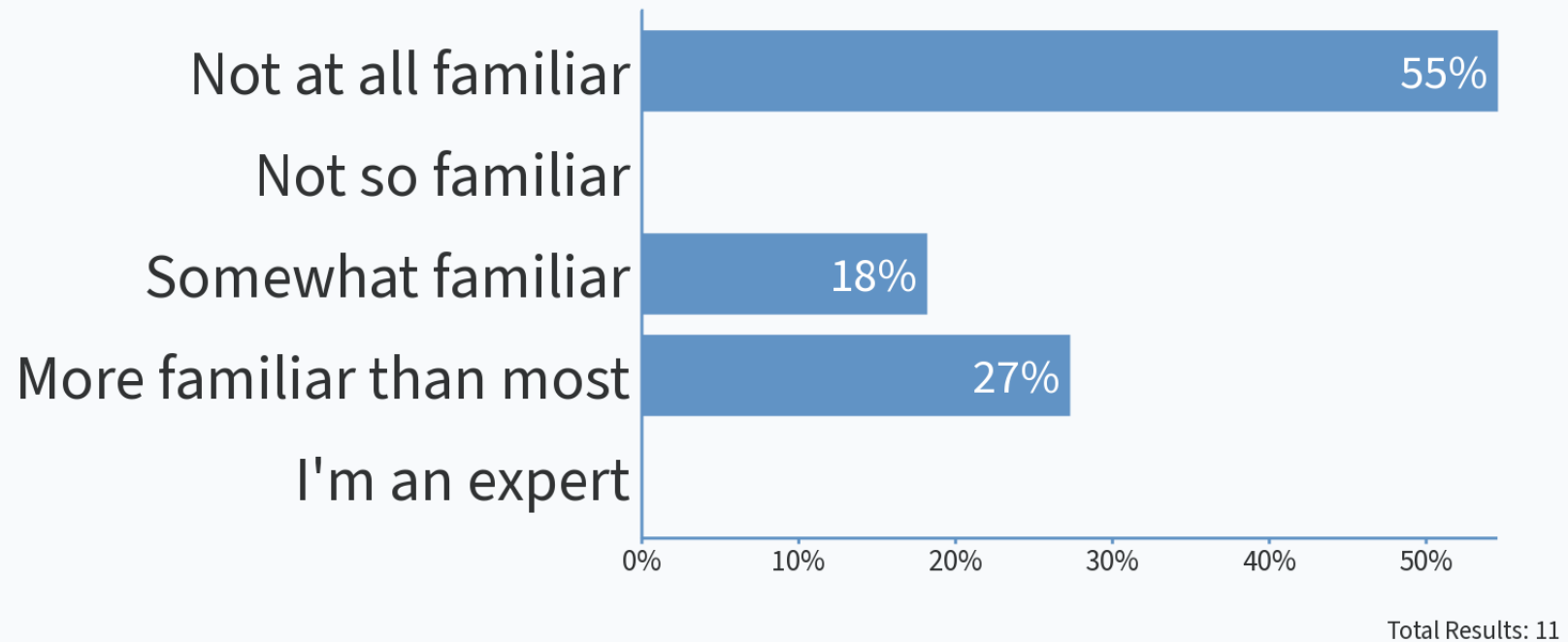
Text **NCTCOGENV444** to **22333** one time to join

# Polling Question

🌐 When poll is active, respond at [pollev.com/nctcogenv444](https://pollev.com/nctcogenv444)

📱 Text **NCTCOGENV444** to **22333** once to join

## How familiar are you with SolSmart?

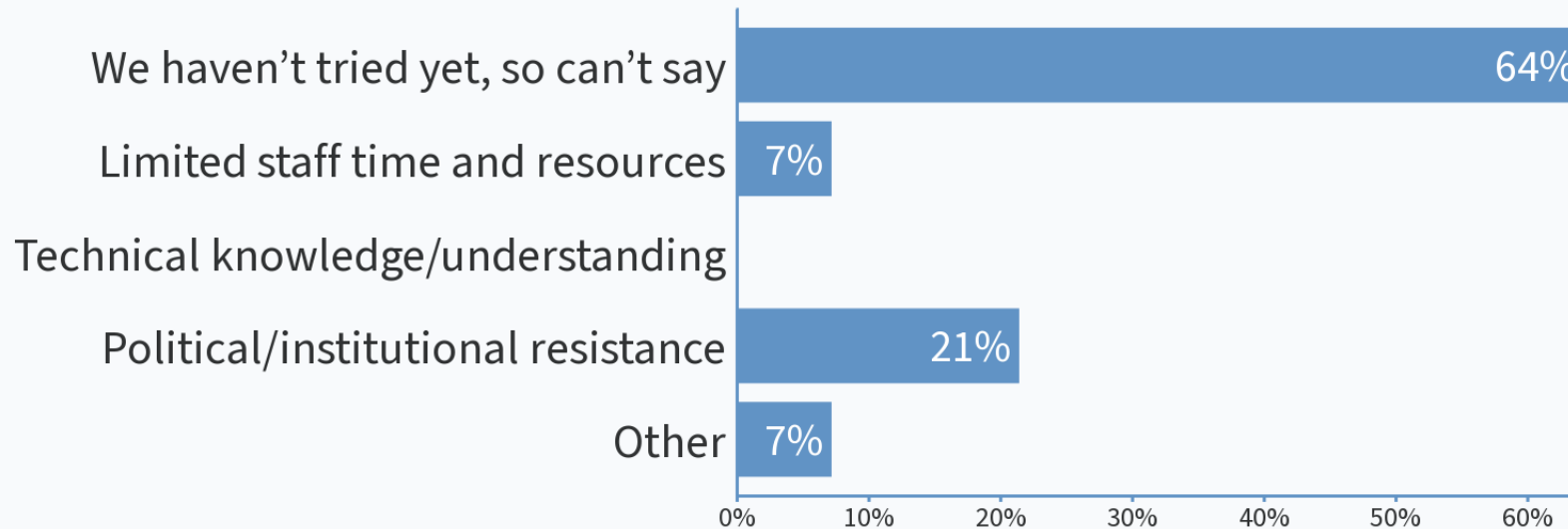


# Polling Question

🌐 When poll is active, respond at [pollev.com/nctcogenv444](https://pollev.com/nctcogenv444)

📱 Text **NCTCOGENV444** to **22333** once to join

## What barriers are you facing in pursuing SolSmart designation?



# Why is NCTCOG Focused on Energy Management, Efficiency, and Renewable Energy?



**Improve Air Quality**



**Increase Local Energy  
Reliability**



**Facilitate Local Government Efforts**



**Reduce Costs  
(for everyone)**



**Provide Consistency  
Among Region**



**Support Member Interest in  
Energy Management**

# NCTCOG Goals as a SolSmart Region



Compile and track the percent growth of renewable energy and solar photovoltaic (PV) installations



Draft a plan for the increased deployment of solar PV in North Texas



Promote connections between solar PV and emergency preparedness or grid stability



Secure SolSmart Designation for at least **10 additional** North Texas cities



Develop and promote guidelines related to solar-ready construction



Increase the deployment of solar PV in residential, commercial, and utility-scale sectors

# SolSmart Designated Cities in the NCTCOG Region



## Gold Designation

- Cedar Hill, TX
- Corinth, TX



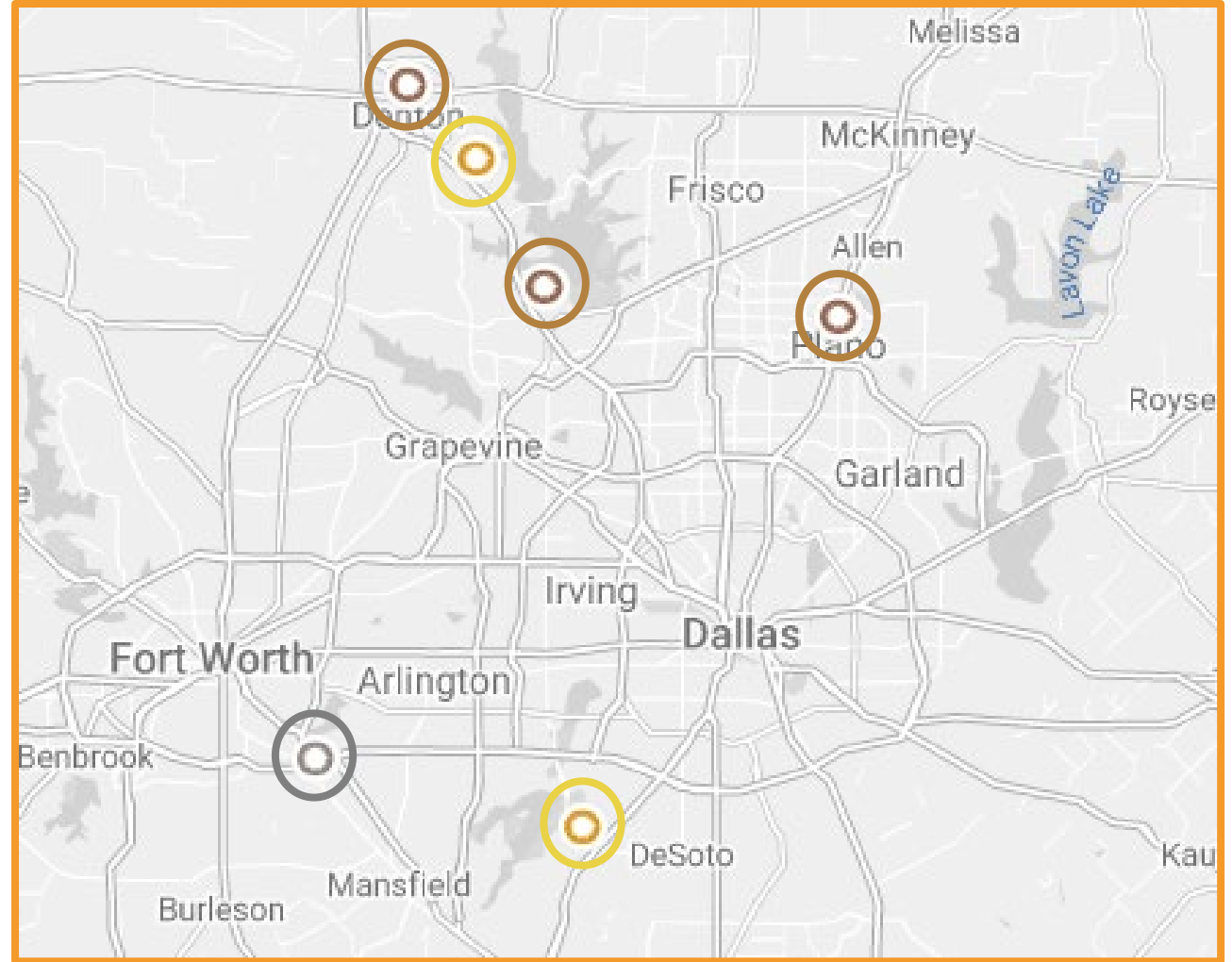
## Silver Designation

- Kennedale, TX



## Bronze Designation

- Denton, TX
- Lewisville, TX
- Plano, TX





# SolSmart Designation

David Golembeski  
Program Manager  
Interstate Renewable Energy Council  
(IREC)



David is a Program Manager with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC). His primary focus is on the U.S. Department of Energy- backed SolSmart program, which provides local governments nationwide with no-cost technical assistance to reduce barriers to solar energy growth and make solar more affordable. David holds a B.S. in Political Science and Communication Studies from Towson University and is currently pursuing a M.S. in Energy Policy and Climate from Johns Hopkins University.

03/24/2022

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rooftop solar farm. In the foreground, rows of blue solar panels are visible, receding into the distance. In the background, a city skyline is visible across a body of water, with several tall buildings and a bridge. The sky is clear and blue.

## **Tips to Achieve SolSmart Designation in North Texas**

# Acknowledgment and Disclaimer

- *Acknowledgment:* “This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), under Award Number DE-EE0007155.”
- *Disclaimer:* “This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.”





David Golembeski

Program Manager at **Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)**

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# SolSmart: A Roadmap to Advance Solar Locally

SolSmart is a national designation and technical assistance program that helps local governments make it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to go solar

## Five “Solar-Ready” Categories:

- **Permitting & Inspection**
  - Train permitting and inspection staff on solar best practices (10 points each)
- **Planning & Zoning**
  - Rooftop solar PV is allowed “by-right” in all major zones (20 points)
- **Government Operations**
  - Install solar on a local government facility or land (20 points)
- **Community Engagement**
  - Support a solar information session and/or solar tour (10 points)
- **Market Development**
  - Support a solarize or solar co-op campaign (20 points)

**75 actions** across the five categories:

- Point value ranging from 5 to 20



23 Chicago-area cities, towns, and counties awarded SolSmart designations at Argonne National Lab in 2019

# Earning a SolSmart Designation




SolSmart designation recognizes local governments that have...

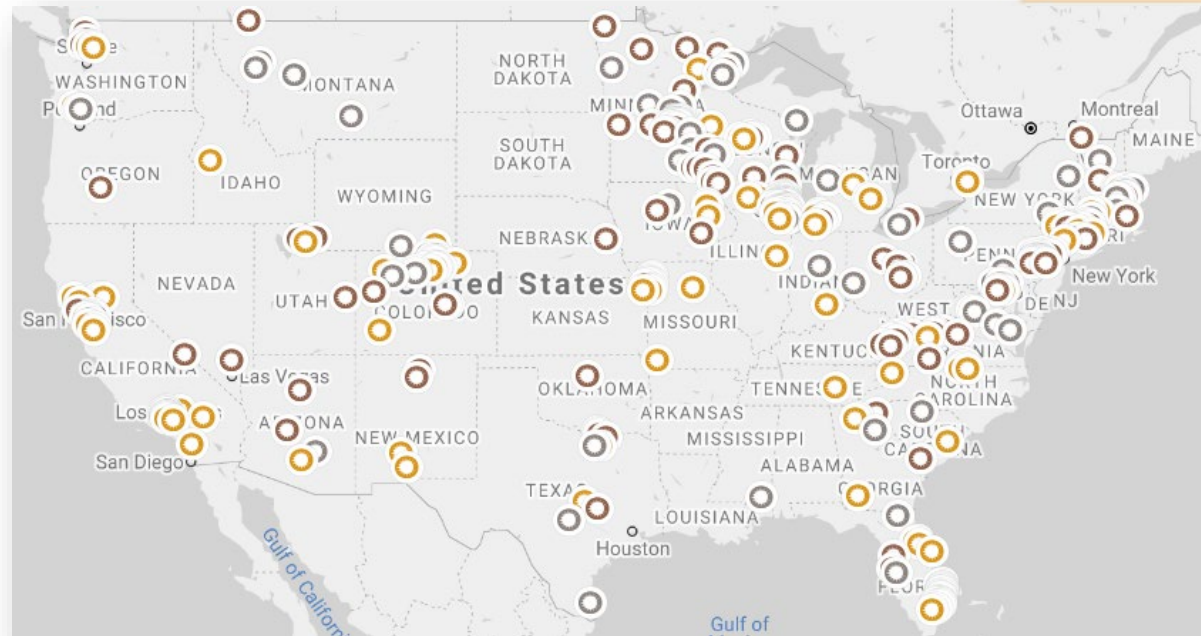
- Addressed local barriers to solar energy
- Fostered the growth of mature solar markets

**Over 400 SolSmart designated cities, towns, and counties nationwide**, signaling they are “open for solar business”

SolSmart provides no-cost technical assistance to help local governments meet their solar goals and earn SolSmart designation

To receive designation, local governments must complete the following:

| <br><b>BRONZE</b>  | <br><b>SILVER</b>  | <br><b>GOLD</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| Bronze Designation  | Silver Designation  | Gold Designation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3 prerequisites<br><input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Permitting & Inspection<br><input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Planning and Zoning<br><input type="checkbox"/> 60 total points | <input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Bronze Requirements<br><input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3 prerequisites<br><input type="checkbox"/> 100 total points | <input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Silver Requirements<br><input type="checkbox"/> Complete 2 prerequisites<br><input type="checkbox"/> 200 total points |



# Texas SolSmart Communities

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## 12 Texas Communities

- Austin
- Brownsville
- Cedar Hill
- Corinth
- Denton
- El Paso
- Kennedale
- Lewisville
- North Central Texas COG
- Plano
- San Antonio
- Smithville

# Program Design and Execution

Technical Assistance Program

Designation Program Administrator



**CADMUS**

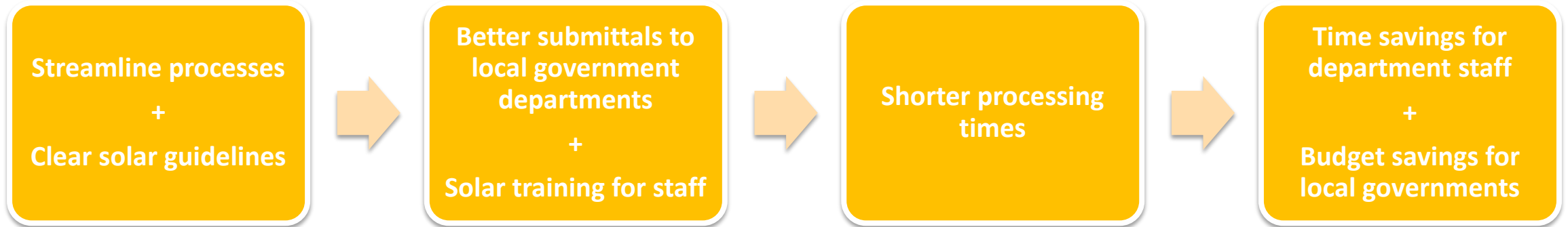


**CADMUS**





# SolSmart Objectives



## Increase transparency

- Post a solar permitting checklist online
- Develop a solar landing page

## Increase understanding

- Train staff on solar best practices
- Support a solar information session or solar tour

## Reduce barriers

- Decrease permit turnaround time
- Codify explicit regulations for the different forms and uses of solar PV



# Designation Structure

To receive designation, communities must complete the following:



| Bronze Designation  | Silver Designation  | Gold Designation  |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3 prerequisites</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Permitting &amp; Inspection</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 20 points in Planning and Zoning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 60 total points</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Bronze Requirements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3 prerequisites</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 100 total points</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SolSmart Silver Requirements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete 2 prerequisites</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 200 total points</li> </ul> |

# Bronze Requirements



## Pre-requisites

1. **Solar Statement:** Provide a document that demonstrates your local government's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation (PR-1)
2. **Permitting Checklist:** 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. **Solar Zoning Review:** Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo. (PZ-1)

## Point Requirements

- 20 points in Permitting and Inspection
- 20 points in Planning and Zoning
- 20 points across Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development

# Silver Requirements



## Pre-requisites

1. **\*Solar Zoning Determination Memo:** Post an online document from the Planning/Zoning Department that states accessory use solar PV is allowed by-right in all major zones (e.g. via a zoning determination letter) (PZ-4)
2. **Permit Staff Training:** Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past five years (PI-2)
3. **Inspection Staff Training:** Train inspection staff on best practices for inspection solar PV and/or and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past five years (PI-3)

## Point Requirements

- 100 Points Total

\* Codifying in the zoning ordinance that accessory use solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones would also meet this pre-requisite. (PZ-5)

# Gold Requirements



## Pre-requisites

1. **Permit Turnaround Time:** Post an online statement confirming a three-business day turnaround time for small rooftop solar PV (PI-4)
2. **Solar Codified in Zoning:** 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, subjective design reviews...(PZ-5)

## Point Requirements

- 200 Points Total

# SolSmart Categories

## Permitting & Inspection

- **Use an online process for solar permit approval and submission** (20 points)
- Post solar field inspection requirements or checklist online (10 points)
- Require no more than one permit application form for a small rooftop solar PV system (5 points)

## Planning & Zoning

- Exempt rooftop solar PV from certain restrictions like height limits or screening requirements (5 points)
- **Establish specific solar PV goals, metrics, and/or strategies in the most current local government plans** (10 points)
- Train planning and zoning staff on solar best practices (10 points)

## Government Operations

- **Install solar on local government facility or land** (20 points)
- Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land (10 points)
- Coordinate with regional organizations and/or local governments to engage utilities on advancing solar policies (10 points)

## Community Engagement

- Support a solar information session and/or solar tour (10 points)
- **Post a solar landing page on local government's website** (10 points)
- Demonstrate local government support for local solar projects through speeches, press releases, opinion articles, etc. (10 points)

## Market Development

- **Support a solarize or solar co-op campaign** (20 points)
- Support a community solar program (20 points)
- Provide local incentives or locally-enabled finance (20 points)

# Earning Permitting & Inspection Points

Post a solar permitting checklist online (**Pre-requisite, 0 points**)

In solar permitting checklist, indicate that:

- Residential permit fees for solar PV are \$500 or less (**5 points**)
- No more than one permit application form is needed for small rooftop solar PV (**5 points**)
- No more than two inspections are needed for small rooftop solar PV (**10 points**)
- Inspection appointment times are provided in lieu of appointment windows for solar PV (**10 points**)

[Template solar permitting checklist](#) is available!

Space for Logo and/or Contact information:  
Office/Department | Room | Address | Phone Number | Email Address | Website

**Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Permitting Checklist**

The pre-submittal checklist below contains the minimum information and project plan details required to be submitted to [community name] when applying for a permit to install a residential [and commercial/non-residential] solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The intent of using the checklist is to provide transparent and well-defined information to minimize the number of required revisions, improve permit application quality, and accelerate the application and review process.

**Codes and Design Criteria**  
[Community name] has adopted the following codes: [Indicate which building and electrical codes have been adopted by the community].

The following local design criteria should be used: [Indicate design criteria such as max wind speed, snow load, frost depth, maximum assumable soil bearing capacity, minimum assumable lateral earth pressure].

**Required Permits**  
A permit must be obtained prior to the start of any work. Complete the following permit application form(s) and submit any additional required documents. If applicable, indicate if there is an expedited/streamlined review process for residential PV systems/rooftop PV systems and how that process differs from the standard review.

**Residential Solar PV System:**

☐ Electrical Permit

☐ Building Permit

☐ Zoning Permit

**Commercial/non-residential Solar PV System**

☐ Electrical Permit

☐ Building Permit

☐ Zoning Permit

**Additional Required Documents**

☐ Site Plan
 


- Site plan should show the location of major components on the property. The site plan drawing need not be exactly to scale, but it should represent relative location of components at site (see supplied example site plan).
- PV arrays in compliance with IRC fire setback requirements need no separate fire service review.

☐ Electrical Diagram
 

- Electrical diagram/worksheets should show PV system configuration, wiring system, overcurrent protection, inverter, disconnects, required signs, and AC connection to the building.

☐ Specification sheets and installation manuals (if available)
 

- Provide spec sheets and manuals for all manufactured components including, but not limited to, PV modules, inverter(s), combiner box, disconnects, and mounting system



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[Solar Permitting Checklist Version 1, Updated 1/1/2021]

**Nicholas Kasza**  
Include all relevant information for small rooftop solar PV systems in this checklist. Optional to include relevant information for small ground mounted and/or commercial/non-residential solar PV systems.

**Nicholas Kasza**  
Credit PI-6 if only 1 permit is required for small rooftop solar PV.  
Credit PI-7 if a standard PV permit is used.

**Nicholas Kasza**  
Credit PI-5 if the community has an expedited/streamlined review process. Learn more about expedited/streamlined review processes [here](#).

**Nicholas Kasza**  
Please confirm which permits are required and link to applicable forms. Most rooftop systems do not require a zoning permit.

**Nicholas Kasza**  
Optional information to include.

**Nicholas Kasza**  
Please confirm which permits are required and link to applicable forms.

**Nicholas Kasza**  
Edit the following information as necessary. Please make a note which, if any, documents need to be engineer stamped, how many copies of the documents are needed, and what other additional documents are required for a completed permit application. Include any additional diagrams, plans, forms, or signatures that might be required.  
Source: [SolSmart Simplified Solar Permitting Process](#).

# Earning Permitting & Inspection Points

Post solar field inspection requirements or checklist online, detailing the inspection process and what inspectors will review **(10 points)**

- Ensures that all items in the inspection process have been adequately addressed before inspectors arrive on site. These checklists can be used to highlight “common mistakes” made by installers.

[Template solar inspection checklist](#) is available!


Space for Logo and/or Contact Information:  
Office/Department | Room | Address | Phone Number | Email Address | Website

### Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Field Inspection Checklist

This checklist provides basic guidelines for inspecting most residential rooftop solar PV systems (15 kW and under). Ground-mounted systems, systems with energy storage, building-integrated systems, and commercial systems, for example, would not be fully covered by this checklist. The intent of using the checklist is to provide transparent and well-defined information to minimize the number of re-inspections and accelerate project completion for most PV systems. These guidelines are not exhaustive.

**Make sure all PV disconnects and circuit breakers are in the open position and verify the following:**  
**Helpful tip: Update the following checklist to include any relevant state or local code requirements.**

- ☐ 1. All work done in a neat and workmanlike manner [NEC 110.12].
- ☐ 2. PV module model number, quantity, and location according to the approved plan.
- ☐ 3. Array mounting system and structural connections according to the approved plan and manufacturers' instructions.
- ☐ 4. Roof penetrations flashed/sealed according to the approved plan and manufacturers' instructions.
- ☐ 5. Exposed cables are properly secured, supported, and routed to prevent physical damage.
- ☐ 6. Conduit installation according to NEC 690.31(D) and the approved plan.
- ☐ 7. Firefighter access according to IRC R324 and the approved plan.
- ☐ 8. Roof-mounted PV mounting system and modules have sufficient fire classification [IRC R324.4.2].
- ☐ 9. Grounding/bonding of rack, modules, inverter(s), and other electrical equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ 10. Equipment installed, listed, and labeled according to the approved plan and manufacturers' instructions (e.g., PV modules, inverters, dc-to-dc converters, rapid shutdown equipment).
- ☐ 11. For grid-connected systems, inverter is marked "interactive," or documentation is provided to show that inverter meets utility interconnection requirements.
- ☐ 12. Conductors, cables, and conduit types, sizes, and markings according to the approved plan.
- ☐ 13. Overcurrent devices are the type and size according to the approved plan.
- ☐ 14. Disconnects according to the approved plan and properly located as required by the NEC.
- ☐ 15. Inverter output circuit breaker is located at opposite end of bus from utility supply at load center and/or service panelboard. If panel is center-fed, inverter output circuit breaker can be at either end of busbar [NEC 705.12(B)] (not required if the sum of the inverter and utility supply circuit breakers is less than or equal to the panelboard bus rating).
- ☐ 16. PV system markings, labels, and signs according to the approved plan.
- ☐ 17. Connection of the PV system equipment grounding conductors according to the approved plan.
- ☐ 18. Access and working space for operation and maintenance of PV equipment such as inverters, disconnecting means and panelboards (not required for PV modules) [NEC 110.26].
- ☐ 19. The rapid shutdown system is installed and operational according to the approved plan and manufacturers' instructions [NEC 690.12].

 **SOLSMART**  
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**[Solar PV Field Inspection Checklist Version 1, Updated 3/10/21]**



# Earning Permitting & Inspection Points

Train inspection staff on best practices for inspecting solar PV  
(10 points)

- Free, virtual [training module](#) available!

Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV  
(10 points)

- Free, virtual training module available:
  - [Module Part 1 – Structural Elements](#)
  - [Module Part 2 – Electrical Elements](#)
  - [Module Part 3 - Plan Review](#)

## Solar PV Field Inspection Basics - Series

Register

Already registered? [Log in now.](#)

### Overview Content


Join experienced inspectors Jim, Bob, Rebekah, and Pete as they show us how to make PV inspections efficient and effective. Preview the training in the one-minute video on the bottom of the home page. This series includes the inspection of five different systems:

1. Microinverter system in Massachusetts
2. DC-DC converter system in Illinois

## CEU-BEARING PLAN REVIEW AND PERMITTING FOR SOLAR PV

Register for either or both of these groups of courses to earn a Certificate of Completion that can be presented to the CEU-awarding entity. You may also register for individual courses below instead.


### Structural Elements: Plan Review & Permitting of Residential Rooftop Solar PV Systems

 Contains 6 Component(s). Includes Credits

Practice how to review the review of plan applications for structural-related tasks prior to issuing a building permit.




### Electrical Elements: Plan Review & Permitting of Residential Rooftop Solar PV Systems

 Contains 11 Component(s). Includes Credits

Learn how to evaluate aspects of the plan prior to issuing an electrical permit for a residential rooftop solar PV system.



### Plan Review - Test your knowledge!

 Contains 3 Component(s)

Take this 10 question quiz to see how you would evaluate the residential rooftop solar PV plan for compliance.



# Earning Planning & Zoning Points

## PZ-1 Zoning Review

Community:



**PZ-1: Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo. (Required for Bronze)**

To assist your local government, the national solar experts at SolSmart have conducted a review of your community's zoning and land use regulations to assess the use of best practices, possible barriers (i.e. height restrictions, set-back requirements, etc.) and gaps related to solar PV development. Below, please find the outcome of the review. By reading the narrative and signing the statement at the bottom of the page, your community will satisfy the PZ-1 pre-requisite and be one step closer to achieving SolSmart designation.

### Summary

The [COMMUNITY] [Zoning Code ← hyperlink to code] was accessed and reviewed during [MONTH] [YEAR]. The code was accessed via the [COMMUNITY website ← hyperlink to website] (with a redirect to the [Municode Library/ecode360/American Legal Publishing Corporation ← hyperlink to website] website).

- A search for "photovoltaic" yielded [X] results.
- A search for "solar" yielded [X] results.
- A search for "renewable energy" yielded [X] results in reference to
- A search for "clean energy" yielded [X] results in reference to

### Best Practice Review

The [COMMUNITY]'S code was reviewed to determine if it incorporates best practice regulations for solar energy. Incorporating best practices improves transparency of processes and clarity of development standards and can enhance the growth of the local solar market in an organized and efficient manner

| Purpose or Intent   |   |   |                                   |
|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Choose a statement. |   |   |                                   |
| Code Language       | Section:                                |   |                                   |
| Reviewer Comments   | Best Practice: <input type="checkbox"/> | Needs Improvement: <input type="checkbox"/> | Barrier: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Suggested Language  |   |   |                                   |

| Definitions         |   |   |                                   |
|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Choose a statement. |   |   |                                   |
| Code Language       | Section:                                |   |                                   |
| Reviewer Comments   | Best Practice: <input type="checkbox"/> | Needs Improvement: <input type="checkbox"/> | Barrier: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Suggested Language  |   |   |                                   |

| Roof-mounted Accessory Use Solar |
|----------------------------------|
|----------------------------------|

- Present Zoning Review memo (PZ-1) findings to planning commission or relevant zoning body **(5 points)**
- Draft proposed language for changes to zoning code based on PZ-1 memo and commission meeting dialogue. Involve planners and/or local zoning experts **(5 points)**

# Earning Planning & Zoning Points

Ensure the zoning ordinance:

- Exempts rooftop solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses (e.g. screening requirements) **(5 points)**
- Permits small ground-mounted solar PV as an accessory use in at least one zoning district **(5 points)**
- Allows rooftop solar PV as a “by-right” accessory use in all major zones **(20 points)**

Include specific solar PV goals, metrics, and/or strategies in the most current version of relevant local plans (e.g. comprehensive plan) **(10 points)**

Train planning and zoning staff on best practices in planning and zoning for solar PV **(10 points)**

- Recorded training is available!

Post an online fact sheet that provides an overview of what zoning allows for solar PV under what conditions (e.g. types/sizes of solar systems permitted, the processes required) **(5 points)**

[Model solar ordinance](#) language is available!



# Earning Points in GO, CE and MD Categories

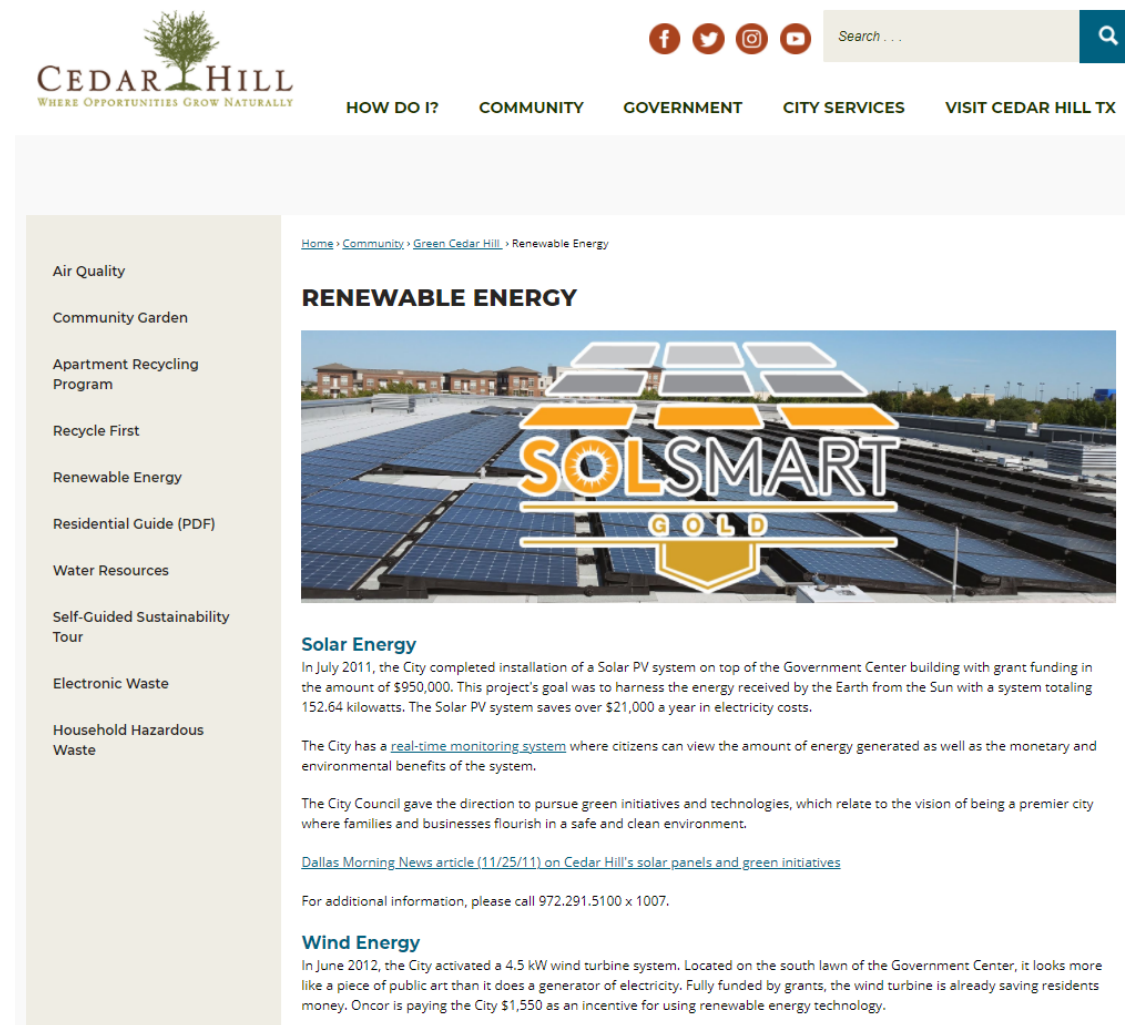


[Template solar landing page](#) is available!

Post a solar landing on the local government website **(10 points)**

On solar landing page, include:

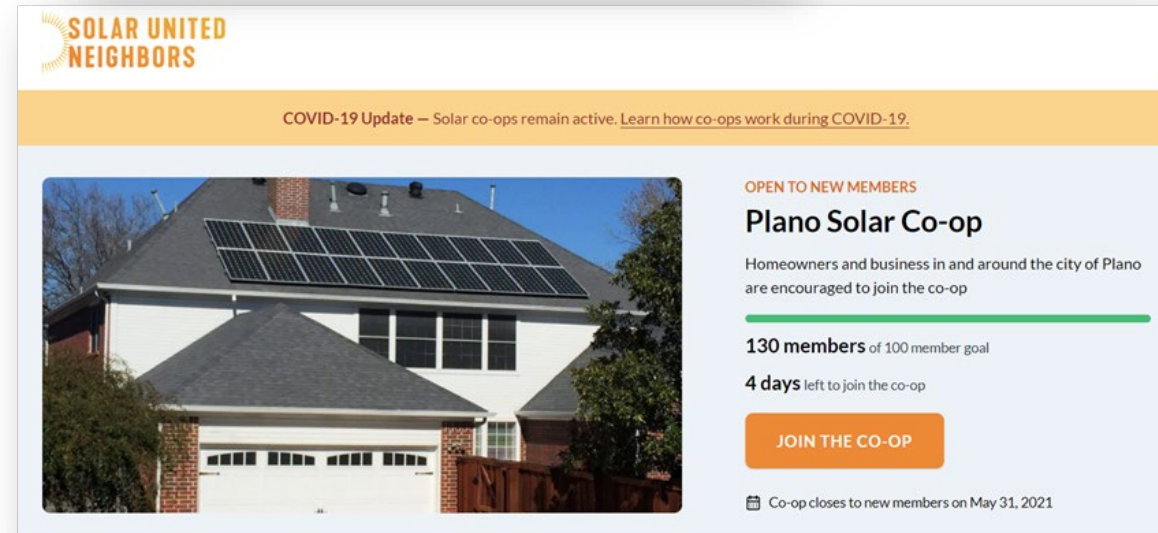
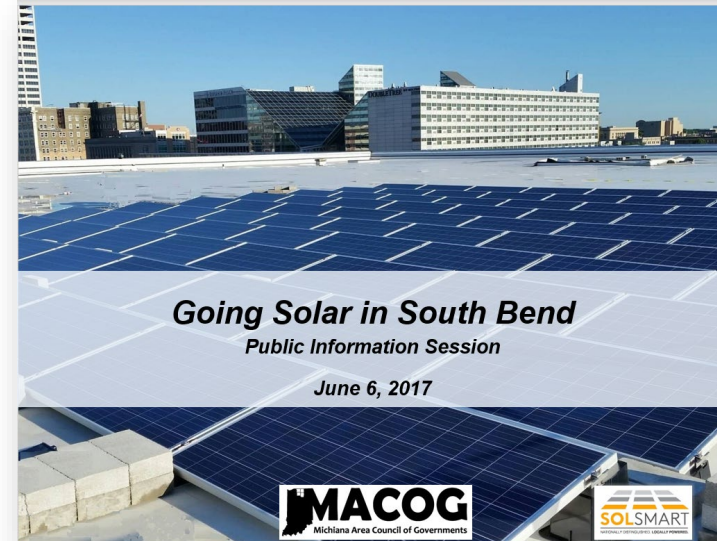
- Solar PV consumer protection resources **(5 points)**
- Residential and commercial solar PV financing options and incentives **(5 points)**
- Resources about solar installers and/or solar quote platforms **(5 points)**
- A map of your community showing solar feasibility or local installations **(5 points)**
- A summary of the solar PV metrics in your community **(5 points)**





# Earning Points in GO, CE and MD Categories

- Support/Host a solar informational session and/or solar tour **(5 points)**
- Discuss solar PV goals and/or strategies for increasing solar PV development within an appropriate committee **(10 points)**
- Support a Solarize or Solar co-op campaign **(20 points)**
- Support a community solar program **(20 points)**



**SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS**

COVID-19 Update — Solar co-ops remain active. [Learn how co-ops work during COVID-19.](#)

**OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

### Plano Solar Co-op

Homeowners and business in and around the city of Plano are encouraged to join the co-op

**130 members** of 100 member goal

**4 days** left to join the co-op

[JOIN THE CO-OP](#)

Co-op closes to new members on May 31, 2021

# Technical Assistance

- Establish your community's baseline score by using the SolSmart Scorecard Excel
- Develop a plan to achieve goals and reach designation
- Work with technical assistance provider to complete necessary credits
- Gather proper documentation to verify a credit has been achieved:
  - Web Link
  - PDF (E.G. Memo, meeting minutes)

AutoSave Off SolSmart Scorecard\_NEW CRITERIA.v1.xlsx Search

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Help Power BI

Clipboard Font Alignment Number

UPDATES AVAILABLE Updates for Office are ready to be installed, but first we need to close some apps. Update now

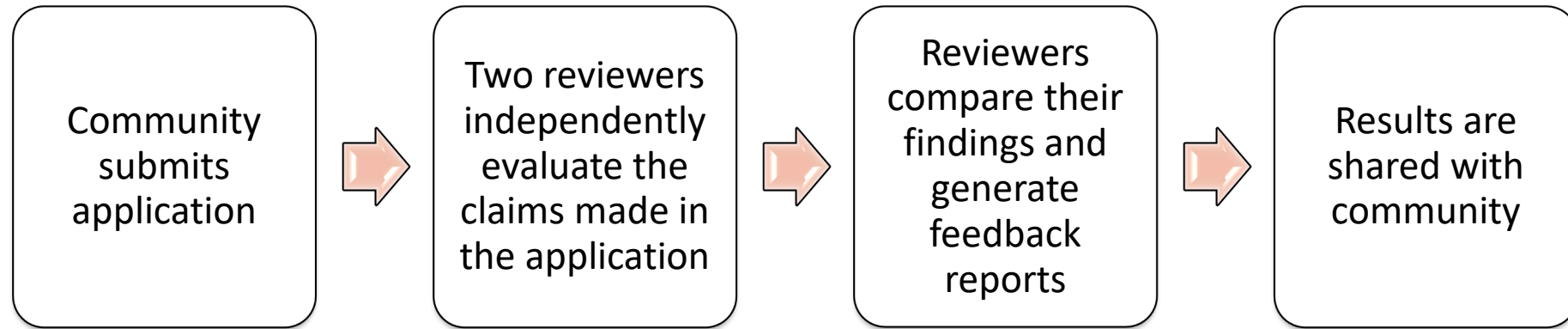
AA23

|    | A | B  | C              | D                  | E            | F               | G            | H                                      | I | J | K | L |
|----|---|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| 11 |   | <b>Prerequisites Status Tracking</b>                               |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   | <b>TA Plan - Credit Recommended to Achieve Designation</b>         |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   | In Progress - Technical Assistance Delivery/Verification Gathering |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   | Ready for Designation Review - No Further Action Needed            |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 16 |   | Verified by Designation Review                                     |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 17 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 18 |   | <b>Bronze</b>  | <b>TA Plan</b> | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>Ready</b> | <b>Verified</b> |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 19 |   | Solar Statement (PR-1)   |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 20 |   | Permitting Checklist (PI-1)  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 21 |   | Zoning Review (PZ-1)   |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 22 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 23 |   | <b>Silver</b>  | <b>TA Plan</b> | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>Ready</b> | <b>Verified</b> |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 24 |   | Permitting Training (PI-2)   |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 25 |   | Inspection Training (PI-3)   |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 26 |   | Zoning Memo (PZ-4)   |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 27 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 28 |   | <b>Gold</b>  | <b>TA Plan</b> | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>Ready</b> | <b>Verified</b> |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 29 |   | Permitting Turnaround (PI-4)                                       |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 30 |   | Zoning Codified (PZ-5)   |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 31 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 32 |   | <b>Points Status Tracking</b>                                      |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 33 |   | <b>Grand Total Points</b>  | <b>55</b>      |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 34 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 35 |   | <b>Foundational Category Points</b>                                | <b>TA Plan</b> | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>Ready</b> | <b>Verified</b> | <b>Total</b> |  |   |   |   |   |
| 36 |   | Permitting & Inspection  | 0              | 0                  | 5            | 0               | 5            | Total must be greater than 20          |   |   |   |   |
| 37 |   | Planning & Zoning  | 0              | 5                  | 15           | 0               | 20           | Total must be greater than 20          |   |   |   |   |
| 38 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 39 |   | <b>Special Category Points</b>                                     | <b>TA Plan</b> | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>Ready</b> | <b>Verified</b> | <b>Total</b> |  |   |   |   |   |
| 40 |   | Government Operations  | 0              | 0                  | 20           | 0               | 20           |  |   |   |   |   |
| 41 |   | Community Engagement   | 0              | 0                  | 10           | 0               | 10           |  |   |   |   |   |
| 42 |   | Market Development   | 0              | 0                  | 0            | 0               | 0            |  |   |   |   |   |
| 43 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 | 30           | Combined total must be greater than 20 |   |   |   |   |
| 44 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |
| 45 |   |  |                |                    |              |                 |              |  |   |   |   |   |

Intro Dashboard Solar Statement Permitting&Inspection Planning&Zoning Government Operations

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 |  |
| 2 | <b>SOLAR STATEMENT</b>   |
| 3 | <b>PR-1 Req'd Provide a document that demonstrates your local government's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation.</b>  |
| 4 | <b>Ways to Verify</b> Local governments interested in pursuing SolSmart designation must indicate their commitment to supporting solar development in their community by completing the PR-1 Solar Statement Pre-requisite. The solar statement should be signed by an individual who can speak on behalf of the local government. It is preferred that the statement is signed by a Department executive or an elected official, but it does not need to go through an official approval process. The solar statement demonstrates your community's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation. If possible, please place the solar statement on your local government's letterhead. |
| 5 | <b>Status</b> Ready for Designation Review - No Further Action Needed  |
| 6 | <b>Verification Link(s)</b> 1) <a href="http://www.pulaskicounty.org/documents/solar/solar-statement.pdf">http://www.pulaskicounty.org/documents/solar/solar-statement.pdf</a><br>2)   |
| 7 | <b>Comments</b> See web link   |

# Review Process Overview



# Promoting a Community Designation

## Designation Notification

- The DPA team will send your community an official notification of its designation
- Designee Communications Toolkit – your community will receive a toolkit that corresponds with its designation level (Bronze, Silver, or Gold).
- A SolSmart plaque is shipped to your community to commemorate its bold efforts to advance solar locally

## Designation Promotion

- Designated communities will be invited to take place in a designation event/activity. The program will announce designations through a variety of digital channels
- The SolSmart team will also help communities announce and promote their designation



# Celebrate SolSmart Designation!



ICMA

mart.org

# Thank You!

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**David Golembeski**

SolSmart Program Manager

➤ [davidg@irecusa.org](mailto:davidg@irecusa.org)

**Learn more at**

➤ [www.solsmart.org](http://www.solsmart.org)



# SolarAPP+ Permitting Tool

Stephen Pope  
Solar APP + Outreach Manager  
SEIA



As the SolarAPP+ Outreach Manager at the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA), Steve leads SolarAPP+ awareness building and education efforts with Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and solar installers and contractors nationally. As the US's national, expedited solar permitting platform, SolarAPP+ is a US Department of Energy developed, no-cost software platform, led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) with industry support and collaboration, that automates rooftop solar permitting for local jurisdictions. In addition to direct outreach to community leadership and building department officials, he works directly with solar installers and contractors to strategically communicate and collaborate with municipalities and counties to introduce SolarAPP+ and its capability to revolutionize the local solar permitting process, thereby reducing the soft costs involved with less than efficient permit processing.

For Information on SolarAPP+, Please Contact  
[team@solar-app.org](mailto:team@solar-app.org)

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# Solar-Ready Opinion Statement

Wayne Snell  
Inspections Director  
City of Irving



Wayne joined the City of Irving in 2019 and has served in several positions with various cities before becoming Irving's Director of Inspections in 2019. Prior to his calling to the public sector, Wayne spent over a decade in the electrical construction industry. Since 2006, he has served as a Building Official for a small town, Assistant Building Official for a large city, and Director of a medium-sized city before arriving in Irving. Wayne has served with the North Texas Chapter of ICC. Currently, he serves as a Director at Large for the Building Officials Association of Texas. He is on the Regional Codes Coordinating Committee and the Energy and Green Advisory Board Chair for the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Wayne holds several International Code Council certifications, including Certified Building Official, a Texas Licensed Master Electrician, and a state-licensed Plumbing Inspector. Wayne proudly holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas (GO MEAN GREEN!), is a Certified Public Manager through Texas State University, and holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

# **Regional Codes Coordinating Committee Opinion Statement**

## **2021 International Energy Conservation Code Appendix RB and 2021 International Residential Code Appendix AT**

### **Solar-Ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses**

The **2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) [Appendix RB](#) and 2021 International Residential Code (IRC) [Appendix AT](#)**, Solar-Ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses, herein referred to as “Solar-Ready Provisions”, are voluntary and cities are not required to adopt these appendices if they adopt the 2021 IECC or IRC. The Regional Codes Coordinating Committee (RCCC) of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) recommends that if jurisdictions adopt the Solar-Ready Provisions of the 2021 IECC and IRC, that no amendments are needed.

The Solar-Ready Provisions apply to new construction and do not require solar systems to be installed at the time of construction. Both appendices do require the space(s) for installing such systems, called a Solar-Ready Zone, which is a section or sections of the roof or building overhang designated and reserved for future installation of a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal system. Adoption of the Solar-Ready Provisions can make future PV system installations more cost-effective by reducing the need for future infrastructure upgrades, ensuring technical feasibility, and planning for system optimization.

Jurisdictions interested in reducing the barriers to solar adoption can consider adoption of the Solar-Ready Provisions to streamline their jurisdictional processes and provide consistency amongst local governments in the region. NCTCOG’s Go Solar Texas website ([gosolartexas.org](http://gosolartexas.org)) has additional resources for local governments, such as a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Permit Application Checklist. Furthermore, 2021 IRC Section R324 Solar Energy Systems provides parameters associated with solar installation permits.

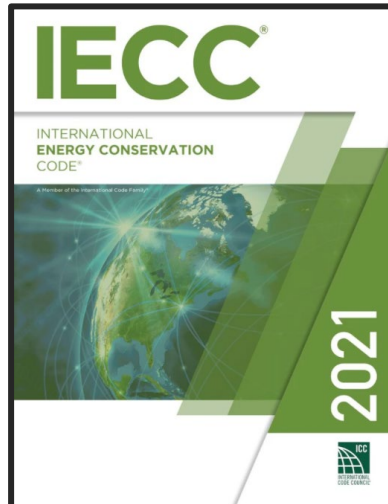
For questions regarding the contents of this Opinion Statement, please contact the NCTCOG Environment and Development Department at [EandD@nctcog.org](mailto:EandD@nctcog.org) or (817) 695-9210. Additional NCTCOG Recommended Codes and Regional Amendments can be found here: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/regional-building-codes/amendments>.

# Solar-Ready Code Appendices

**Solar Ready – What is it?:** Refers to design and construction of a building that optimizes the installation of a rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system at some point after the building has been constructed.

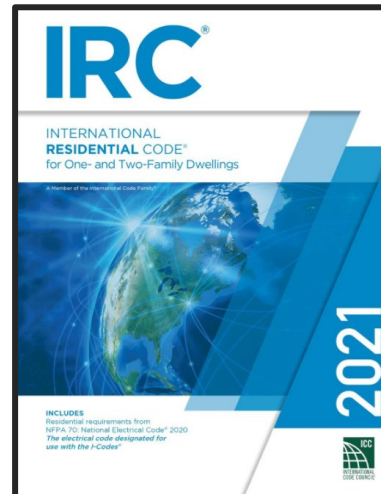
## 2021 International Energy Conservation Code

**Appendix RB Solar Ready Provisions - Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhomes**



## 2021 International Residential Code

**Appendix AT [RE] Solar-Ready Provisions – Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhomes**



**Regional Codes Coordinating Committee Opinion Statement on Solar-Ready Provisions**  
Indicates that Regional Codes Coordinating Committee has Reviewed and No Amendments Needed

[North Central Texas Council of Governments - Tools and Resources \(nctcog.org\)](https://www.nctcog.org/)

# Regional Resources to Earn SolSmart Credit

See [www.GoSolarTexas.org](http://www.GoSolarTexas.org) -> Resources -> Best Management Practices and Training

## Permitting & Inspection

- Sample Permit Checklist
- Recorded Training Session Posted at GoSolarTexas.org
  - Permitting, Inspection, & Zoning
  - Fire & Safety

## Planning & Zoning

- Model Ordinance Guidelines for Municipalities
- Solar Ready Opinion Statement
- Recorded Training Session Posted at GoSolarTexas.org



# Regional Resources to Earn SolSmart Credit

## Government Operations

- Cost Benefit Analysis Resources for Underutilized Land
- Leverage Free Preliminary Energy Assessments or Technical Assistance from SECO to Complete Feasibility Analyses
- Leverage SECO LoanSTAR Funding or Other Funding Programs Coming Under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

## Community Engagement

- Link to [www.GoSolarTexas.org](http://www.GoSolarTexas.org)
- Link to Oncor [www.TakeALoadOffTexas.com](http://www.TakeALoadOffTexas.com) or Other Utility Programs
- Local Solar Tour Every Fall with [www.NTREG.org](http://www.NTREG.org)

## Market Development

- PACE Adoption Increasing Regionwide

# Next Steps/Action Requested

**Share Information to Relevant Departments**

**Leverage the SolarAPP+ Tool to Streamline Solar Permitting Within your Jurisdiction**

**Review Other Regional Best Management Practice (BMP) Resources**

**Pursue SolSmart Designation!**

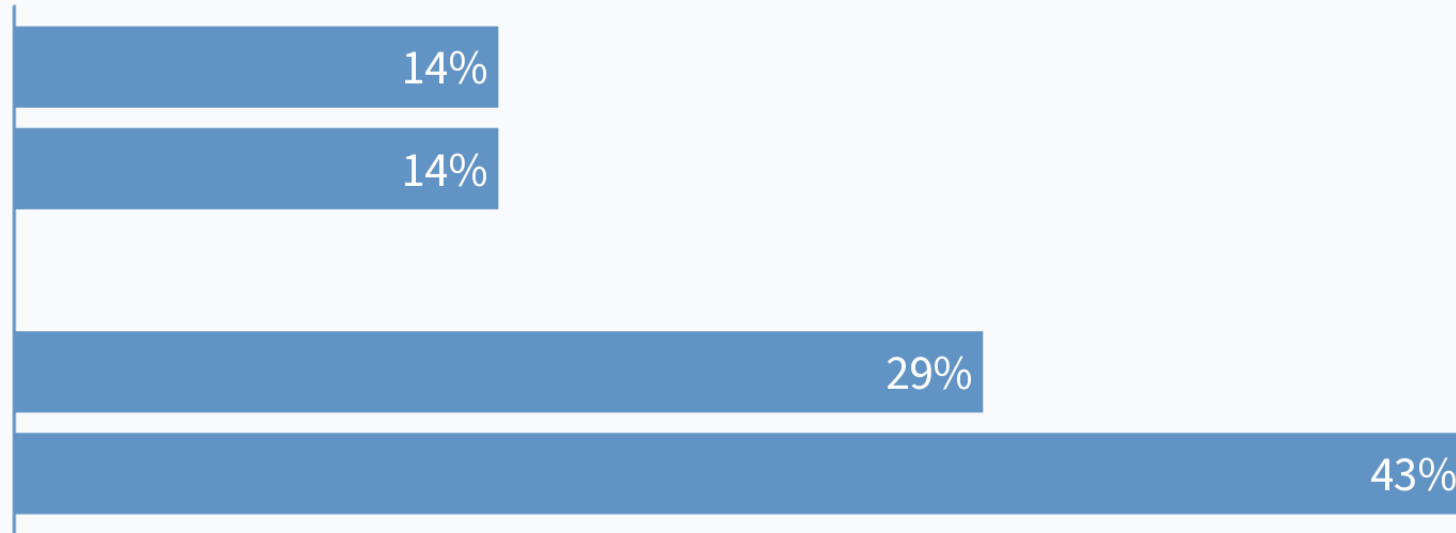
- Contact SolSmart for Technical Assistance
- Reach Out to NCTCOG for Support/Connections

# Polling Question

🌐 When poll is active, respond at [pollev.com/nctcogenv444](https://pollev.com/nctcogenv444)

📱 Text **NCTCOGENV444** to **22333** once to join

**How would you rate the quality of today's presenters and webinar content?**

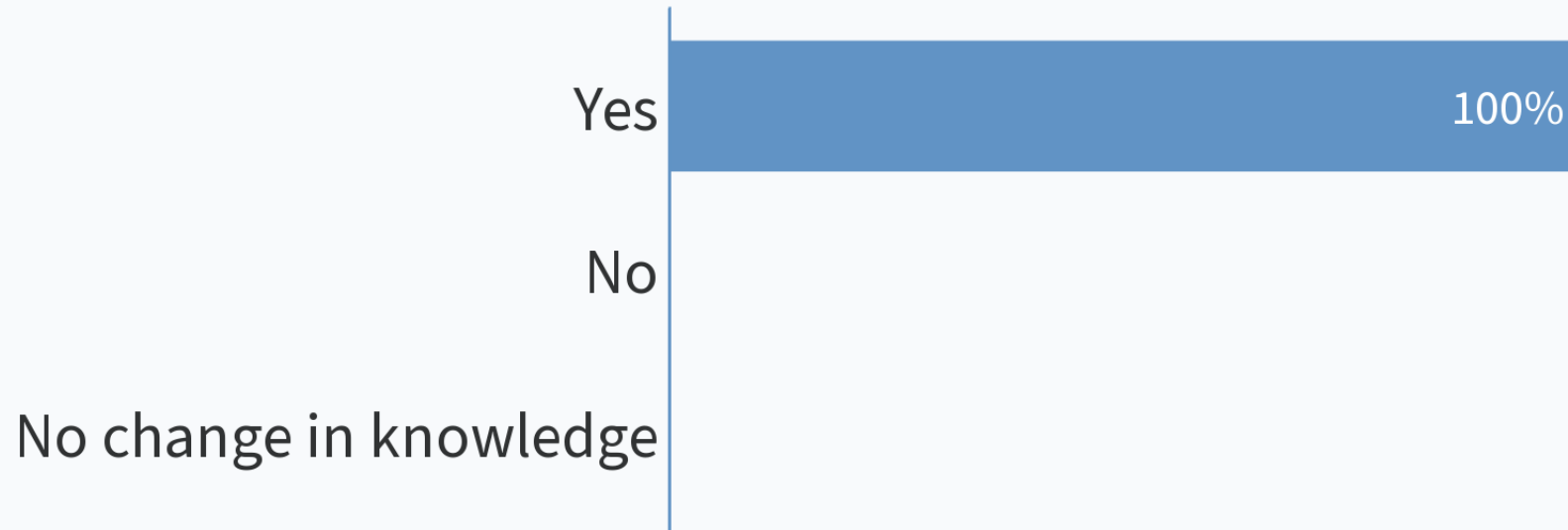


# Polling Question

🌐 When poll is active, respond at [pollev.com/nctcogenv444](https://pollev.com/nctcogenv444)

📱 Text **NCTCOGENV444** to **22333** once to join

**Do you think this webinar increased your knowledge on this topic?**



# Polling Question

Respond at [pollev.com/nctcogenv444](https://pollev.com/nctcogenv444)

Text **NCTCOGENV444** to **22333** once to join, then text your message

**What action(s) will you take as a result of what you learned on this webinar?**

“ Pull previous Bronze application for Plano and see how we can get some additional points and increase our designation. - Jaime Bretzmann, Plano ”

“ Pass the information along to others ”

Total Results: 2

# For More Information



Lori Clark

Program Manager

[lclark@nctcog.org](mailto:lclark@nctcog.org) | 817-695-9232



[energy@nctcog.org](mailto:energy@nctcog.org)

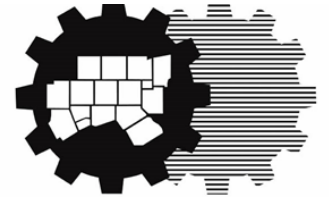


[www.GoSolarTexas.org](http://www.GoSolarTexas.org)



Slides and Recording Will be Available:

[www.conservenorthtexas.org](http://www.conservenorthtexas.org) Under 'News/Events'



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

