



Photo by Cheryl Scott

# Regional Communications on EVs, Solar and Energy Efficiency

**Cheryl Scott**

**Metropolitan Mayors Caucus**


# Becoming EV Ready Program



Photo by Cheryl Scott

- Goal: Design an EV Readiness Checklist to prepare municipalities for increase of EVs in the future
- Idea based on SolSmart program
- To create checklist, asked for feedback at 17 listening sessions

## Permitting

Action	Points	We've done this!	Documentation
Create and make available an online checklist detailing the steps of your community's solar permitting process (Required).	Req'd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>
Provide a streamlined permitting pathway for small PV systems with turn-around time of no more than 3 days (Required for Gold).	20 Req'd for Gold	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>
Distinguish between systems qualifying for streamlined or standard review.	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>
Require no more than one application form for a residential rooftop PV project.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>
Review of solar permit fees for residential and commercial solar.	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>
 <b>Earn additional points:</b> Revise or demonstrate that permit fees reflect national best practices (e.g. \$400	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share link: <input type="text"/>

# Listening Sessions

- Asked municipalities and other stakeholders about their concerns on EVs/EV charging stations and what to consider about the zoning codes, permitting, parking, financing, etc.
- Helped to set up these listening sessions, coordinate logistics
- Took pictures and detailed notes



Photo by Cheryl Scott

## Listening Sessions

No.	Date	Listening Session	Location/Format	Length of Session	Attendance (Aside from EV Team)
1	11/12/19	EV Ready Kickoff at Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment Committee meeting	Oak Park	2 hours	Approx. 30-40
2	12/3/19	DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) Transportation Policy Committee	Oak Brook	30 min	15-20
3	1/13/20	Lake County Fire Department Training Officers Organization bimonthly meeting	Lake Forest	30 min	15-20
4	1/23/20	Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) Transportation Committee	Des Plaines	50 min	15-20
5	1/23/20	NWMC - Interview with Purchasing Director about the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative	Des Plaines	20 min	1
6	2/5/20	Electrify America	Teleconference	1 hour	3
7	2/13/20	Dealership - Bredemann, Park Ridge	Teleconference	30 min	1
8	2/18/20	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 701 (IBEW)	IBEW, Warrenville	1 hour	5
9	2/20/20	Suburban Building Officials Conference (SBOC) at monthly luncheon seminar	Lombard restaurant, Buca di Beppo	90 min	40-50
10	2/26/20	Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG)	Barrington	10 min	10
11	3/3/20	South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association (SSMMA) Transportation Committee	South Chicago Heights	30 min	32
12	3/5/20	Dealership - Crystal Lake Chrysler	Teleconference	20 min	1
13	3/10/20	Go Green Illinois	Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe	15-20 min	Approx. 40-50
14	3/11/20	ChargePoint (Carbon Day) - EVSE vendor	Teleconference	1 hour	2
15	3/16/20	Choose DuPage - economic development alliance	Teleconference	1 hour	3
16	3/23/20	Municipal planners	Survey	N/A	12
17	4/17, 4/24/20	ComEd	Teleconference	3 1-hr calls	6

**Total Attendance Approx. 260**

# Listening Sessions

- Notes sample below (names and municipalities removed)
- Presented at a few listening sessions, led interview for a few phone calls

-Person A: **Need data on how used in different land use scenarios.** For Metra, parked there all day vs. retail.

-What does utilization look like? **Want to make sure designating appropriate number of spaces.**

-Person B: Same as designating handicapped spaces. Sometimes not used, but we have to face it and plan for it.

-Person C: Some of free chargers, like Volta, have ads. **What about communities that don't want ads?**

-Person D: **Model ordinances would help.**

-We have large municipal lots in our community. I think the EV charging stations would go in those locations.



Photo by GRCorps Member Robin Grooms

# Webpage

- Took pictures, wrote and designed the Becoming EV Ready webpage
- Created in WordPress, the content management system (CMS) the Mayors Caucus uses
- Portions shown here



Two electric vehicles charge in a parking garage in Elmhurst.

The listening sessions informed the creation of a checklist of issues municipalities need to consider to become EV Ready, which is called the [EV Readiness Checklist](#). The checklist provides guidance to municipalities, such as this advice in the Parking and Access section: "Tailor parking rules to match EV Charging System power level, such as shorter turnover times for Level 3 (DC Fast Chargers)." However, the checklist also does not have

## BECOMING EV READY



Green Ways 2Go Co-Owner Tim Milburn discusses the differences in charging equipment at the first EV Ready listening session in November in Oak Park. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus held 17 listening sessions around the region as it created an EV Readiness Checklist and an EV Readiness Decision Guide for Local Government.

### EV Ready Program Design Overview

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus was grateful to receive a grant from [The Joyce Foundation](#) to design an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready Program. As part of the project, the Mayors Caucus:

- Held 17 [listening sessions](#) around the region to gather feedback from local governments and other stakeholders, in order to create an EV Readiness Checklist and an EV Readiness Decision Guide for Local Government
- Created an [EV Readiness Checklist](#)
- Wrote an [EV Readiness Decision Guide for Local Government](#)

The Mayors Caucus kicked off its project by holding the first EV Ready listening session at the November [Environment Committee](#) in Oak Park, to gather input on municipalities' considerations about EVs and EV charging stations. Some of the questions the Mayors Caucus asked participants during the listening session included:

- What are the key planning considerations for EV charging stations (or EVSE, electric vehicle supply equipment), such as where to locate EVSE?
- What development policies need to be considered (e.g., parking, zoning, EV Ready new construction)?
- What building codes, permitting and inspection policies need to be considered?
- How should municipalities finance EVSE and price charging services?

### The Foundation of EV Interest

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has an underlying interest in clean transportation because it relates to many of the objectives of the [Greenest Region Compact](#):

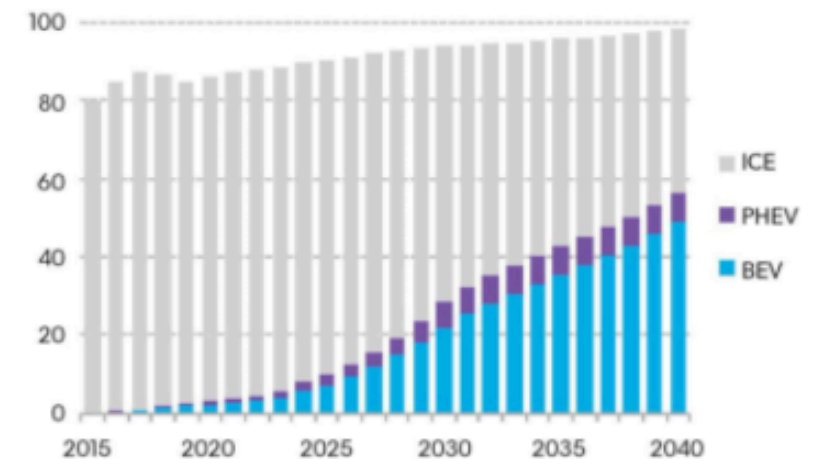
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely.
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations.
- Operate a safe, clean, and efficient fleet.

Stemming from the Greenest Region Compact, the Mayors Caucus began its work with green fleets and wrote a [white paper](#) on the topic with the Municipal Fleet Managers Association. Then the Mayors Caucus pivoted from green fleets to EV infrastructure because of municipal interest and the likelihood of public investment. When the Caucus [facilitated discussions on how to best spend the VW mitigation settlement funds](#), municipalities said they were interested in EVSEs.

Aside from local interest in EVs/EVSEs, there is growing support for electrification on the policy side with the proposed Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) in Illinois. Environmental advocates also have been promoting EVs as a solution for reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Market trends show that EVs will eventually outsell the traditional internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs), as seen in the below graph from the [Electric Vehicle Outlook 2019](#) report. Part of the reason for the projected increase in EV sales is that the cost of EV batteries has been declining. With [maintenance costs being lower for EVs](#), there could be a time in the future when buying an EV is more affordable than buying a gasoline-powered vehicle.

### Global long-term passenger vehicle sales by drivetrain

Million vehicles



Source: BloombergNEF

Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) will eventually outsell the traditional internal combustion engine (ICE), or gasoline-powered, vehicles. Sales of plug-in hybrid electric (PHEV) vehicles will also increase during the next 20 years.

# EV Readiness Checklist

## EV READINESS SUMMARY ACTIONS CHECKLIST

Commit to EV Readiness
Make a public statement in support of EV readiness.
Report baseline metrics, including power level and quantity of publicly accessible and municipally owned EVCSs, as well as number of municipal fleet EVs and constituent-owned EVs.
Establish process for tracking other EV metrics over time, such as EVSE hours in use; number of charging events; financial outcomes; and greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution avoided.
Zoning and Planning
Clarify or establish new zoning rules to facilitate EVCS installation.
Establish EVCS zoning siting criteria.
Establish regulations for the commercial operation of EVCSs.
Clearly and concisely communicate EVCS zoning rules.
Plan for community EV readiness.
Support regional planning and collaboration for a robust and strategic network of EV charging.
Leverage supportive state and federal legislation and utility initiatives.
Plan for future EVs and EVCSs.
Permitting
Develop clear permitting processes for EVCSs.
Adopt a STANDARD EVCS permit process primarily for Level 2 non-residential, workplace and multiple-unit dwelling installations.
Adopt a SPECIAL EVCS permit process for Level 3/DC Fast Chargers, and large, complex Level 2 installations.
Adopt RESIDENTIAL EVCS guidelines.
Provide information to help permit applicants understand requirements.
Continuously improve permit processes.
Inspection and Safety
Develop simple and clear inspection processes for EVCSs.
Train staff to improve inspection of EVCS installations.

- EV Ready Team spent hours writing checklist based on:
  - Listening sessions
  - Best practices
  - Careful consideration on what the best practice should be
- Summary actions page on left, more detailed actions in one section below

D SAFETY	INSPECTION AND SAFETY
	Develop simple and clear inspection processes for EVCSs.
	Define and document inspection policies and processes aligned with STANDARD and SPECIAL permitting processes.
	Determine if inspections should be required for <b>residential</b> EVCSs.
	If so, simplify requirements.
	If not, assign installers to be responsible for residential compliance.
	Simplify and standardize inspection processes for <b>non-residential</b> EVCSs.
	Provide inspection checklist, aligned with permitting checklist, that includes applicable regulations, codes, and certification of EVCSs. Post online.
	Work with installers to minimize the number of inspection events needed.
	Promptly complete inspection requests in no more than 5 days.

# EV Readiness Checklist Design

## BEFORE

11	
12	<b>CHECKLIST Contents</b>
13	The <b>Checklist</b> focuses on the following topics and is provided in a <b>spreadsheet</b> format:
14	<b>Commit to EV Ready</b>
15	<b>Permitting</b>
16	<b>Inspection and Safety</b>
17	<b>Zoning and Planning</b>
18	<b>Parking and Access</b>
19	<b>Construction</b>
20	<b>EV Owner Rights</b>
21	<b>Utility Engagement</b>
22	<b>Community Engagement</b>
23	<b>Market Development and Finance</b>
24	<b>Municipal Fleets</b>
25	
26	<b>Checklist Item Coloring</b>
27	Sub category topics are in light blue cells with dark blue text
28	Supporting ideas are in white cells
29	

## AFTER

18	The Checklist organizes recommended actions in the following categories:
19	<b>Commit to EV Readiness</b>
20	<b>Permitting</b>
21	<b>Inspection and Safety</b>
22	<b>Zoning and Planning</b>
23	<b>Parking and Access</b>
24	<b>New Construction</b>
25	<b>EV Owner Rights</b>
26	<b>Utility Engagement</b>
27	<b>Community Engagement</b>
28	<b>Market Development and Finance</b>
29	<b>Municipal Fleets</b>

# EV Readiness Checklist Design

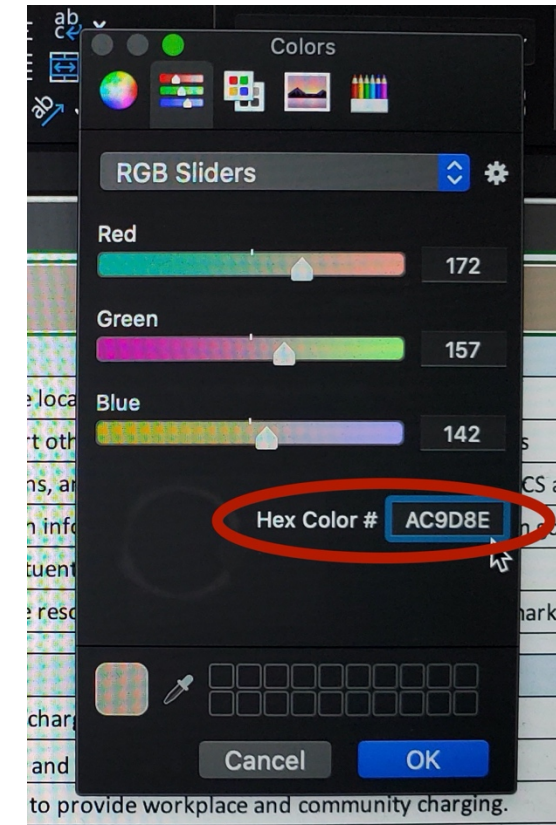
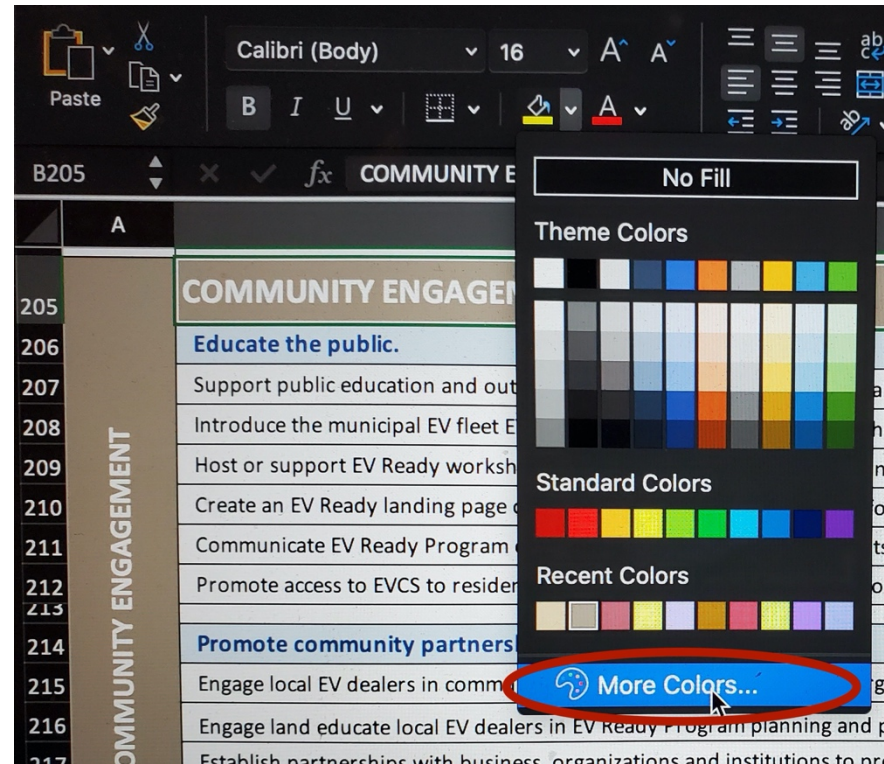


COMMIT TO EV READINESS	COMMIT TO EV READINESS	
	Make a public statement in support of EV readiness.	
	Report baseline metrics, including	
ZONING AND PLANNING	PARKING AND ACCESS	
	Establish parking policies to balance demand and supply.	
	Balance demand for parking and EVCS requirements.	
	Coordinate EVCS requirements with other transportation modes.	
	Design EVCS spaces appropriately for the community.	
EVCS INSTALLATIONS	Allow both disabled and non-disabled vehicles.	
	Install EVCS in high-traffic areas.	
	Install EVCS in areas with high EV ownership.	

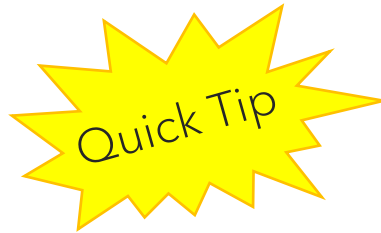
# EV Readiness Checklist Design

## Quick Tip

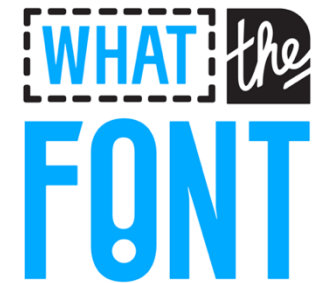
- Find a shade you like on a color palette
- Sometimes the hex number is listed AC9D8E
- If so, easy to match the shade exactly in Excel



# EV Ready Logo

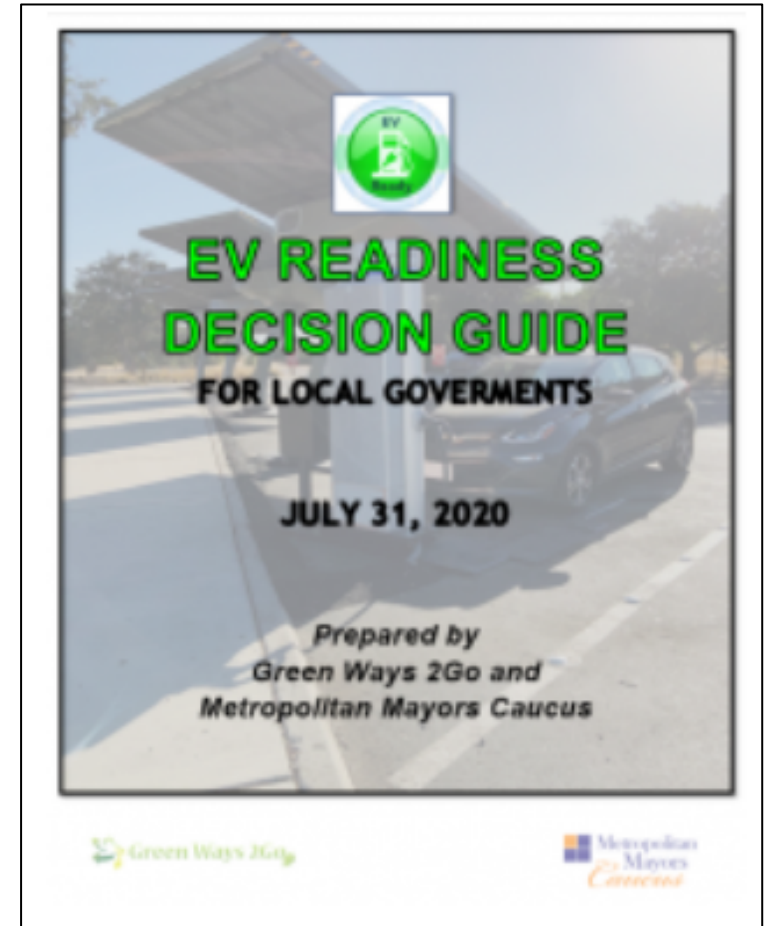
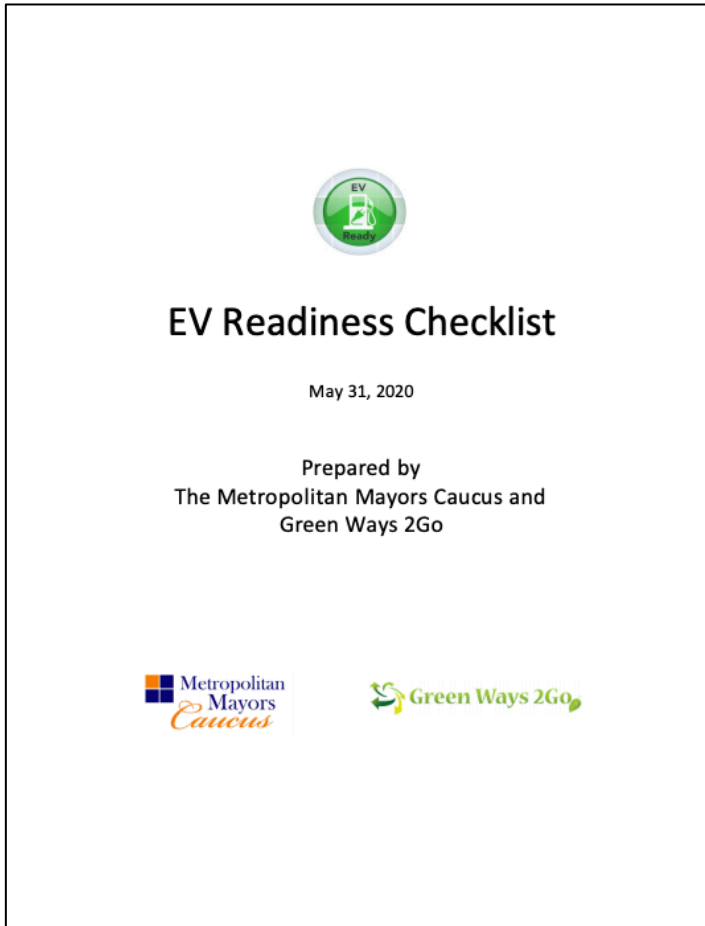


- The app called "What the Font" can help determine what font was used in GRCorps logo
- Upload a picture, the app gives you closest font matches



# Becoming EV Ready Products

- Why haven't we communicated about them?
- Available through our Becoming EV Ready webpage



# Solar

- High interest in social media posts about solar
- Several questions about achieving SolSmart designation
- Updated SolSmart webpage and created a new webpage called "SolSmart Solo" for those communities looking to achieve solar on their own



Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

Published by Cheryl Scott [?] · January 30 ·

Congrats to the [Village of Schaumburg, Illinois Government](#) for its solar progress, which is featured in a Yale Climate Connections story. The Mayors Caucus helped a cohort of 35 communities, including Schaumburg, achieve [SolSmart](#) designations. Afterwards, the Village saw a 3000% increase in solar permits!

[https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/.../how-schaumburg-m.../...](https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/.../how-schaumburg-m.../)



YALECLIMATECONNECTIONS.ORG

**How Schaumburg, a Chicago suburb, made solar simple for residents » Yale Climate Connections**

503

People Reached

77

Engagements

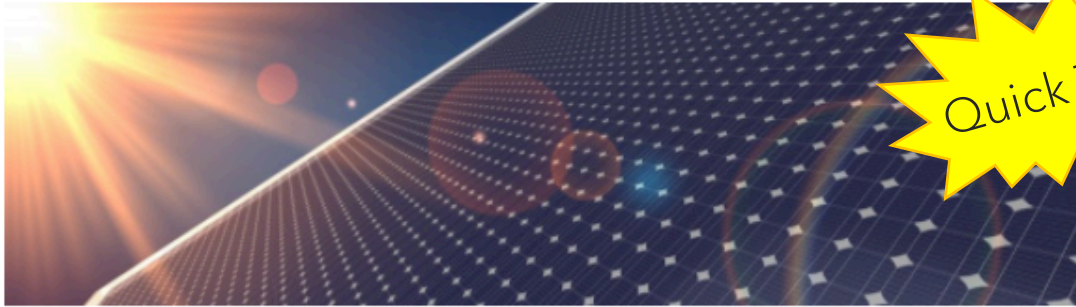
Boost Post



12

3 Shares

## SOLSMART SOLO



Quick Tip

Working together, the Mayors Caucus led 35 of its member communities to earn SolSmart designation. While the opportunity to work together for designation has passed, municipalities may still go solo and earn SolSmart. These resources are available to help:

- The SolSmart program will continue to award designation and offer technical assistance at least **through October 2020**. Complete a [SolSmart enrollment form](#) to begin and an advisor will be assigned to help.
- You may wish to review the [application](#) here before you begin. (See tips in the Overview Presentation below.)
- Sign up for information about SolSmart programs and opportunities at the [SolSmart website](#), by entering your email address into the bar on the bottom left.

The Caucus has compiled tips, examples and resources from the work of our two SolSmart cohorts that Greenest Region Compact communities can use to earn designations.

- To begin, see a simple overview of the designation process and strategies in this [Overview Presentation](#).
- See what Caucus communities did to earn SolSmart designation in the [2018 cohort](#) and the [2019 cohort](#).

- Adopting the Greenest Region Compact fulfills the prerequisite for enrollment. GRC Communities may adapt a model solar statement to include with their SolSmart enrollment form. *Contact Cheryl Scott for this template at [cscott@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:cscott@mayorscaucus.org).*
- SolSmart does not require municipalities adopt a new solar ordinance. Instead, they will conduct a review of your community's zoning code for you and recommend changes to support safe and suitable solar development. SolSmart offers options and awards points for varying levels of

Free stock photo websites:

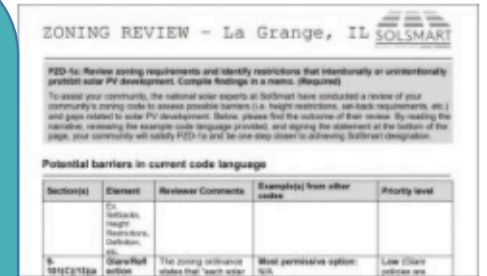
- Unsplash
- Pixabay

A few paid websites:

- Adobe Stock Photo
- Envato Elements

- [Solar in Schaumburg](#)
- [Solar Power in Hanover Park](#)
- [Solar in Aurora](#)
- [Solar in Round Lake Beach](#)
- [Solar Energy in Deer Park](#)
- [Support Solar Energy Growth, Lake in the Hills](#)

Return to the main Mayors Caucus [SolSmart](#) page.



...n sharing information about solar in the  
...g pages, which may serve as a model for



Lake in the Hills' solar landing page

# Energy Efficient Building Codes

Success! Voting efforts of local governments led to an expected increase in efficiency of 12% in newly constructed commercial buildings and 17% in new residential buildings.



# Questions?

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

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