



NEW BUSINESS – SOLSMART DESIGNATION

Agenda Item: 6 (a)

Background Information: Melissa Birch, Central Clean Energy Resource Teams Coordinator, sent the following email regarding solar ordinances and SolSmart designations:

Hi Dawn and Justin,

As Andrew mentioned, there are model solar ordinances in the attached "Grow Solar: Local Government Solar Toolkit" document, which is specifically designed for Minnesota cities and counties. The content in the document is intended to reduce unnecessary "soft costs" of solar development, while at the same time ensuring that solar development is carried out in a way that is appropriate for the community. This document can also be found at <http://www.growsolar.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Minnesota-Toolkit.pdf>.

In addition to the Grow Solar Toolkit, I'd like to make sure you are aware of the SolSmart program, which is a **free** technical assistance and recognition program through the US Department of Energy and the Solar Foundation. It can be found at <https://www.solsmart.org>. This program assists local governments with their solar-related ordinances, permitting processes, etc.

Quite a few MN cities have received SolSmart designations--Austin, Dawson, Duluth, La Crescent, Warren, and Winona are a few of these. There are also a number of counties that have received SolSmart designations, such as Clay, Pine, and Stearns. If you are interested in participating in the SolSmart program, Peter Lindstrom--the "local government guy" at CERTs--is a good person to contact: 612-625-9634; plindstr@umn.edu.

Finally, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (or Peter) anytime. For more information about the Clean Energy Resource Teams, check out our website at www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org.

Warm regards,

Melissa

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