



AGENDA ITEM # 6.2

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Report Prepared by: Dawn Bittner

Date: May 5, 2020

Subject: SolSmart Designation

Report: The City recently adopted ordinance language to allow solar energy systems. The Planning Commission learned there is a program available to municipalities that reduces unnecessary “soft costs” for residents, businesses, and local governments that are interested in installing solar, and to provide recognition to communities that have done so. This program is called SolSmart and a link to their Minnesota Toolkit is located at:

<http://www.growsolar.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Minnesota-Toolkit.pdf>

The Planning Commission is recommending the City adopt the SolSmart designation and would be tasked with implementation of solar development into the City’s Comprehensive Plan, ordinances, and permitting.

The City Administrator is planning to include the City in the MN GreenStep Cities Program which would coordinate with the SolSmart program as well.

Council Action Requested: Council motion authorizing the City Administrator to apply for the SolSmart Designation.